



# 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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## Risen Christ shines light on darkness of conflict

In his Easter Urbi et Orbi address, Pope Francis prayed that the light of the Risen Christ shine in the darkness of conflicts around the world, especially those in Syria, Yemen, Israel and Palestine, Libya, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Sudan, South Sudan, Eastern Ukraine, Venezuela, and Nicaragua.

victims of an ongoing conflict. "Now is instead the time for a renewed commitment for a political solution able to respond to people's legitimate hopes

times violent forms of extremism that leave in their wake insecurity, destruction and death." He specifically mentioned Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon. Sudan, he said, is experiencing "a moment of political uncertainty", voicing his hope that all parties will be heard.

The Holy Father began his address by citing his recent post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Christus vivit*. "Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world. Everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life."

for freedom, peace and justice, confront the humanitarian crisis and favour the secure re-entry of the homeless, along with all those who have taken refuge in neighbouring countries, especially Lebanon and Jordan."

The Pope also prayed that the light of Easter illuminate all government leaders and peoples in the region, "beginning with the Israelis and Palestinians," and lead them to pursue a future of peace and stability.

Pope Francis then turned to the African continent, first calling for the end to bloodshed in Libya, "where defenceless people are once more dying in recent weeks and many families have been forced to abandon their homes".

He urged those involved to choose dialogue over force. The Pope said parts of the continent are "rife with social tensions, conflicts and at

The Holy Father spoke briefly about the continuing conflict in eastern Ukraine. He prayed that the Lord "encourage initiatives of humanitarian aid" and efforts towards a lasting peace.

Turning his thoughts to the Americas, Pope Francis prayed that the joy of the resurrection fills the hearts of those experiencing difficult political and economic situations.

At the conclusion of his "Urbi et Orbi" message from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, the Holy Father expressed his heartfelt closeness to the Christian community of Sri Lanka and prayed for the injured and all those who suffer as a result of the Easter Sunday attack that left an estimated 200 dead and hundreds more injured.

Easter, said Pope Francis, is the "beginning of a new world, set free from the slavery of sin and death: the world open at last to the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of love, peace and fraternity." Jesus, he added, does not abandon those who face hardship and sorrow, and he named the many parts of the world that are witnessing various forms of conflict.

Pope Francis said Easter keeps our eyes focused on the Middle East, praying that Christians "patiently persevere in their witness to the Risen Lord". He said the world risks forgetting the people of Syria, who he said are

- Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb

## Bp Rochus receives CSM Award

**Port Moresby:** Rev. Bishop Rochus Joseph Tatamai, MSC, DD was invested with the Insignia of the 'Companion of the Order of the Star of Melanesia' (CSM), on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 at the Government House, Port Moresby.

Bp Rochus received this award for his service to the community and the Catholic Church from the Governor General, Sir Bob Dadae.

His significant contribution as a Priest with diverse roles in Pastoral ministry, promoting vocations, the 'Voice of Peter ToRot' radio and television, as Bishop of Kerema, Bereina and Kavieng is recognized. He is also appreciated for his wider leadership as the President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

"When the award was announced this year, I was at Lavongai, where a mother and a child died. This award symbolizes the people who struggle, and I accept this award on behalf of them. The award is for priestly and community service. It therefore belongs to the people", said Bp Rochus.

"With my role as the President of the Catholic Bishops Conference, it is my duty to highlight the struggles of the people and voice their concerns as we stand up against the corruption, abuse and violence that is present in our society."

"The challenge is also our ability to share the resources God has blessed us with. Secondly, we need to make efforts to have an inclusion mentality for fortunate."



all our people in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Therefore, rather than being self-centred, our focus needs to be to share these with the less

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# Be a servant to others

In his Easter Message to the Catholic faithful in the country, Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC highlighted the importance of the Way of the Cross. His Easter message also touched on climate change issues

"The way of the cross is journeying with Jesus. We are not only walking with him, but he is walking with us too. He is truly alive and in our everyday lives, he is always with us," the Cardinal stated.

One of the lessons that Jesus wanted us to learn was how to be a servant to others. Sir John Cardinal Ribat said that Jesus washed the feet of his disciples during a meal. Speaking on the scripture John 13:3-7, Simon Peter refused to let Jesus wash his feet.

"And then Jesus said to him, No, if I do not wash your feet then you are not part of me."

"At this time, Peter changed his mind and said 'ok, you do not wash my feet but also my entire self. And he said 'no, your feet is enough. An

example to us is this, a leader is also a servant. He must be a servant for all. And Jesus was showing that. So, He was God, He was Lord, He was King, but he did not let that stop him from serving his brothers and sisters."

Cardinal Ribat said Jesus demonstrated his love for us by dying on the cross. This is the greatest gift of all.

"This is our faith, this is our hope, and this is what we are here to celebrate. We have to suffer serving our brothers and sisters and at the end, coming to the fullness of life. And then Jesus said to him, 'No, if I do not wash your feet then you are not a part of me'," said the Cardinal.

He then referred to climate change and sea bed mining and its effects on the country. He said that it is the first time for sea bed mining to be experimented in the world and the negative impacts on tuna fish stock in Papua New Guinea are not known. The Cardinal also spoke on the



impact it would have on the livelihood of the people.

He said that the people in the villages are subsistence farmers and depend on the land and the sea to provide for their daily needs. Sea bed mining will destroy the environment and pose a negative impact on the sea itself.

The Cardinal thanked the Churches in partnership and the people for their stance against seabed mining.

## The need for credible witnesses

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb  
CBC SOCOM and Youth Secretary

Our young people in Papua New Guinea today, face a difficult time. Violence and abuse are experienced on a regular basis. Sadly, the ones most at risk are young girls, children and women.

During the past few weeks, the city has been experiencing a spate of abductions and kidnappings. These vicious and violent attacks are taking place in public places and even in broad daylight. The police and the security agencies have been dealing with the problem. Notices have been put up and people are encouraged to exercise caution at all times. Often these attacks include physical and sexual abuse and anxiety not only to the victim, but also to members of the family and society.

Pope Francis together with the Synod Fathers acknowledge that, young people living in war zones, experience violence in countless forms: kidnapping, organized crime, human trafficking, slavery and sexual exploitation, rape, and so forth. Addictions, abuse and violence are higher in ethnic groups. They remind us of the difficult situation of adolescents and young people who become pregnant, have to deal with the scourge of abortion, the spread of HIV and various forms of addiction. There is also the plight of street children, those without homes, families and the struggle for economic resources. *Christus Vivit* 72-74.

"The church is listening to us but not speaking to us directly to us. They are not addressing the questions we ask", said Fr. Robert Ablewicz msf, Youth Animator of the Diocese of Mendi as he submitted his report on the state of the young people in the Diocese. As priests, youth animators, parents, teachers and persons concerned about the growth of our young people, we need to constantly journey with them as they go through the challenges of this period. They want us to instruct them and constantly remind them of being Christ-like. Young people need to be credible witnesses. We need to speak out boldly about our Catholic Faith and the Sacraments. They need to be properly introduced to the right and wrong attitude of sex, pornography, prostitution, abortion and contraception. May we have the courage to journey with our young as they grow up in society.



## Lack of respect a factor in GBV

Violence and abuse of females can be defined in a number of ways, but the usual meaning that stems from these phrases and is commonly practiced in Papua New Guinea is the "repeated physical / emotional or psychological harm of a female by a male".

The issue is very common in PNG and in spite of the tireless efforts by Non-Government Organisations (NGO's), the Government and other organizations that try to help reduce this issue. The issue still persists in and around the country. Why is this so? There are so many explanations as to why violence and abuse towards women is prevalent in this country. One factor that simply stands out is the lack of respect for the victims by the perpetrators and for themselves. This lack of respect is caused by the cultural mentality of who deserves more respect and who is more superior in the home.

Papua New Guinea is a culturally diverse country and with that comes over 800 different languages, customs, values, norms etc. Although a mixture of patrilineal and matrilineal societies, every society believes that the men are born to be leaders and that they deserve to be respected by the females. This mentality is one that is still rooted in the minds of almost every Papua New Guinean and it is usually this that gives men the mentality that they have the right to do what pleases them and that women must respect them because they are inferior to them. The bride price system and the big man system are examples of this. The abuse and violence towards females by males also show a lack of respect for the males themselves. If a man has no respect for himself then how does he expect to teach his family and children? The more disrespectful men the more this trait is taught to their children which eventually causes a problem. No human is more superior over another in spite of gender, race, ability etc. Every human equally deserves respect and is unique.

Most Papua New Guineans mentality is rooted into their cultural systems and beliefs and even with people being Christians, educated and aware of this issue, this mentality still persists even if not so obviously. Therefore, to address the issue of violence and abuse of women, there is a need for community awareness by the use of the media and posters to help people understand clearly that our cultural mentality can be a major factor instigating the issue. Young children should also be educated on the issue in a way they can understand so that it can grow with them and help them build a safer and more respectful Papua New Guinea for women.



- Melissa Jones



## Animators Training Seminar

Call to Holiness and Mission

Date: 3rd - 7th June 2019 | Venue: CBC, Port Moresby

Participants: Diocesan Youth Animators  
Registration: K 200/- per participant

Organised by: CBC Youth Board

Content: Spirituality for the young,  
Evangelising Today, Faith and Life,  
Self-Appreciation, Living Pure  
Organised by: CBC Youth Secretary

Limited spaces available



International  
SHORT FILM  
FESTIVAL  
ISFF19  
Papua New Guinea & Solomon Islands  
2019

Send in your films in HD Video format on or before 5th June, 2019

Contact SOCOM Desk (office no): 71209422  
E-mail: socom@catholic.org.pg

## Safe FAMILY Happy FAMILY

Date: 3rd August 2019  
Venue: Vision City  
Entry Fee: K 50/-



## Easter Sunday in Manus Island

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary

It was for me a particular grace to celebrate the Easter festivities with the faithful of Lorengau in Manus Island. This was upon the invitation of pastoral dean Fr Clement Taulam to extend help to parish priest Fr. Bernard Sapataleh, whose health conditions unfortunately are poor.

My stay in Manus also afforded me an opportunity to check once again on the conditions of the refugees and asylum seekers confined to the island since 2013. The good news is that the numbers are going down as some of them are being transferred to Port Moresby for medical reasons or in view of resettlement to the United States. The process, however, is slow and uncertain. Several applications are being rejected. Depression, despair and serious mental health problems still affect the majority of the men. Some cases of typhoid fever were recorded around Easter. Health care by the Pacific International Hospital clinic, contracted for the camps, and

by the Lorengau provincial hospital remains inadequate. A suspected case of salmonella infection on Holy Thursday could not be tested due to lack of laboratory equipment.

As now well established by the courts and extensively discussed in the media, the indefinite detention and the off-shore processing of asylum seekers and refugees by Australia and Papua New Guinea in Manus Island is unconstitutional and illegal. It is also unjust, disrespectful, arrogant, murderous, probably corrupt, now untenable and total nonsense. It will be unethical for any company to sign or renew the contracts expiring this coming June 30<sup>th</sup> for security, logistics and health services. A Medivac bill has actually been passed by the Australian parliament in February, giving doctors a substantial say on the transfer of ill detainees to proper health facilities in Australia. However, the paper work for the refugees and advocates to be able to avail of this piece of legislation is complex and takes weeks. And while we understand that the PNG government has no objection to the

process, it is sad to notice that the now care-taker incumbent Australian government remains opposed to it. So called "political reasons" are usually mentioned for that. But we expect these to be completely dropped the day after the Australian federal elections of May 18<sup>th</sup>, whoever the winner may be. The refugees and asylum seekers actually even deserve outright citizenship. Though unwillingly, they have served the national Australian purpose and interest of "stopping the boats" for six consecutive years. Many of them have had their health compromised in the process. At least a dozen have lost their lives in Manus, Port Moresby and Nauru, the other Pacific island where the local government, unlike PNG, remains hostile to the Medivac bill. Justice and common sense must now prevail. Right after the Australian elections and before the expiry of the service contracts (NKW, PALADIN, PIH, JDA Wokman) on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June this year, the off-shore processing in Manus (and Nauru) must be consigned to the past to never be seen again.

## Chat Room: Empowering the voice of youths

The radio program entitled the 'Chat Room' has become an empowering voice for students to bring to light important issues affecting youths and the society.

The program recently staged its fourth, fifth and sixth sessions from the respective schools of Don Bosco Technical Institute, Della Salle Secondary School, and the University of Papua New Guinea, on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of April in Port Moresby.

Beginning the April sessions, the fourth session saw students from DBTI speak on "Safe Family, Happy Family". Discussions were based on the issues affecting the foundation of a safe and happy family life, and the steps that were

needed to achieve it. The fifth session had students from Della Salle to discuss corruption. The students discussed on the various aspects of corruption, its impact on the development of the country, and made recommendations on how the issue could be minimised. It's sixth session saw Journalism students from the University of PNG discuss the topic "Empowering Youths through the media". The students discussed the various media, their advantages and disadvantages and how the media can be utilized to empower youths in the country.

The seventh session ending the April Chatroom sessions saw the students from Jubilee Catholic



Don Bosco Technological Institute students at Tribe FM studio

Secondary School share their thoughts on 'Street Safety: Secure in Port Moresby' on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April.

## Creating videos to inspire

- Abigail Seta

**Gordons, Port Moresby:** The third Media Education Seminar (MES) for Catholic students in Port Moresby focused on creating videos on Saturday, 27 April 2019.

The first session of the day gave the participants the experience of being in front of the camera. The session was entitled: '20

Seconds of Fame.' It gave the students an opportunity to speak in front of the camera for 20 seconds on any topic they were passionate about. In the second session, Social Communications Personnel, Nigel Akuani highlighted the different basic shots. These were the Wide shot, Close-up shot and Medium shot. The participants then had the opportunity to practice these. Family: a great blessing, One Team, Family of love, care and support - were some of the titles of the 30 second short films that were produced by the participants at the seminar.

"The participants highlighted the different aspects of the family through creative ways", said Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb, Social Communications Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference. "Watching the films and listening to the critical comments has been a learning experience for all."

Facilitated by the Social Communications Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference, the MES is aimed at teaching students the importance of media and the necessary skills to communicate using the different types of media. It is the third in a series of media seminars for the year.

## Communicating spirituality in our media world

**Nadi, Fiji:** SIGNIS Pacific held its Regional Training workshop entitled: 'A Modern Spirituality for Christian Communicators' in Nadi, Fiji, from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.

There were thirty participants, members of SIGNIS Pacific and its Fiji partners that were part of the training. Representing Papua New Guinea was Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb, Social Communications and Youth Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Facilitating the training was Jesuit priest and author of several books, Fr Richard Leonard sj where he highlighted the importance of how as Christians need to attend to our spirituality, deepen faith and witness to Christ in our daily lives; our call as Christians to proclaim our faith to people. The training also touched on issues faced by the different Pacific member countries and among the issues mentioned were climate change, refugees, celebration of the sacraments, family life and abuse.

Archbishop Peter Loy Chong, Archbishop of Suva said he appreciated the work that the communicators do to ensure that the message of the Gospel reaches the people.





# WIK BILONG PRE BILONG KRISTEN YUNITI

**ASENSIO - PENTIKOS: 2-9 JUN 2019**

"Strepela Pasin Tru, Yupela Mas Wok Long Kamautim" (Deuteronimi 16:18-20)

Long yia 1969 i kam inap nau ol Kristen sios long olgeta hap bilong graun i bihainim wampela tingting na yusim wampela rit bilong Buk Baibel long "Wik bilong Pre bilong Kristen Yuniti". Dispela wik bilong prea i bikpela samting long skelim wok bilong painim rot bai "olgeta Kristen manmeri i ken kamap wan wantaim ol arapela." Tude yumi bilip Sios bilong Krai i redim rot i go long dispela Kingdom, tasol pasin nogut i stap na dispela pasin i brukim yumi ol Kristen manmeri. Tasol tu yumi bilip strong bai Krai inap stretim yumi long yumi ken sindaun gut wantaim. Ol rit bilong Buk Baibel long dispela 8pela de bilong pre i tokaut klia long ol samting nogut i kamap taim strepela pasin i no stap.

**DE 1: (2 Jun) Larim strepela pasin i kam daun wankain olsem gutpela wara i pundaun** (Emos 3:24)

- Emos 5:22-25 (larim gupela pasin i kam daun wankain olsem gupela wara i pundaun)
- Luk 11:37-44 (mekim strepela pasin em mak bilong gutpela tingting tru)

**DE 2: (3 Jun) Larim tok bilong yu i stap "tok orait" na "tok nogat"** (Matyu 5:37)

- Efesus 4:22-25 (yumi i stap brata na susa bilong olgeta arapela manmeri)
- Matyu 5:33-37 (yumi mas bihainim strepela pasin na rispektim ol arapela manmeri)

**DE 3: (4 Jun) Bikpela i gut tru na yu i pulap long marimari** (Sam 145:8)

- Sam 145:8-13 (God i no hariap na belhat, tasol em i save laikim yumi tru)
- Maytu 1:1-17 (God i laik bai olgeta manmeri i stap insait long lain bilong em)

**DE 4: (5 Jun) Stap isi bikos ol gutpela samting i stap** (Hibru 13:5)

- Hibru 13:1-5 (welkam ol manmeri long longwe ples, na stap isi bikos yupela i gat plenti gutpela samting)
- Matyu 6:23-24 (bel bilong yumi i amamas bekos God i gat stetpela pasin na em i save kisim bek yumi)

**DE 5: (6 Jun) Bringim ol gutpela na nupela samting long ol tarangu** (Luk 4:18)

- Emos 4:4-8 (God i harim krai bilong ol manmeri taim ol arapela i bin daunim ol)

- Luk 4:16-21 (Jisas i kam bilong kamautim ol manmeri i stap long kalabus bai ol i ken stap fri)

**DE 6: (7 Jun) Bikpela i gat nem** (Jerimaia 10:16)

- Jerimaia 10:12-16 (God i laik olgeta samting i kamap nupela)
- Mak 16:14-15 (Yupela go long olgeta hap na autim Gutnius long ol manmeri)

**DE 7: (8 Jun) Meri, bilip bilong yu i bikpela tru** (Matyu 15:28)

- 1 Samuel 1:13-17 (Ilai i harim bilong Hana na em i blesim Hana)
- Matyu 15: 21-28 (Jisas i rispektim bilip bilong meri bilong narapela ples, na Jisas i olraitim pikinini meri bilong em)

**DE 8: (9 Jun) Bikpela em i laik bilong mipela na em i kisim bek mipela** (Sam 27:1)

- Sam 27:1-4 (yumi no ken pret bikos God i save wokabaut wantaim yumi)
- Jon 8:12-20 (taim yu save long Jisas yu save long Papa bilong em)



- Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb

## A way of peace, forgiveness and unity

joined by adults and members of other churches in Port Moresby begin their Way of the Cross at 4.30am at St. Pauls parish, Gerehu, stage 6.

The procession paused at various venues that marked the 14 different stations. Reflections on scripture, and the singing of songs and hymns were a sign of reflection and prayer during the way. The procession ended at St Peter Chanel, Erima at 10.45am.

At the end of a prayerful walk of 12 kilometres, Archbishop of Port Moresby, Sir John Cardinal Ribat, concluded the celebrations with the Good Friday liturgy.

It was coordinated by the Archdiocesan Youth of Port Moresby and organized by Sr. Rebecca Fernandez OND, Archdiocesan Youth Secretary.

"It is our hope that as young people we take up this walk for peace, forgiveness and unity, during this Lenten season, they will continue it every day of their lives," said Sr. Rebecca organizer of the program.

"As I walk the way of the cross, I ask for peace and forgiveness within my family. I pray for my little girl, that I as a single mother, I can be both mother and father to her" – Raroteone Sariman, St Charles Lwanga

"I see this as a turning point in my life. I need to give up on alcohol and my addiction to social media and focus on my studies and educational qualification. As a young person, I need to have God in my life and concentrate on my studies. I wish to be a lawyer and I have a long way to go" - Francis Kangi, Holy Rosary parish, Gerehu Secondary school

- Melissa Jones



Catholic faithful at the Way of the Cross on Good Friday

**Port Moresby:** Thousands of Papua New Guineans were part of the annual Way of the Cross around the city of Port Moresby on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The event saw young Catholics

## Late ambassador farewelled

**Port Moresby:** Family, colleagues and friends of Late Ambassador Tarcisius Adrian Eri gathered for the funeral service at St Charles Lwanga parish in Gerehu on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019.

The Eucharistic celebration was officiated by His Excellency Archbishop Kurian Matthew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. In his homily, the Archbishop Kurian Matthew Vayalunkal spoke of the late Ambassador, his traits as well as his loyalty to Papua New Guinea in the different countries he served as an Ambassador, saying that Tarcisius was a man of faith.

"His commitment to the Catholic Church and the Archdiocese of Port Moresby and this St. Charles Lwanga parish is an expression of love for his faith," he said.

The late Tarcisius Adrian Eri served as the Papua New Guinean Ambassador to Indonesia and India. During his time in Australia, he was the Deputy High Commissioner. His love and service to his country and his Catholic faith has left a mark on his family, relatives and community that will be long remembered.

"He was a man of grace, a man of integrity and principle, a man to be trusted, with kindness and humility about him," stated Tony Miva, nephew of the late Ambassador who gave the Eulogy.

"Our Dad has not left us unprepared. He has left us with a good foundation. He left us with each other, stamped with his likeness and filled with his goodness. He



Ambassador Tarcisius Adrian Eri

believed in the promises of Christ and he lived that way," Tony said.

The body of the Late Ambassador was taken to his family residence in Gerehu and after a few hours, the family departed to his village, Lese Oalai in the Gulf province on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April, where he was laid to rest.

## Catholic Reporter

Invites you to send in your articles, photograph and reflections on events and happenings in your parish, community, institution and diocese.

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