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

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**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 at Angelus: “Forgiveness and mercy helps avoid suffering”**
2. **Mass held to farewell Archbishop elect Rochus**
3. **Diocese of Bougainville appointed New Bishop**
4. **Late Archbishop To Varpin laid to rest**
5. **Challenges raised amidst ‘45th Independence’**
6. **Salesian Values highlighted in Youth Camp**

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# News Item 1 – Pope at Angelus: “Forgiveness and mercy helps avoid suffering”

“How much suffering, how many wounds, how many wars could be avoided if forgiveness and mercy were the style of our life,” was the reflection shared by Pope Francis at the Sunday midday Angelus prayer of 13th September in St Peter’s Square.

Addressing the crowd, the Holy Father reflected on the day’s Gospel of the parable of the unmerciful servant saying if humanity did not strive to forgive and love, they too would not be forgiven and loved.

Reflecting on the parable, Pope Francis drew attention to God's attitude, represented by the king, and that of the human person, represented by the servant. He told of how the human attitude was limited to justice The Pope said Jesus urges us to open ourselves courageously to the power of forgiveness, because “not everything in life can be resolved by justice”.

He urged Christians to imitate God's merciful attitude, and said this display of affection could bring to an end most of the world’s suffering and wars. He called on faithful to open their hearts to mercy and goodness, and to entrust themselves to the Mother of God so that they may realize how much they were in debt to God.

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**News item 2 – Mass held to farewell Archbishop elect Rochus**

On 14th August 2020, Catholic agency schools from the Diocese of Kavieng celebrated Mass and bid farewell to His Lordship Bishop Rochus Josef Tatamai, Msc.

The event commenced with the Mass at 9am, presentation of gifts at the diocesan stage, dances and choirs followed to end the day ending the spirit filled program on a high note. Schools from the furthest islands were represented by their Head Master/Mistress and School Board Chairman’s. Also present to celebrate the occasion were students from Institutions, Priests and Religious from Parishes, spiritual groups, and laity.

The Archbishop elect had time to meet all present and to also give them an inspiring talk highlighting the significance of education in progressing the diocese forward. For many students it was a life-changing experience that had them excited as they finally met their leader who humbly dedicated his life toward serving the Church.

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**News item 3 – Diocese of Bougainville appointed New Bishop**

The Diocese of Bougainville has appointed a new Bishop to take up the diocese’s pastoral governance. This was confirmed on Saturday 12th September at 8pm, by Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

His Excellency Most Reverend Bishop Dariusz Kaluza MSF, until now Bishop of the Diocese of Goroka, was appointed as the new Bishop of Bougainville by the Holy Father Pope Francis. Bishop Dariusz has already given his consent to this important and delicate assignment to which the Holy Father has now tasked him with.

The Nuncio congratulated Bishop Kałuza on his new mission in the Church, and urged for all Christians to remember him in their prayers, so that the good Lord may continue to bless and guide him as he prepares to take up the pastoral governance of the diocese of Bougainville.

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**News item 4 - Late Archbishop To Varpin laid to rest**

This is to inform all Catholic communities that Archbishop Emeritus of Madang, Most Reverend Benedict To Varpin, passed away in Kokopo, East New Britain Province, on 8th September 2020, Feast of the Nativity of Mary.

Late Archbishop To Varpin was born on 24th July 1936 at Volavolo, East New Britain Province. He was the Archbishop of Madang from 1987 up till 2001 when he formally resigned. Prior to that he was the Bishop of the Diocese of Bereina for seven years.

His funeral service was held on Monday 14th September at 9am at Vunapope Cathedral, Archdiocese of Rabaul, before his burial at the Vunapope Cemetery.

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**News item 5 – Challenges raised amidst ‘45th Independence’**

The 45th Independence Day celebrations come at a time of grave concern for the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. These were the sentiments expressed by Reverend Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea & Solomon Islands.

He said death, sickness, strain on the health system, loss of jobs, and anxiety were the most visible effects of the virus that attacked mankind since the beginning of the year. He recalled the circumstance of Papua New Guinea and said the country was fortunate to have been spared from the devastating impact of the coronavirus.

Fr Giorgio stated that as PNG looked forward to its 45th Independence Anniversary, it also needed to draw support from other countries especially in times of difficulty, and to unite and cooperate to overcome challenges. He urged for all citizens to be grateful of the power and grace of God, and to continue to pray for God’s continued wisdom and protection during the epidemic.

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**News Item 6 – Salesian Values highlighted in Youth Camp**

A Youth Camp focusing on the values of the Salesian Family was held from 11th to13th September 2020.

The gathering organized by the Parish of Mary Help of Christians Rapolo took place in Don Bosco Technical Secondary School, Kokopo, and had as its theme: Forming Good Christians and Upright Citizens. It was an occasion for young people to be reminded of the Salesian values. Participants came from DBTSS Catholic Boarding Students, Catholic Communities of Palnakaur, Tobera, Ramale, Malagunan, Nordup, Bitagalip and Livuan. For the first time in its kind, the parish was able to bring together 190 youths registered.

Youths were oriented by the parish priest in the planning process. The objectives for the camp were to help young people know, understand and appreciate the Strenna of the Rector Major for 2020. They are;

* to develop firm convictions about the need to take care of the earth;
* to take home a beautiful experience of youthful prayer,
* Bosconian joy and camaraderie with other young people; and
* invite them to be models of a good Christian and upright citizen at home, in the school and in their Church community.

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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.**