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

**Air Date: 06/ 05/ 2020**

**Welcome to another weekly Catholic Church News on Radio Maria. I am Nigel Akuani, and I am Rosemary Yambune with the news.**

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope invites Church to celebrate *Laudato Si’* Week**
2. **Vocation Sunday calls for Promotion of Priesthood**
3. **Diocese of Mendi Venerates Divine Mercy**
4. **Diocese of Wabag conducts COVID-19 Awareness**
5. **DBTI students recommence classes**
6. **Media Education Seminar Recommences**
7. **Parents Reluctant in sending Children to School**
8. **‘New normal’ for classes**

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**News Item 1 –** **Pope invites Church to celebrate Laudato Si’ Week**

Pope Francis in a video message invites Catholic communities around the world to celebrate *Laudato* *Si’* Week from 16th to 24th May 2020.

The video was made in view of the 5th anniversary of the publication of the Encyclical *Laudato Si'*. In it he urged for people to start protecting and preserving the environment for the next generation.

He made an open invitation for all to participate in *Laudato Si'* Week 2020, a global campaign on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the encyclical letter *Laudato Si': On the care of our common home*.”

In reference to the ecological crisis, Pope Francis said the cry of Mother-Earth and that of the poor was in dire need to be heard. *Laudato Si’* Week is sponsored by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and is meant to encourage Catholic communities to take bolder actions for creation during the week-long initiative.

The fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si’* coincides with important events in the race to find solutions to the environmental crisis. Those interested in the week can find more information available on the [Laudato si’ Week website](https://laudatosiweek.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).

…………………………………………...ENDS………………………………………………………………….

**News item 2 - Vocation Sunday calls for Promotion of Priesthood**

The world needs priests who are anointed by Christ and ordained to be the living presence of Jesus, who is the Teacher, Priest and Shepherd of God’s people.

Bp Rolando Santos CM, Bishop of Alotau, on 2nd May, highlighted the importance of Vocation Sunday with his circular entitled ‘*Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest (Mk 9:37)*’.

He said that as baptized Christians and members of the Church, we had a sacred duty to promote priesthood vocations and further the Kingdom of God. He said that the role of the Priest was of authority, dignity and power. It was to serve the Body of Christ, the Church, preaching of the Gospel, the celebration of the sacraments and the service of God’s people.

Bp Rolando advised parents to actively propose to young people who have the human and Christian qualities to become part of the priesthood and the Consecrated Life. He urged for all faithful to pray the rosary daily so that Mary, the Mother of God, may obtain for us the gift of many good and holy vocations for the salvation of the world.

…………………………………………...ENDS………………………………………………………………….

**News item 3 – Diocese of Mendi Venerates Divine Mercy**

The Diocese of Mendi hosted a colourful and vibrant Eucharistic celebration in honour of the Divine Mercy.

The Feast day celebration took place on Sunday 19th of April, the second week of Easter, at the Mother of Divine Shepherd Cathedral Parish, Kumin, Mendi. The celebration accompanied by melodious music and harmonious *singsing* groups had more than 100 Catholic in attendance.

In his homily Fr Modest Eligi Sangia OFM Cap, reminded parishioners that everyone needed Christ’s mercy for support and that they too should share this mercy toward the poor, their families and communities. He spoke of the Coronavirus and how it damaged the fabric of society causing violence and discrimination, and said that the expression of mercy was crucial during this critical time.

He appealed to the faithful to ask God for his mercy, protection and love for those affected and those in the frontline combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

………………………………………...ENDS…………………………………………………………………….

**News item 4 – Diocese of Wabag conducts COVID-19 Awareness**

With the assistance of Caritas New Zealand, the Diocese of Wabag conducted a successful awareness on COVID-19 within its town.

The awareness was held on Sunday 26th April at Sangurup and Keias where thousands of men, women and children attended. The program led by Sr John Mary FIHM, Sr Amutha FIHM and the diocesan team, actively engaged children and adults as participants.

According to Fr Newman Kingi, Diocesan Media Coordinator, the attendants were instructed on the preventive measures of COVID-19 and the health and hygiene they needed to prevent contraction of COVID-19 and other diseases.

Following the awareness, participants were given soap, posters on hand wash and pamphlets in Tok Pisin with instructions on the preventive measures. They were advised to maintain social distancing, avoid touching their faces and shaking hands.

The awareness program is set to continue with the team prepared to cover more parishes, outstations and communities. The team thanked Caritas New Zealand and the Catholic Diocese of Wabag for their strong support.

………………………………………...ENDS…………………………………………………………………….

**News item 5 – DBTI students recommence classes**

With the resumption of tertiary level classes on Monday 27th April and secondary classes on Monday, 4th May, students and staff are to follow strict precautionary measures in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Don Bosco Technological Institute, Boroko, commenced classes with a new time table of three shifts. The last being the 6pm to 9pm workshop classes for residents of the Mary Our Help Hostel and the St Frances de Sales Residence.

The staff have extra hours, and have joyfully put in their services for the sake of the students, while the students are happy to organize their personal program. The reduction of contact periods is balanced by the distribution of learning materials and assessments done during the contact period through Moodle.

The students have returned to class and are determined to make the most of the year ahead and complete all unfinished work. On campus, messages of hygiene and maintaining a safe distance have been reinforced on a constant basis. Sanitizers and disinfectants were provided to each lecturer and class instructor.

…………………………………………...ENDS………………………………………………………………….

**News Item 6 – Media Education Seminar Recommences**

As schools are resuming classes, CBC SOCOM is also recommencing the Media Education Seminar 2020 and inviting the Media students for a live-in weekend program.

The 2020 MES will be from 15th May to 17th May, at the Emmaus Conference Centre, DBTI campus, Boroko. Sessions will deal with Audio and Videos. The focus of this MES is to create and produce inspirational radio jingles and short films on the theme “Keep it Clean. Go Green!” and create awareness on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout the seminar, the precautionary measures and protocols issued by the National Government will be strictly adhered to, as well as the Directives of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

All persons who will be a part of this seminar are advised to bring your own face masks, keep to the social distancing requirements and safe hygiene practices as per the emergency orders issued by the Emergency Controller.

Students and teachers will be screened before entering the venue. The number of students to attend is at the sole discretion of the Media Animator. Each school should get the required consent from parents or guardians should they wish to attend the seminar.

…………………………………………...ENDS………………………………………………………………….

**News item 7 - Parents Reluctant in sending Children to School**

Many parents are reluctant to allow their children to return to school. This was revealed by Mr Michael Ova, National Catholic Education Secretary, on 1st May, at the Catholic Bishops Conference.

He said parents expressed their disagreements at the government’s decision to resume class after less than ample time was given to address the COVID-19 scenario in the country. He stated since the virus only moved when people did, the main concern of parents was that movement of their children only placed them at a higher risk of exposure to the virus.

However, Mr Ova reassured parents that schools were provided with personal protective equipment to be distributed to its students. He said the resumption of classes would be in strict accordance of the protocols safeguarding the measures against the spread of COVID-19. He added schools were now going to strongly emphasise the importance of personal hygiene and social distancing of one-metre.

…………………………………………...ENDS………………………………………………………………….

**News item 8 - ‘New normal’ for classes**

While overcrowding in classrooms remains an issue in urban centres, many schools are searching for avenues to ensure that the measures of COVID 19 are in place.

St Peter Channel Primary school, Erima, Port Moresby with 2000 plus students have planned to follow the SOE orders. Teachers have decided that classes will be divided into five different groups of 12 students. Different clusters will attend school from Monday to Friday.

Chairman of the school Joseph Malir said that UNICEF will be installing eight sanitizing basins to support the school adminstration who already purchased sanitizers and two temperature guns. Mr Malir also stressed that, it should be a collaborative effort of both parents and teachers, to ensure students adhere to the COVID19 precautionary measures.

…………………………………………...ENDS………………………………………………………………….

**Recapping our headlines for this week:**

1. **Pope invites Church to celebrate Laudato Si’ Week**
2. **Vocation Sunday calls for Promotion of Priesthood**
3. **Diocese of Mendi Venerates Divine Mercy**
4. **Diocese of Wabag conducts COVID-19 Awareness**
5. **DBTI students recommence classes**
6. **Media Education Seminar Recommences**
7. **Parents Reluctant in sending Children to School**
8. **‘New normal’ for classes**

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

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