**News Compilation for Catholic Church News aired on Radio Maria**

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**Welcome to another week of Catholic Church News on Radio Maria. I am Nigel Akuani, and I am Jessica Oata with the news.**

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope at Angelus: May we receive God's mercy with open hearts**
2. **Nuncio and Students celebrate Solemnity of St Joseph**
3. **Bishops and Secretariat Conference held in Highlands**
4. **Mingende prepares for General Assembly of Catholic Church**
5. **DBTS welcomes the EAO Regional**
6. **Serve the Lord with gladness**

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**News Item 1 – Pope at Angelus: May we receive God's mercy with open hearts**

Recalling the parable of the prodigal son before leading the recitation of the Angelus, Pope Francis recounts how God always forgives compassionately and tenderly.

He pointed out that God is a Father who forgives even our worst sins, welcomes us back and rejoices by having a feast for us.

The Pope urged us to be like the Father and offer everyone a warm welcome and encouragement as distance and condemnation does not help in reaching out to those who are far away.

The Pope added that we need to rejoice if we see someone repent for the good that has been chosen.

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**News item 2 – Nuncio and Students celebrate Solemnity of St Joseph**

A Solemn Mass in honour of the Feast of St. Joseph was celebrated on 18th March 2022, at Don Bosco Technical School Gabutu, (DBTS) Port Moresby.

The Mass was celebrated by the Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea, Archbishop Fermin Emilio Sosa Rodriguez. Fr. Jacek Pinocy, Secretary to the Nuncio, Fr. Pedro Sachitula sdb, Rector and Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb, Spiritual Moderator of DBTS were the concelebrants.

Reflecting on the life of St Joseph, the Apostolic Nuncio highlighted the humble, yet great person that St Joseph was. He told the students that like each of them who were learning a skill in their respective trades, St. Joseph was a carpenter.

He challenged the all-male congregation to be like St. Joseph towards the females in their lives because he stood as an excellent model for what a man should be in his society and for God.

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**News item 3 – Bishops and Secretariat Conference held in Highlands**

The Catholic Church in the Highlands Region met in the Diocese of Kundiawa in Simbu Province for the Regional Bishops and Secretariat Conference that was held from 21st - 23rd March.

It was held at the Mingende Pastoral Centre and had the presence of bishops and secretaries from the five dioceses of the Highlands Region, which is made up of the Archdiocese of Mt Hagen, Dioceses of Kundiawa, Goroka, Mendi and Wabag.

The bishops and secretaries met to discuss the work and responsibilities of each commission at the regional levels. Representatives from each diocese were grouped into each commission area such as Caritas, Marriage and Family Life office, Laity, Health, Education, Vocation, Callan Service, Youth, Woman and Pastoral Coordinators.

The closing mass was presided by Bishop Donald Lippert of the Diocese of Mendi and concelebrated by Archbishop Douglas Young of the Archdiocese of Mt Hagen.

In his homily, Bp Donald shared that Jesus is more powerful than devil. He said, the devil has never defeated Jesus and with Jesus we have to eradicate evil in our family, community, diocese, country and world, especially Ukraine and Russia.

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**News Item 4 – Mingende prepares for General Assembly of Catholic Church**

The deanery of Mingende and Diocese of Kundiawa in Simbu Province, is in hype as it prepares for the General Assembly of the Catholic Church of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

The announcement was made on Monday 21st March, by Fr Victor Roche SVD, Secretary for New Evangelisation, in a press conference at the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI, in Waigani.

Scheduled to be held in the Mingende Parish Hall from 21 - 26 April, the assembly will serve as an occasion to celebrate the Catholic Faith; a proposition of a 5 year-Conference Pastoral Plan; and to share the experiences of journeying together in Synodality.

The occasion is expected to have present Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC, Archbishop of Port Moresby; Bishops, Priests, Religious, Lay Leaders, and selected participants from each diocese of PNGSI.

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**News item 5 – DBTS welcomes the EAO Regional**

The East Asia Oceania Regional Councillor, Fr Joseph Nguyen Thinh Phuoc sdb was warmly welcomed on the 23rd March, by the staff and students at the Don Bosco Technical School, Gabutu (DBTS).

The DBTS Mission Group led the 1079 students and staff in greeting the Regional superior as they waved their colourful flags.

Fr Gregorio Bicomong sdb, Provincial of the vice-Province of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands introduced the Regional by explaining to the assembly gathered what is the Regional Superior’s role and the scope of his work highlighting his work in the East Asia and Oceania Region.

Addressing the students, the lively and animated Regional Councillor spoke on two points: Greetings and Gratitude. In speaking of gratitude, he requested that every student to be grateful for the education they receive at Don Bosco for there are many who do not have the possibility of a good education.

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**News item 6 – Serve the Lord with gladness**

Twenty-five Altar Servers made up of young boys and girls of the Christ the King parish had a one-day orientation with the theme " Serve the Lord with Gladness.”

The orientation was given by the Parish Priest, Fr. Robinson Parappilly and had the altar servers willingly offering themselves to be closer to the Altar of the Lord in assisting the priests in the Holy Mass and Liturgical celebrations.

The Altar servers learned more about the Liturgical Calendar, understand the proper use of Liturgical colours and vestments. They also were given an in-depth understanding of different Feasts, Solemnities, Memorial, Optional Memorial, Different Liturgical seasons, proper use and names of different Liturgical articles and appropriate gestures while serving the Altar.

Fr. Robinson told them that they are privileged to serve the Lord and that they have to be always in the state of grace to receive Holy Communion and foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

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**Recapping our headlines for this week:**

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**This ends the Catholic Church news for this week. Join us next week for more.**

**From all of us here at Catholic Communications, we wish you all an enjoyable week.**