



The Catholic Reporter

Catholic Bishops' Conference of PNG & SI - Commission on Social Communications, P.O. Box 398, Waigani, NCD Tel: 325 9577 Fax: 323 2551

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Pope Francis "grieves" for suffering people of Ukraine Appeals for prayers



Ukrainians appealing for an end to the war
Article and picture: Thaddeus Jones, Vatican News

Rome: After leading the recitation of the Regina Coeli prayer on Sunday, 1st May, Pope Francis recalled the suffering people of Ukraine, inviting all the faithful, in this month dedicated to the Mother of God, to pray every day a Rosary for peace.

He said his thoughts "go immediately to the Ukrainian city of Mariupol, "City of Mary", "barbarously bombed and destroyed." He renewed his call for "safe humanitarian corridors" to be established for people trapped in the city's steelworks complex.

"I suffer and weep, thinking of the suffering of the Ukrainian people and in particular of the weakest, the

elderly and children. There are even terrible reports of children being expelled and deported."

The Pope united his concern for the anguished people, wondering aloud if we really are seeking peace now as we witness "a macabre regression of humanity." He asked if there really is a will to avoid an ongoing military and verbal escalation, and if everything possible is being done to "silence the weapons."

He appealed that we not give in to the logic of violence and the perverse spiral of armed conflict. "Let us take the path of dialogue and peace! Let us pray."

3rd General Assembly on Salt and Light

- Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb
- Nigel Akuani

Mingende: The 3rd General Assembly of the Catholic Church of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands had as its theme 'Salt and Light' and dwelt on reigniting the faith of the people.

The six-day program was held from 21st to 26th April and had 111 delegates in attendance from all 19 dioceses in Mingende, Simbu Province. The distinguished delegates included Bishops, Priests and Religious, Secretaries from CBCPNG&SI, Church Leaders and Coordinators, Lay persons and Chaplains, support staff, and media personnel of Catholic Communications. The Assembly was facilitated by Fr Victor Roche svd, New Evangelization Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI.

The program began with a declaration ceremony on the evening of Thursday 21st April, in the Fr Stanislaus Auditorium of St Mary's Technical School which was led by Bishop Dariusz Kaluza MSF, of the Diocese of Bougainville.

"Harim singaut bilong Holi Spirit. Let us learn to 'LISTEN' and let the Holy Spirit guide us in all our work of Evangelisation," said Bishop Dariusz after officially declaring the 3rd General Assembly open. He moderated the assembly's progression and formed



part of the panel were Dame Jean Kekedo; Fr Andrew Moses, Vicar-General of the Diocese Daru-Kiunga; and Fr Victor Roche svd, Head of the GA Organising Committee.

In his description of the General Assembly, Bp Kaluza referred to Pope Francis' message of 'Communion and Caring Together' and said that it was about walking and journeying together in our Catholic faith through communion and participation.

"We are the Church alive in Christ and we need to recognize our mission and calling from God. Each person has a unique role set apart by God to serve and build the living Body of Christ, and we all have a due diligence to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us on the spiritual path intended for in our lives. It is through Jesus Christ that each of us are anointed Prophets, Priests, and Kings and stand tall for the kingdom and glory of God," stated Bp Dariusz.

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International Day of Families

Theme: 'Families and Urbanization'
Date: 15th May 2022

The International Day of Families is marked to celebrate the bond of families, societies, traditions, and culture around the world.

This day provides an opportunity to raise awareness about the issues related to the families and to increase knowledge about the social, economic and demographic processes that affect them.

Background:

During the 1980s, the United Nations began focusing attention on issues related to the family. In 1993, the General Assembly decided in a resolution that May 15th every year should be observed as **The International Day of Families**. The following year (1994) was declared **International Year of Families** and has been held every year since 1995.

Questions for reflection:

1. Do we uphold good Christian family values in our families?
2. Do we spend time and pray together as a family?
3. Do we look up to the Holy Family as our role model family?



3rd General Assembly

The 3rd General Assembly dwelt on the theme 'Salt and Light'

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Workshop for Youths in Kiunga

A two-week Youth Leaders Capacity Skills building Workshop was held in Kiunga

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- Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb and Nigel Akuani

Salt and Light - The Catholic Church and Society



A special Eucharistic Celebration was held to mark the commencement of the assembly on Friday, 22nd April. The mass was held at the St Joseph's Grand Stand and was celebrated by His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC, and the homily given by Bishop of Daru-Kiunga, Joseph Durero SVD.

In the session that followed, Archbishop Douglas Young sdb, Archbishop of Mt Hagen gave a brief history of the General Assembly.

1st General Assembly: Self-study and identification of cross cutting issues were reflected upon at the first Assembly that commenced in 2003 in Banz and concluded in 2004 in Rabaul. It used an Appreciative Enquiry that encouraged inclusivity and participation. The 1st National Assembly developed the National Pastoral Plans of 2006-2010 with the theme: "We are Church Alive in Christ".

The 2nd General Assembly held at DWU Madang with the theme "Go tell Everyone" used the Perspective Method of evaluation. It developed the Conference Pastoral for

2015-2020. It had as its focus: *We are Church Proclaiming, We are Church Sanctifying, We are Church Serving. While it celebrated the unity and the identity of the Catholic church in PNG it focused on: the Holy Father's exhortation in Novo Millennio Ineunte, the findings of Ecclesia in Oceania, Pastoral practices, and pastoral priorities for the church in PNG.*

While the 3rd General Assembly used an evaluation process. It began in 2020 with the invitation to the Synod 2023 emphasizing and encouraging the themes of communion, participation and mission. The assembly should have the following: *Critical thinking; a full and active participation of clergy and laity; the voice of the church in the country's Political, Economic and Social spectra; the fruits of planning and reflection through the men and women who have lived exemplary lives and a light that shines brightly for all to see.*

The presentations from the different dioceses then commenced. Each diocese presented one or two persons of holiness from a long list of committed Catholics. Amongst the inspiring presentations were young people ready to live and die for their faith, a

sure sign that the faithful are ready to live their Catholic Faith. The presentations captivated the members. Each diocese had beautifully painted banners and presented a seedling brought from their own diocese. The presentations usually concluded with a song on 'Salt and Light'.

The discussions on Saturday, 23rd April commenced with understanding the evaluation made throughout the PNGSI in preparation for the General Assembly. An outline on the proposals for a new conference pastoral plan then followed. These were discussed and presented to the General Assembly.

On Sunday, 24th April, mass was celebrated by the bishops in the different parishes. The afternoon session continued with the conference pastoral plan. The evening entertainment celebrated the Catholic Faith by the hosts and participants.

The session on Monday, 25th April dwelt on Synodality by Fr Victor Roche as each group shared and reflected on the topic. The entire church is on the journey of sharing, reflecting, and listening to the theme of the Synod: 'Communion, Participation and Mission.'

This was followed by evaluations and the concluding mass that also had the proposals being presented to Abp Anton Bal, President of CBC.

Following mass, as a token of appreciation and signifying the theme 'Salt and Light', the assembly's participants were given a sapling of a local Yar Tree and a Votive Candle.

Strengthening Child Protection Systems in PNG: CBC signs MOA with National Office of Child & Family Services

- Nigel Akuani



Port Moresby: As a sign of solidarity to strengthen Child Protection Systems, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the National Office for Child & Family Services and the Catholic Bishops Conference PNG&SI.

The official signing of documents was held on Wednesday 7th April 2022, at the CBC headquarters in Waigani. Signatories to the partnership included Mr Simon Yanis, Director & Chief Executive Officer of

Present to show their support for the Church-State Partnership were Priests, Religious, Government and Church Officials, Lay Personnel, Diocesan Officers, and Media personnel. Mr Yanis commended

the efforts of the Catholic Church in promoting health, education and social wellbeing, and said that with the Church's extensive networking, much could be achieved under this new alliance.

"Protecting children is everyone's responsibility and this agreement is to ensure that Church-State officials work together and are given that mandate by law to protect children and hold those infringing Children's rights accountable," he said.

"Supported by laws under the *Lukautim Pikinini Act 2015* and this Partnership, there is now a delegation of power that we as CPOs have the right to exercise and intervene should a child-abuse claim arise. Mothers have a voice, and so do youths, but children who are the silent majority do not, and it is our duty to speak and give a voice to their pleas," he added.

Most Rev. Rozario described

how the Church and State worked in parallel to alleviate social issues causing suffering in the lives of children, and said the agreement was a 'Big-Step' toward improving the efforts of Diocesan CPOs.

"In Lae we are training CPOs and the government is also doing the same and this MOA is the convergence point where we meet. That will allow for better efficiency, capabilities and collaboration between our CPOs," he stated.

Fr Giorgio said the partnership was made possible through prior joint-initiatives and existing relations between Church and State to improve Child-Safety in the country.

To show the commitment of NOCFS in the partnership with CBCPNGSI, a cheque of K43,500 was presented by Mr Yanis to Fr Giorgio.

Picture (top left): Mr Yanis and Bp Rozario signing the Memorandum of Agreement
Picture (below): Bp Rozario, Mr Yanis and Fr Giorgio with the cheque of K43,500



Right Relationship hosts training for diocesan child protection officers



Port Moresby: With the theme 'A Child safe PNG – Child Protection', the Right Relationships in Ministry conducted a week-long training for thirty-eight of its Diocesan Child Protection Officers (DCPO).

It was held from 4th - 9th April at the Catholic Bishops Conference with the objective on "A Child Safe PNG" while focusing on the Catholic Church Policy and the Lukautim Pikinini Act 2015. The program was conducted by Sr Ancy John SCSA, Directress of Right Relationships in Ministry, and facilitators from the National Office for Child & Family Services.

There were presentations from Caritas Australia, Mr Robin Lesley, from Sr Lucy D'Souza, Secretary for National Family Life of CBC and from Ms Eva Wangihama, Secretary for Laity. The program also highlighted the child protection programs in the dioceses that was presented by Mrs Schola Bogg and Mr Gill Ken.

Bp Rozario Menezes, SMM, Bishop Deputy of Right Relations stressed to the participants saying that it is our responsibility to work for a child safe PNG. It is important to keep our children safe, which is essential for PNG.

The program concluded with the distribution of certificates and the commissioning of the Child Protection Officers by Abp Rochus Tatamai, MSC, of the Archdiocese of Rabaul.

NEWS IN BRIEF

St Joseph the Worker feast day

Bougainville: The Men's Associations from three parishes within the Buka/Atolls deanery gathered on Sunday, 1st May to commemorate the feast of St Joseph the Worker with a Eucharistic Celebration.

Held at the Our Lady of the Assumption Cathedral in Hahela, the Holy Eucharistic celebration had Fr. Polycarp Kaviak as the main celebrant while the animated choir was led by the Men's Group from the different parishes. Following the mass was the launching of the Diocesan song for the General Assembly and the St Joseph's Cup which will be annual competition that aims to bring together fathers and young men from the Buka/Atolls deanery.

College registered under DHERST

Port Moresby: Caritas Business College (CBC) is now officially registered under the Department of Higher Education, Research Science and Technology (DHERST).

On Thursday, 28th April, Mr. Thimon Bune, Deputy Secretary of DHERST, with Mr. Jacob Sonny Abba and Mr. Jorem Rema, handed the official certificates for Caritas Business College's Institutional Registration and two Programme Accreditations for Diploma in Office Administration and Diploma in Tourism and Hospitality Management.

The college has extended its gratitude to those who have helped in achieving this milestone.

DBTSS on International Earth Day

Kokopo: Students of Don Bosco Technical and Secondary School marked International Earth Day by cleaning the city of Kokopo on Saturday, April 23rd.

This activity followed a program on Servanthood and Leadership that was organized by the school with the objective to allow students to be sensitive to the well-being of our Common Home, especially in volunteerism and to be leaders in the future.

International Earth Day is a global celebration that is commemorated annually on April 22nd. This year's theme was 'Invest in our Planet.'

Let's continue to take care of our common home every day.



Church evangelizing or service provider?

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary

There is a comment being heard from time to time. The Catholic Church in Papua New Guinea is not an evangelizing community. It's a service provider. This is something hard to suggest and hard to totally reject. It's a risk and an opportunity. In the chapter twenty-five of the Gospel according to Matthew and in many other passages of the New Testament it is clearly stated by Jesus, the Apostles, and the early Church that there is no faith without good works, there is no love of God without love for the poor and the destitute, the ignorant and the sick, the orphan and the widow. Those who claim to believe in God but neglect the poor are not truthful.

The traditional path of evangelization in Papua New Guinea has been characterized by a massive work in the fields of education and health. The early missionaries, not much more than a century ago, found isolated tribes at the threshold of the modern and globalized world. Schools and health centers

mushroomed as the most obvious means of service and care to individuals and communities. It was an act of evangelical love accompanied by efforts against tribal fights, sorcery practices and beliefs, and even worse attitudes and behaviours.

The environment is different nowadays. Other actors have joined the scene from inside society and from outside the country. And most of all, what the Churches started out of love and good will, the State has rightly endorsed as its duty. Health, education, and a variety of forms of welfare are not only a benefit but a right people have, and leaders must ensure. Today schools and health centres may be less than the past a direct means of evangelization and foundation of a Christian denomination in a particular area. Nevertheless, if Churches continue to run social services and institutions, it can only be out of the same love and care that characterized the early missionaries who started them.

You do not evangelize only with words, songs, rallies and festivals, or with market preaching. You do it more deeply by taking care of the

disadvantaged, promoting their education and dignity, fighting family violence, sorcery, and civil unrest, providing a clean hospital bed and the encouraging smile of a caring nurse, a safe house for vulnerable women and children.

Of course, we also run the risk of acting as mere service providers. It happens when we see our work in a Church institution simply as employment; when our heart is not with the people we are there to serve; when prayer and gratefulness to God is no longer part of our life. Whenever in Catholic schools or hospitals there is only academic teaching or distribution of medicines, then we are only service providers, doing good things perhaps, but failing to show the loving face of God and a caring heart for the people. It's a fine line. Evangelization normally gains from open proclamation. But preaching alone is no guarantee of authenticity and lasting effect. It may inspire the heart, but not show that the change has brought to the fall of barriers and the rise of love of neighbours, which alone is the final proof of Christian faith.



Divine Mercy Sunday

- Nigel Akuani

Durero of the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga as the main celebrant. Concelebrating with him was Fr Cosmas Koble.

Bp Durero emphasized in his homily the importance of Divine Mercy Sunday, and said it was a reminder to constantly seek God's mercy and love. "This Second Sunday of Easter is a reminder for us that through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, we have been brought closer to God," he said.

Stressing the importance for faithful to recognize their purpose amidst such troubling times, Bp Durero, urged for all Christians to actively steer the multitude into the Good News of Jesus.

Kundiawa: More than a hundred Catholic parishioners from the Kundiawa-Gembogl District of Mitnande LLG, attended a special Eucharistic Celebration in reverence of Divine Mercy Sunday.

It was held at the Denglagu Parish of the Diocese of Kundiawa on Sunday, 24th April and had Bp Joseph

Youth leaders attend capacity skills building workshop

- Daru-Kiunga Youths

Kiunga, Western Province: A two-week Youth Leaders Capacity Skills building Workshop was held from March 28th – April 8th had 20 Catholic youth leaders and animators representing 12 parishes in Western Province.

Held at the Peter ToRot Formation Centre in Kiunga, the workshop was aimed at equipping the youth leaders and animators with the necessary skills and knowledge to be effective in their roles as leaders when they are conducting youth programs in their respective parishes during the course of their leadership.

The youth leaders and animators were enlightened with well-informed and educational sessions from different facilitators on the topics of Legal Basic Knowledge, proposal writing, financial literacy, awareness on synodality in the Catholic Church and media and communication during the workshop.

Vicar General of Daru-Kiunga, Fr. Andrew Moses said that such workshop is a way of empowering the youths with skills and knowledge to progress and live their lives meaningfully. "Many youths today are confused, lost or dissatisfied with their lives and we



are not fully aware of the potential within them to be successful", he said.

Facilitators in the program include the Diocesan Youth coordinator Mr. Ambie James, Catholic Youth Professionals representative Mr. Desmond Aigilo, Vicar General of the Daru-Kiunga Diocese Fr. Andrew Moses, BSP Kiunga Branch Manager Mr Ruben Atai and his staff and Social Communications representative, Ms. Jessica Oata.



All-girls Catholic High School

classrooms. In 2021, K500,000 was allocated and for this year, the continued funding budget is also K500,000.

The report also highlighted some funding assistance for vocational centres such as the Maria Hilf Vocational and St Joseph's Kefamo Vocational Schools worth K100,000 each.

Mr Iyeho was a participant at the annual conference that had forty-seven participants from the dioceses within PNG.

The aim of the conference was on capacity building in education by getting the secretaries and the coordinators to be aware of the church partnerships and work collaboratively with the Department of Education.

NCEC Secretary, Michael Ova, commended the efforts of the CES and CEC in the dioceses.

Goroka: An all-girls Catholic high school is currently under construction in the Diocese of Goroka according to the diocesan education secretary, Mr Patrick Iyeho.

In a report presented by Mr Iyeho at the National Catholic Education Commission's (NCEC) annual conference for the diocesan education secretaries and coordinators held from 28th March to 1st April, the agency school has been given funding assistance by the provincial government.

The Holy Eucharist Girls Catholic High School will consist of a double classroom building with 4

56th World Day of Social Communications

Theme: **Listening with the ear of the heart**
Date: **Sunday, 29th May**

The title of this year's message, "Listening with the ear of the heart," invites us to reflect that listening involves more than simply the sense of hearing. True listening is a foundation of genuine relationships, and is foundational to the relationship between God and humanity.

Jesus himself asks us to pay attention to how we listen (cf. Lk 8:18). To be able to truly listen requires courage, and a free and open heart, without prejudice.

At this time when the whole Church is invited to listen in order to learn to be a synodal Church, we are all invited to rediscover listening as essential for good communication.



Date: **Saturday, 21st May 2022**
Venue: **Paradise Cinemas, Vision City**

Join us as we screen films from around the world based on Hope.

Tickets can be collected from the SOCOM Team at CBC

For more information, contact the SOCOM Team on:
Email: socom@catholic.org.pg | Phone: **325 9577**



Moving forward through New Evangelization

- Jessica Oata

As Christians living in this digital generation, we need to ask ourselves; *can digital media and social networks help us to live out a new evangelization?* The answer is YES! It is our Christian duty to embrace technology in our vocations and use it as a means of evangelizing.

Meet Fr. Floyd Gatana SM, a young priest from the congregation of the Society of Mary who is passionate about the mission of his congregation and how to evangelize in this modern world.

From a mixed parentage of Bougainville and Morobe Provinces, he was brought up and educated in Bougainville. After completing secondary school at Hutjena Secondary School in 2007, he did 3 years of studies with the UPNG open campus in Buka.

He joined the Marist Fathers 'come and see' program in 2011 and entered seminary studies at the Catholic Theological Institute in Bomana the following year before moving abroad after

graduating with an Advanced Diploma in Philosophy in 2014.

Fr. Floyd did his novitiate program with the Marist Fathers in Davao City in the Philippines in 2015 and the following year began his Theological Studies at St Thomas Aquinas (Agelicum) Pontifical University in Rome. He graduated with a Bachelor in Sacred Theology in 2018 and two years later, he graduated with a license in ecumenism before returning home for his ordination.

After being ordained a priest on 29th December, he served in Marist Parishes in Buka and Buin for a year before taking his post in the Diocese of Parramatta in Australia.

"Living in a community with my brother priests and working with the people I was called to serve brings me so much joy", he said.

For someone who has experienced different cultures whilst studying, he is looking forward to

learning new ways of evangelizing in the secularized world.

Fr. Floyd was inspired by the foreign Marist priests who worked in Hahela Parish in Buka and realized his calling when he was still in primary school.

"I chose the Marist Fathers because they exist in Bougainville and were the first to evangelize the island of Bougainville and I was attracted to the Marist spirituality", he said.

We wish Fr. Floyd Gatana SM all the best in his Ministry.

Send your Stories of Faith to Jessica Oata at socom@catholic.org.pg to be featured in the Catholic Reporter



A Listening Church

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb,
Secretary for Social Communication

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28:19) was the great commission of Jesus Christ before he ascended to His Father. All through the season of Easter, Jesus encounters people to strengthen and share with them His Spirit.

On the 29th May we celebrate Ascension Sunday. It is also the day on which we celebrate the 56th World Communications Day. Pope Francis has given us a powerful theme for this year. 'Listen, with the ear of the heart'. It highlights the need for us to give our people an opportunity to express themselves and pay careful attention to what they are saying.

Listening as a condition for communication:

We listen to obtain information, to understand and to learn. Research studies by Edgar Dale tells us that we remember only 25% to 50% of what we hear. It means that when we pass on important information to colleagues, we pass on to others from what we have captured in the 50%. Given all the listening that we do, it means that when you talk to your teachers, colleagues, friends, or spouse for 10 minutes, they pay attention to half or less than half of your conversation. When we are presented with information, we hope that the important parts are captured in 50 percent, of the conversation. Our relationships depend on how effectively we can listen to those we love, those we meet and those we encounter.

The persons can be our loved ones, our spouse, our children, the members of our family and our friends. Listening is also one of the most important skills that one needs to develop. While it has a major impact on job effectiveness, it is especially important for us as we come from different backgrounds and need to make a sincere effort to understand the values, customs, and traditions of the person we encounter. By becoming a better listener, one can avoid conflict and misunderstanding.

Active Listening and synodality

'Listen to what a person is saying and listen to what a person is not saying'. While words convey a message, body language, tone of voice, eye movements, etc. convey rich sentiments of what a person wants to convey. We need to realize that our words and our actions form the **complete message** that is being communicated. It is no easy task, and we need to constantly improve our listening skills and practice "active listening."

The 3rd General Assembly had as its theme: Salt and Light. Participants from every diocese of the church of Papua New Guinea had several lay participants representing their diocese. The principle of synodality as defined in the document states specifically that, "the action of the Spirit is in the communion of the Body of Christ and in the missionary journey of the People of God". It was a wonderful experience to listen to the voices of the community and stories from our villages and communities. It is only when we have the patience to listen to our people and spend time interacting with them can we truly say that we are 'A Listening church' encountering people as and where they truly are.



Second Marian Dogma: The Perpetual Virginity in the Tradition

- Fr. Tomás Ravaoli IVE

Regarding Mary's virginity before birth:

The Fathers of the Church are unanimous in teaching that Christ was conceived by a virgin and that the prophecy of Isaias of the virgin conceiving a son applies to Him. The Gospels and the Fathers confirm this. Saint Justin Martyr (100-165), for example, says, "The words 'Behold, a virgin shall be with child' (Is 7:14) mean that the virgin shall conceive without fleshly commerce. For had she admitted such commerce, she would no longer be a virgin. But the power of God effected that she conceived as a virgin."

Regarding Mary's virginity during birth:

Tradition unmistakably attests Mary's virginity during birth. In fact, there is not a single Father who can be said to be uncertain in his attitude towards this question. The Fathers employ a number of beautiful analogies to elucidate the dogma of the virgin birth. Thus: - The spotless generation of the Word in the bosom of the Father. - The passage of light through a glass. - Christ's

triumphant resurrection from a sealed tomb. - Christ's passing through locked doors, and so forth.

Regarding Mary's virginity after birth:

The belief in Mary's virginity after birth, or, more generally speaking, her perpetual virginity, is so firmly rooted in primitive Tradition that the Fathers regard its denial as an insult to Our Lord Himself. Saint Ambrose (+397) accuses the opponents of this doctrine of "sacrilege." Saint Basil (330-379) declares, "Those who love Christ will not brook the assertion that the Mother of God ever ceased to be a virgin." Saint Jerome (347-420) accused those who deny this truth of "impiety." It is in this sense that Saint Augustine (354-430) says in one of his sermons, "Behold the miracle of the Mother of our Lord: She conceived as a virgin, she gave birth as a virgin, she remained a virgin after childbirth." Saint Bede (672-735) indignantly charges the opponents of this dogma with "perfidy." Our pure Lady is venerated as ever virgin in the earliest liturgies, and this title of honor evidently supposes that she remained a virgin all her life.

- St Catholic Communication

Good Friday Passion of the Cross by Holy Cross Cathedral



Honiara: HOLY CROSS CATHEDRAL Parish commemorated Good Friday with a re-enactment of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ by the Catholic Parish youths at the Holy Cross Cathedral joined with other Christian denominations around the globe remembering the Death of Jesus Christ.

Youths dressed as Roman soldiers, Jesus's Disciples, Jesus's Mother, Pilot, Herod, Pharisees and other Biblical characters involved re-enact the trial and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. To the youths and parishioners this was more than just a show but a tradition that dates back more than 2000

years ago showing the powerful biblical event taken from the Gospels of the New Testament of the Bible.

Christians watched with tears as they meditated upon the 14 Stations of the Cross of Jesus or the way of the Cross, This Includes (1) Jesus is condemned to death, (2) he is made to bear his cross, (3) he falls the first time, (4) he meets his mother, (5) Simon of Cyrene is made to bear the cross, (6) Veronica wipes Jesus' face, (7) he falls the second time, (8) the women of Jerusalem weep over Jesus, (9) he falls the third time, (10) he is stripped of his garments, (11) he is nailed to the cross, (12) he dies on the cross, (13) he is taken down from the cross, and (14) he is placed in the sepulchre.

His Grace Abp Christopher Cardone said "On Good Friday our lord Jesus Christ renewed our relationship with our Heavenly father through His suffering. It's time for us to reflect on our daily lives on how we made our relationship with God in this challenging time".

The Catholic faithful continued with Easter Vigil on Saturday, 16th April at 7pm for the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord and on Sunday.

The Catholic Reporter Team

You are invited to send in your articles, photograph and reflections on events and happenings in your parish, community, institution and diocese. Please send in your material to: socom@catholic.org.pg on or before **20th of the month, 2022.**

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