**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, with the news.**

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope renews prayer for people isolated due to coronavirus outbreak**
2. **Abp Panfilo Urges Solidarity during Coronavirus Pandemic**
3. **Panel Discussion Raises Awareness on Deep Sea Mining**
4. **Communication Personnel reminded to ‘Care for Our Common Home’**
5. **SOCOM Seminar Promotes Environmental Protection through Media Skills**
6. **Positive minds key to successful Young People** ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

# News Item 1 – Pope renews prayer for people isolated due to coronavirus outbreak

“In this situation of pandemic, in which we find ourselves living more or less isolated, we are invited to rediscover and deepen the value of the communion that unites all the members of the Church.” Pope Francis offered that invitation in his remarks after the Angelus prayer on Sunday 15th March.

He urged for faithful to unite in Christ and one another in the spiritual communion of the Eucharist, as more governments encourage citizens to stay at home to fight the spread of Covid-19, also known as ‘Coronavirus’.

The Pope said that when united to Christ we were never alone, and called it “a union that is nourished with prayer, and also with the spiritual communion in the Eucharist, a practice that is highly recommended when it is not possible to receive the Sacrament.”

Pope Francis prayed for those sick and all the medical personnel and volunteers caring for them, and thanked priests around the world for their “creativity” in dealing with the measures put in place to contain the virus.

Churches throughout Italy [remain open to the public](https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2020-03/parish-churches-in-rome-to-remain-open-for-private-prayer.html) for private prayer, but Masses can only be held without a congregation. This week has seen a raft of border closures, flight bans, and declarations of national emergencies as the Covid-19 coronavirus continues to spread around the world.

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**News item 2 – Abp Panfilo Urges Solidarity during Coronavirus Pandemic**

Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Rabaul, His Grace Most Reverend [Francesco Panfilo](https://www.facebook.com/francesco.panfilo.98?__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARCQoJ9UkC2icW3N9GwmTiplau1m586sbdO1zCZ_z8Z6cY-HL_zCtWcMn-epIUxf_F4qg-TSAcBch70H) sdb, has urged for faithful to stand in solidarity and hope putting all trust in God during the Coronavirus pandemic. This was highlighted by Archbishop Panfilo in his Prayer-Letter released on 15th March.

In it he informed his flock of how Coronavirus affected many countries and said that PNG was fortunate to have no reported cases. However, he cautioned that PNG was still not an exception and called on national and provincial health authorities to keep the people informed of the threats the virus poses and the preventive measures that can be taken to avoid contraction and spread.

He asked for all the Catholic faithful and people of good will to be prepared and informed, through the media, about the disease and to follow whatever instructions that were given by the health authorities. He reminded faithful that God never abandoned his people but remained steadfast beside them. He stressed that now was the time to intensify our prayers and sacrifices for the love of God and the love of our brothers and sisters, especially those most in need.

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**News item 3 – Panel Discussion Raises Awareness on Deep Sea Mining**

An informative panel discussion dedicated to creating awareness of the harm caused from Deep-Sea Mining (DSM) was held on Friday 13th March, at the Catholic Bishops Conference, Gordons.

The discussion is the 3rd talk Series to be hosted by CBC, and had Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Social Communications Secretary, as the moderator. Panellists were Cardinal Sir John Ribat MSC, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Port Moresby, Ms Marie Mondu, Development Secretary of CBC, Mr Peter Bosip, Director of Centre for Environmental Law and Community Rights, and Mr Jonathan Mesulam, spokesperson for Alliance of Solwara Warriors.

Issues raised included lobbying for the cancellation of the “Solwara 1 Project” Mining Licence and all exploration licences of DSM in PNG, the Environmental, Economic, Legislative, Social and Cultural implications, and the current situation of DSM in the country.

Panellists began with giving their professional and personal opinion on activities currently affecting the environment and the various life forms that depend on it. Though informative, it became more intense during the ‘Question and Answer’ Session when panellists were asked a string of hard minded questions from audience members.

The occasion had 65-participants comprised of media personnel, representatives from various companies and NGO’s, members of Catholic Communities, students and teachers from Don Bosco Technological Institute and Jubilee Catholic Secondary School, and staff of CBC.

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**News item 4 – Communication Personnel reminded to ‘Care for our common home’**

20-Communication personnel, each a representative from dioceses around PNG and Solomon Islands, were given a brief and detailed reminder to ‘care for our common home’, during a presentation of Laudato Si by Bp Donald Lippert OFM, Bishop of the Diocese of Mendi.

His session was part of presentations set for the first-day of the Social Communications Seminar held on Tuesday 17th March, at the Catholic Bishops Conference. The Bishop dwelled on various chapters stated in Pope Francis’ Encyclical titled ‘Laudato Si’, and emphasised the need for wise exercise of stewardship as caretakers of the Earth, and not as Masters and Lords intending to plunder at will for personal gain.

He said humans have an integral responsibility to care because God instilled in us the intellectual capacity to do so. He admitted that environment protection was a serious and sensitive issue where existent tension could be found between the government and various organisations.

Bp Lippert reminded participants of how they were intimately and practically connected with their environment and urged for them to value and appreciate every living creature and person in our communities and environment. He warned of the harm caused to the environment from the ‘Throwaway Culture’, and said the key to better approaches of environment protection lay in honest debate that inspired dialogue to prevent further loss of biodiversity.

Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to PNGSI addressed the group in a session entitled, ‘Crisis in Church Communications’. He encouraged the participants to use the means at their disposal and ensure that the ‘Truth’ of the Gospel is communicated first of all through their lives.

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**News Item 5 – SOCOM Seminar Promotes Environmental Protection through Media Skills**

A special seminar focusing at promoting effective environmental protectionthrough the use of media skills, has commenced since Monday 16th March, thanks to the Social Communications Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC) of PNGSI.

Facilitating the program is Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Social Communications Secretary of CBC, and the Social Communications team. Twenty-participants comprising of religious persons and lay faithful are confirmed to be attending the seminar.

Topics to be covered range from the Holy Father’s Encyclical ‘Laudato Si’, Environmental preservation and conservation, Church Communication, 2020 World Communication Day message, creating news frameworks and articles, taking reflective images to inspire, creating and editing short videos, 2020 Media Education Seminars and their theme ‘Keep it clean, Go Green!’, International Short Film Festival

Special presentations were given by His Excellency Archbishop Kurian Matthew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to PNGSI; and Bp Donald Lippert OFM, Bishop of the Diocese of Mendi. Other guest speakers expected to give a session include Ms Marie Mondu, Development Secretary of CBC; Ms Mavis Tito, Caritas PNG Director; and Mr Jason Siwat, Caritas Outreach Worker.

The seminar will end on Friday 20th March, with participants scheduled to depart the day after.

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**News item 6 – Positive minds key to successful Young People**

No matter the difficulties are, keep your head high, have a positive mind set and you will succeed in life.

The second session of the Chat Room, on Tribe FM 92.0, on 11th March, had five cheerful students of Don Bosco Technical School, Gabutu, sharing their personal experience and encouraging their companions.

They spoke on the topic ‘Importance of positive young minds’ and dwelled on its various aspects. From defining what a positive mind is, ways of developing a positive young mind, application of a positive mindset in day-to-day living, associated advantages and traits displayed in positive individuals, to a strong word of encouragement to young listeners round the country.

A listener of the program wanted to know from the group if it was a positive practice for young people to frequently use their mobile phones. The students were quick to reply that Facebook and social media are isolating people.  They need to disconnect and reconnect to people around them.

Trevor Dauba in Year-Twelve studying Information Technology ended the discussion stressing on three essential features necessary for a positive mind to prevail. He said, “God’s presence in our lives has to take precedence in all that we do, followed by people we can connect and relate to, and lastly by a strong practice of self-discipline.”

Chatroom’s next session on 18thMarch, will have students from St Charles Lwanga Secondary School discuss the topic ‘Role of youths in National Development’.

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**Recapping our headlines for this week:**

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6. **Positive Minds Key to successful Young People**

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

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