**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: ‘Jesus Teaches us to be meek, simple and respectful’**
2. **Catholic Church Plans National Response to Bushfire Crisis**
3. **Caritas PNG Makes Appeal for Australian Bush Fire**
4. **Sacred Space Crucial to Child’s Spiritual Growth**
5. **Integral Renewal of Persons**

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**News Item 1 –** **Pope: ‘Jesus Teaches us to be meek, simple and respectful’**

Christians today must adopt Jesus’ meek and simple attitude. Pope Francis made the statement during his address to pilgrims gathered in St Peter’s Square for the Angelus Prayer, on Sunday 12th January.

He said that Jesus showed us how to fulfil the Father’s plan with loving obedience, meekness, simplicity and respect as we went about our mission to witness and proclaim the Father’s boundless love for all of his children.

The Pope explained that Jesus fulfilled his mission in the world with a style that went against the spirit of the world, “This is the attitude of the meek, and this is what Jesus teaches us with His humility, His meekness: the attitude of simplicity, of respect, of moderation and hiddenness, which is also required of the Lord’s disciples today.”

He said Christians are called "to go out to meet others always proposing, not imposing, giving testimony, sharing real life with people."

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**News item 2 – Catholic Church Responds to Bushfire Crisis**

The Australian Catholic Church plans a national response to the raging bushfires causing havoc across the entire country. This was announced in a statement on Tuesday 7th January 2020, by president of the Australian Bishops Conference, Archbishop Mark Coleridge BA DSS, of Brisbane.

He called for prayer vigils, noting that a genuine Catholic response to a crisis of this magnitude should draw strength from prayer to inspire concrete and compassionate action.

Abp Coleridge announced that the Bishops Conference is preparing a national response to the fires, including assistance to those affected by the fires, collaboration with aid agencies, and a special collection to be taken up this weekend. He said the Church had broad and deep roots across the nation and was ready to walk alongside the people throughout their journey of recovery.

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**News item 3 – Caritas PNG Makes Appeal for Australian Bush Fire**

Caritas PNG (CPNG) is appealing to Christians and the general public in PNG to assist with funding and prayer vigils for healing, recovery and mercy for the Australian bushfire victims.

The appeal was made in a statement released on Monday 13th January. CPNG expressed remorse over the matter and called on Christians to stand in solidarity in sharing the pain and suffering of families who had lost loved ones, homes, businesses, and eco-systems due to the raging bush fires since September 2019 and presently continuing and spreading throughout Australia.

Those wishing to make a donation to Caritas PNG, can do so to the following account: Account Name- Caritas PNG, Account Number- 0717856801, Westpac Waigani. Financial donations to Caritas PNG will be transferred to Caritas Australia, St Vincents De Paul, Salvation Army, who are currently assisting on the ground.

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**News item 4 – Sacred Space Crucial to Child’s Spiritual Growth**

A sacred space for children is essential to their spiritual development and wellbeing.

This was the focus of a session by staff of the Catechesis of the Good Sheppard Australia, held on Monday 13th January at the Saint John the Apostle Catholic Church in Tokarara. 26 participants attended, all sisters from the Missionaries of Charity.

President Veronika Metcalf defined a child’s sacred place as a holy one where they could grow up in closeness to the Lord. She said that the goal was to teach participants the importance of children forming a close relationship with God, and this was best achieved through the use of miniature fun-size materials that represented the Christian faith’s essential proclamations.

Vice-President Anne Delsorte said that adults were seen as shepherds who were tasked to prepare the sacred space for the children. She said children desired to draw nearer to God but needed the caring guidance of the adult as well as the inner guidance of the Holy Spirit to nurture this relationship.

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**News item 5 – Integral Renewal of Persons**

The ‘Life in the Spirit’ Seminar is the theological source of learning information in the Church world that is an incredible asset to believers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The 3-day seminar from 3rd to 5th January facilitated by Evangelist Alejandro Auguspina was held at the St Francis Church in 9 Mile. 108 participants attended the seminar travelling in from as far as Brown River and 14 mile outside of Port Moresby. The seminar dwelled on the Purpose of Man, Christianity, Christian Attitude, Experiencing God’s Gifts, Baptism in the Holy Spirit/Miracle Healing, Christian Growth and Evangelization.

Mr Auguspina said that the seminar’s main focus was to promote Christian values to enable participants to have a renewed sense of Christian faith and spirit in persons. He said this could be achieved by way of preserving and protecting their spiritual culture, identity and building a legacy for the future generation.

All participants received the Baptism in the Spirit, married couples renewed their marital vows and families reconciled with each other. Mr Auguspina will be visiting other places in Nebiri, 14 Mile, Baramatta and Brown River as requested by these communities to host mini conventions before he leaves on 22nd January.

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