**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 highlights ‘Jubilee for the Earth’**
2. **Archdiocese of Port Moresby resumes Church Activities**
3. **An appeal to public penance**
4. **Women reminded to have Dignity**
5. **DBTI commemorates Feast Day of St. John Bosco**
6. **Creating opportunities for women**

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# News Item 1 – Pope highlights ‘Jubilee for the Earth’

# "1st September is World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. From this date, until 4 October, we will celebrate, along with our fellow Christians of different Churches and traditions, the 'Jubilee for the Earth'," said Pope Francis in the Sunday Angelus of 30th August, in St Peter’s Square.

# He said the season of creation was a time to commemorate the establishment of ‘World Earth Day’, 50 years ago. The Holy Father commanded the various initiatives made across the world to honour this day, specifically the concert that took place in the Cathedral of Port Louis, capital city of Mauritius where unfortunately, an environmental disaster occured.

Secretary of the Dicastery for Integral Human Development Bruno-Marie Duffé, has urged for Catholics around the world to join and participate with the ecumenical family, the Season of Creation.

The Season of Creation is an annual event that encourages prayer and action for our common home, held from September 1, the World Day of Prayer for Creation, to October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

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**News item 2 – Archdiocese of Port Moresby resumes Church Activities**

The Archdiocese of Port Moresby has been allowed to resume Church Activities, but with strict accordance of the safety measures set against the Covid-19 pandemic.

The announcement was formally made via a circular letter on Thursday 27th August, from Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC, Archbishop ofPort Moresby, to Parish Priests, Assistant Priests, Chaplaincies, Religious Houses, and Catholic Faithful.

The decision to resume church activities as of Sunday 30th August for Sunday and weekday masses in the Archdiocese, was reached after a recent clergy meeting on Tuesday 25th August.

In the circular, Cardinal Ribat urged for all parish priests assisted by Parish Pastoral Council, to make sure that all protocols recommended by the ‘Niupela Pasin, Stay Healthy in the Churches’ handbook, should be strictly practiced at all times during masses and other church activities.

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**News item 3 – An appeal to public penance**

An appeal requesting public penance has been made by Bishop Rolando Santos, Bishop of Alotau-Sideia, following the physical assault of a parish priest, Fr Neil Lams.

His appeal was outlined in an open letter published on 26th August, addressed to the people of Hagita and Ladava Parish. In the letter, he condemned the gross and deadly physical assault done to the Priest inside his house, on 14th August 2020.

Bp Rolando described Fr. Neil as a priest and servant of God, a sacred person by virtue of ordination, serving the community of Hagita as school chaplain. He said assaulting a sacred minister was the same as losing all sense of human decency, and was a sign of disrespect to God himself.

He appealed to the parish of Ladava and the community of Hagita to do public penance on behalf of those responsible for the assault so that further harm is prevented from the innocent. He urged for complaints to be brought to the school Board of Governors for just and proper investigation, and not to be turned into fuel for gossip and public sentencing.

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**News item 4 – Women reminded to have Dignity**

13th to 17th August was a special moment in the lives of women and men of the Lagaip Deanery, as many were enlightened on the growing need of appreciating women in society.

More than 500 women and men gathered at the Martin de Pores Parish in the Diocese of Wabag to attend a week-long course on “Recognising and Valuing the Dignity of Women”, offered by Fr. Justin Ain. The course provided an in-depth insight into the value and dignity of women, and the need for respect and communion in efforts between the male gender.

In address, Fr Justin dwelled on the male dominated culture found in many parts of the country, and how it only restricted women from expressing themselves in matters affecting their communities. He urged for males not to take advantage of the physically weaker and vulnerable gender as it only led to social instability.

Fr. Philip James, parish priest of Porgera Piam gave an inspiring talk on Mariology, and encouraged all women to imitate the life of Mother Mary and to be women of faith, value and dignity. His Lordship, Bishop Arnold Orowae offered the closing mass with the Solemnity of the Assumption.

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**News Item 5 – DBTI commemorates Feast Day of St. John Bosco**

Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, staff and students of Don Bosco Technological Institute were still able in commemorating the Feast Day of their patron saint, St. John Bosco, on Thursday 27th August. The feast day often celebrated during DBTI’s Foundation Week, was cancelled due to the current pandemic restrictions.

It began with two masses held simultaneously in an effort to maintain social distancing. Fr. Alexander Garces SDB, and Fr. Ariel Macatangay SDB, celebrated mass in the gymnasium and at the Mary Help of Christians Shrine.

At the homilies, both the staff and students were reminded of who Don Bosco was, his mission of forming good Christians and upright citizens and his preventive system of reason, rapport and religion that is taught and practiced in the Salesian Family around the world.

Fr. Ariel said that Don Bosco was a great gift given from God to humanity, by way of his values and principles to be practiced and shared among all. Concluding his sermon on honouring Don Bosco for his congregation, Fr. Alex invited the students to respond to the invitation of Don Bosco to follow the Lord’s call.

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**News item 6 – Creating opportunities for women**

The month of August saw a series of skills training programs being conducted by the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI) for women in the settlements of Port Moresby.

Held from 17th to 24th August, the women in Kogeva and Sabama settlements learned to sew face masks, sell and earn money for their families. Despite the pandemic, the sisters went out of their way to focus on the women’s skill training which included creating face masks, an awareness education on COVID-19 and many other programs.

According to the Sisters, this present situation has limited the women who were unable to support their families and these skill programs provided them with opportunities.

Apart from the skills training, the sisters also raised awareness on COVID-19 and encouraged those involved to follow the precautionary measures. The awareness had the sisters and volunteers visit Sabama and Joyce Bay areas, Mahuru and Pari villages where demonstrations to protect them from COVID-19 were conducted.

The Sisters will continue their work in the months ahead providing and creating more opportunities for women who are in need.

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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.**