



Bishop Monthly Message

MONTH OF JANUARY 2022

7 **DIocese of GIZO**
Happy diamond jubilee



OUR 3 CHALLENGES AT 3 CHURCH LEVELS FOR 2022

- **WORLD LEVEL:** preparing the synod: communion, participation, mission
- **EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE LEVEL:** Be salt and the light
- **LOCAL CHURCH, DIOCESAN LEVEL:** how is our awareness and commitment in: communion, participation, and mission?
Is better to say the Church has a Mission or the MISSION has a CHURCH?

1. WE ARE CHURCH BECAUSE WE HAVE A MISSION:

That's why we were called, baptized, consecrated and sent: to be church, the body of Christ, because of the job the church has to do to fulfill HIS mission:

- to build a HIS kingdom of truth, peace, justice and love...as a top priority in life
- beginning in our hearts and personal lives
- extending to our families, communities, societies by diffusion as salt and light

Can you think of being in a church without a mission, a challenge and a job to do? That would be a self-admiring church, a self-referential one, a narcissistic church...

(Just like Narcissus, the handsome young man of Greek mythology who fell in love with his image reflected in the water), Are we fully and truthfully aware that we are NOW in this point of history, responsible for the church and its mission in the Gizo Diocese? Can we think of a Church without a mission, in 'love with itself', how funny would that be? It would be a church which has lost its reason to exist... to give light and be the salt, a flat battery church...tasteless and insignificant to itself and to today's society...



2. THAT CERTAINLY HAPPENS WHEN WE DO NOT PARTICIPATE= take part, give the best of our share, of our giftedness 100% here and now

By Birth God has given each one of us 'talents', gifts needed to be shared for the mission in my-our Church...in Baptism we were called, consecrated and sent to be a team member and DO OUR PART = PARTICIPATE so as to build the Church as a strong healthy body, fit to do her mission. Can you think of a soccer team where only 8 people play and the other 3 just sit down in the soccer field because they are 'tired'...(mi lez syndrome). When we do this we are not TEAM PLAYERS... we do not PARTICIPATE taking up our role...actively, with passion commitment and responsibility... and we will be a big problems to the team.

3. WE WORK TOGETHER IN COMMUNION AS A TEAM

We shoot the ball in the goal of the opponent, we do not shoot the ball in our own goal. If one or more players join the opponent and start shooting in his own goal he breaks the communion of the team and spoils the mission (some examples: lies, envy, jealousy, violence, selfishness). Teamwork can be broken but also re-established by dialogue and mutual forgiveness. Stand up with courage when you fall and help others to do the same.

We have been given questions to be answered together or in groups in a synodal way... So as to understand better where we are and what the Spirit wants us to do. Please read this message together. You matter, you are important in this body of Christ, share your sincere answer and inspire all of us to love the church, live in communion and do our best in participating in its life and mission. Please submit answers before end of February.

+ Bp Luciano Capelli, sdb:

with you a brothers for you a bishop who loves you with a solo heart made in Italy.

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Schedule Timetable for our Priest Reflection.

Reflections based on our Monthly Calenda 2022 its Events and Pastoral Programs.

Parish Priest	Message of the Event	Month
Set up of timetable		January
St. Eugebius	Presentation of the Lord (Day of Consecrated life 2nd Wednesday)	February
Holy Rosary	Fathers Month (Ash Wednesday 2nd Wednesday)	March
Sacred Heart Parish Wagina	Easter Sunday (Christ is Risen ALLELUIA 17th Sunday)	April
St. Dominic Sirovanga	Marys Month (Ascension of our Lord 29th Sunday)	May
St. Joseph Moli	Vocation Month	June
Christ the King Parish	From Catholic SI Calenda 2022 We invite all our Catholic people to: Plan some action (cleanups, tree planting, etc.) for the protection and care of the environment and for the care of the poor in your community and parish. Undertake some activity in your community to promote law and order, such as defending the rights of innocent women and young people, and protecting them from any unjust treatment by courts or police.	July
St Donbosco Taro	Bible and Mother We invite all our Catholic people to study the Bible to understand and appreciate the values of the Ten Commandments, love of God the Creator, and our fellow human beings.	August

CONDOLENCE

It was with great sadness that we learned about the sea tragedy between Shortland, Vellalavela, and Choiseul that claimed the lives of 14 family members. We wish to assure you, of our solidarity in prayer at this moment of grief.

Our deepest condolences to your families, and words of support and comfort to each other.

May God rescue us in times like this and Bless our days.

We will remember this late love ones;

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Paul Wenteraoi | 8. Paul Temi |
| 2. Beneta Kairoronga | 9. Francis Temi |
| 3. Tonkanga Baraniko | 10. Ruta Temi |
| 4. Michelle Jio | 11. Cyril Kairoronga |
| 5. Pius Jio | 12. Rose mary Kulie |
| 6. Joy Lalu | 13. Tekawitha Kaupawa |
| 7. Ejay Temi | 14. Williko Tetepala |



Bishops call for peace in West Papua and Honiara, urge young people to vote in the upcoming election.

<https://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bishops-call-for-peace-in-West-Papua-and-Honiara,-urge-young-people-to-vote-in-upcoming-election-54766.html>

At Christmas, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands turns its thoughts to those who lost everything in the riots, to asylum seekers "stuck" for years by Australia on the island of Manus who will become the responsibility of Papua New Guinea on 1 January.



Port Moresby (AsiaNews) – Riots broke out in Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands, in the last week of November, “a stark reminder of how easily the peace-loving people of the Pacific can suddenly be overwhelmed by political passion, recrimination, and revenge,” reads the Christmas message of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands (CBCPNGSI), released at a press conference held today in Port Moresby, capital of Papua New Guinea (PNG).

In their pastoral letter for 2022, the bishops go on to say: “Since its beginnings in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands the Catholic Church has contributed to the betterment of society by shedding the light of the Good News of Jesus Christ on destructive cultural practices (sorcery, polygamy, warfare, and the suppression of women), by promoting positive cultural practices, and providing social, educational and health services to all without discrimination.”

“As Christmas approaches, some acutely suffering human beings are in our thoughts and in our prayers, particularly those who have lost everything in the Honiara fires, the women and children tortured in the PNG Highlands and elsewhere due to senseless sorcery accusations, the victims of COVID-19 and their families,

the young people left to fend for themselves.”

Those suffering, the bishops point out, include the asylum seekers confined by Australia to the island of Manus since 2013, who will now be completely left in the hands of the PNG government as of 1 January.

In another plea, CBCPNGSI President Archbishop Anton Bal of Madang calls for action on behalf of seniors and the sick. “We are particularly and extremely worried about a list of a dozen people, whose conditions will soon descend into utter despair and physical destitution. For them we ask from the Australian government prompt intervention”.

Archbishop Bal also made an appeal for dialogue in West Papua, the part of the island of New Guinea under Indonesian sovereignty where tensions have risen again in recent months. “We believe that fifty-eight years of conflict are reason enough for all to accept that West Papua is not a settled issue and never will be in the current conditions.”

“A political compromise may not be easy and may not come fast. As a pre-condition, it requires a total ban on the use of force and the determination to negotiate till an agreement is reached to the satisfaction of all.”

Finally, the president of the Bishops' Conference made an appeal to young people ahead of the general elections on 25 June 2022 in Papua New Guinea. Noting that the turnout among young people was very low in 2017, Archbishop Bal urges young adults eligible to vote to register. “Make your voice heard. It's your future at stake!” he writes.

CHRISTMAS 2021 – SOUTHERN DEANERY NEWS IN BITS

Christmas and New Year Celebrations need to be Meaningful.

Christmas and New Year celebrations need to be meaningful to each of us while preparing for these two events. This was a highlighted message during the Christmas day celebration at a small Catholic Community in Toghala village Ranoggah Island.

Despite many being on liquor preparing for these events, but the message urge all faithful members to abstain from alcohol during this time of prayer.

The message for everybody is to demand that these two



events must not be abused by beer or having fundraisings, but to let the spirit of Christmas and New Year to be a turning point of our wrongdoings.

“Because Christmas is a free gift from God, and let us have that free gift to in New Year’s Day”.

In Gizo, the assistance parish priest cannot visit that area on Christmas Day due to his commitments in other communities, but at Pienuna the near by community has the privileged to have the priest visit during the New Years’ event.

In general, the Christmas and New Year’s celebrations around the Diocese of Gizo were peaceful.

At Holy Rosary parish of Nila Shortland island, Don Bosco parish Taro, and St. Dominic Parish Choiseul were fortunate to have Bishop Luciano Capelli sdb with them during these events.

The Bishops visitation also highlighted the beauty of Christmas promoting the journey for the Synod of the universal Church on Solidarity, on building COMMUNION and PARTICIPATION IN THE MISSION. The consecration of the 98 confirmation candidates, and blessing of the new Koliai Church building also takes place.

JOIN YOUTH THANKSGIVING MASS EVERY THURSDAYS AND GET MOTIVATED.

Coming up Youth Encounter Program

1. 4th March Weekend Youth Encounter Sirovanga Parish
2. 15th May Youth Encounter Wagina Parish.



NORO PARISH – SOUTHERN DEANERY NEWS

CELEBRATION OF WORLD DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NORO

Fr Anil



Saint Louis Guanella is alive at the Solomon Island. He says that Holiness will save the world. The charity of Christ urges us in 2 cor 5:14. It is a joy and a celebration of life with a special day for persons with disabilities. We the Guanellians from St. Eusebius Catholic parish celebrated joyfully the third time the world day of persons with disabilities. St. Louis Guanella always gives a special place in his heart for the least brothers and sisters in the society. The celebration was held on December 4th, 2021, though, the world recognizes and celebrates every December 3rd.

There were 55 special persons with disabilities who attended this program. These special children were from Noro, Munda, Canaan, and Rawaki villages in the region of new Georgia and kohingo islands. The program for children was begun with a warm welcome for them that goes along with the garlanding.

The presence of parents and parishioners made it a more joyful event. The chief guest was Mr. David from Noro former town Clark explained the importance and dignity of special people. It is our duty to love everyone because God has created all in his own image and likeness.

The Guanellian motto "give bread and the Lord to everybody" is the summary of what the Pope puts as the foundation for all human beings, no matter what their state of life and health be. Our children, our old persons

are the beneficiaries of this renewed effort encouraged by the Pope in the church. They are the category of brethren that the Lord has entrusted to our care to help them become aware of the value of their dignity as children of God, and to announce to the world the sacredness of every human life and the right for every person to live, though limited, to be recognized.

The third paragraph of No 64 of our Constitution is

very beautiful: "We are sent to the poor without distinction of race, nationality or religion, and with even greater urgency, 80 Guanellian consecrated life the more vulnerable they are in their human dignity, and in their dignity as children of God" (C. 64). Therefore, it is a mission, we are going not because of special sensitivity, but because we are sent by Him, by the Lord to whom we consecrated everything of our existence.

Our beloved parishioners have witnessed this charitable act toward the needy brethren. The dream of our beloved founder, is the need to celebrate any function with the participation of the laity.

We have initiated the Guanella Good Samaritan group. This Good Samaritan group has taken many efforts to be a successful program.

There were special entertainment programs performed for special children. Some of the special children have also performed the singing and dancing items. All the special children received their presents as a Christmas gift. Ultimately, the special program for people with disabilities was a witness of faith alive in action episodes here at Noro. The charity of Christ is spreading to all the corners of the earth through the spirit of St. Louis Guanella with the Good Samaritan approach.

"In difficult times, strong friends of God are needed, to support the weak" (St. Theresa of Avila).

NILA PARISH – NORTHERN DEANERY

St. Michael's C.C Church Building Opening, Koliai,

(Pellion Buare, Koliai)



A story of commitment and dedication by community members. St. Michael's Catholic Church, Koliai, Shortland Islands -

Led by a self-taught and creative handyman Mr. Paul Buare, the small community sets out its plans to build a new church in early 2017. The usual one or two weeks new year's festive celebrations of 2017 had to be cut short and concluded earlier than planned in order to commence the church project.

With materials purchased a few years prior, members of the community wasted no time as they set out the profile with guidance and watchful eyes of one of the most experienced and qualified builders Mr. Daniel Sevio who was engaged to guide them laid the foundation of the new church building.

Once the profile was set, there was no turning back for the community. Men, women, and children joined forces and ensure work progressed as planned. Foundation was dug, sand and gravel were brought in, concrete was mixed and poured whilst women cooked and prepared food for everyone involved each day they worked on the church.

A sense of purpose, oneness, and community spirit was evidenced and transpired as a result. A small community cooperated and participated fully to complete and

achieve their mission.

Over the next 4 years, despite many difficulties and challenges the villagers faced, they did not shy away from the mission to complete their church.

Many fundraising drives were organized and held which help to bring in much-needed cash to purchase materials and continue with the work. Contributions by community chiefs from their royalty proceeds and others were also received.

MP for Shortlands Hon. Chris Laore provided materials that helped to complete the church.

Community members residing in Honiara were also organized and ran fundraisings to support efforts back home.

After 4 years of hard work and commitment, A small community came alive on December 22nd 2021 as they witnessed the grand opening and dedication of their newly built church which they dedicated to the patronage of St. Michael the Archangel.

Many from surrounding communities arrived and shared the joyous moment. Gaomai Community where the guest community for the opening has been given the honors to perform the customary Nunuke which involves the traditional custom of Iloilo (Hatahataba), Ehu and Asipa in accordance with local customary practices.

Bishop of Gizo, His Lordship, Most Rev Luciano Capelli blessed and dedicated the new church.

The celebrations concluded with feasting an entertainments.



MOLI PARISH – SOUTHERN DEANERY NEWS IN BITS

PARISHIONERS OF MOLI CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS SUCCESSFULLY.

(Anthony Telovae Media Volunteer)



One of the programs included on that day was the farewell of our outgoing chief namely Philip Vanabatu and his vice Noel Vana.

There are many speeches echoes during that day thanking them for their tireless time leading the people for the last two years.

Showing their appreciation, each zone had turned to shake hands with their outgoing chief, it was an emotional time for everyone, as they farewell the duos.

Highlights of the day were the entertainment and feasting, which were really enjoyed by everyone.



St. Joseph Moli parish celebration of Christmas ended successfully, commence from Xmas Eve and to Christmas day.

The Xmas Eve mass was conducted by our parish priest Fr Jacob Qeto, and in his homily, he encouraged everyone to be incarnate meaning let Jesus incarnate or born in our hearts, that's the real meaning of Xmas, said the parish priest.

A well-prepared liturgy was led by the Qalovoke community, which made alive the Mass celebration.

And on Christmas day the Mass took place at 10 am; a harmonious liturgy was led by the Pimadara community.

For the month of February

**Presentation
of the Lord**

(Day of Consecrated Life)

**Mal 3:1-4 / Heb 2: 14-18
Lk 2:22-40**

2nd February 2022

THE COVID 19 AND THEOMICRON VIRUS (THE DIFFERENCE)

It is normal for viruses to change and advance as they spread between people over time. When these changes become significantly different from the original virus, they are known as “variants.”

The Covid19 was detected in the year 2019. On May 11, 2021, the Delta variant was detected and is currently the dominant variant that is circulating globally.

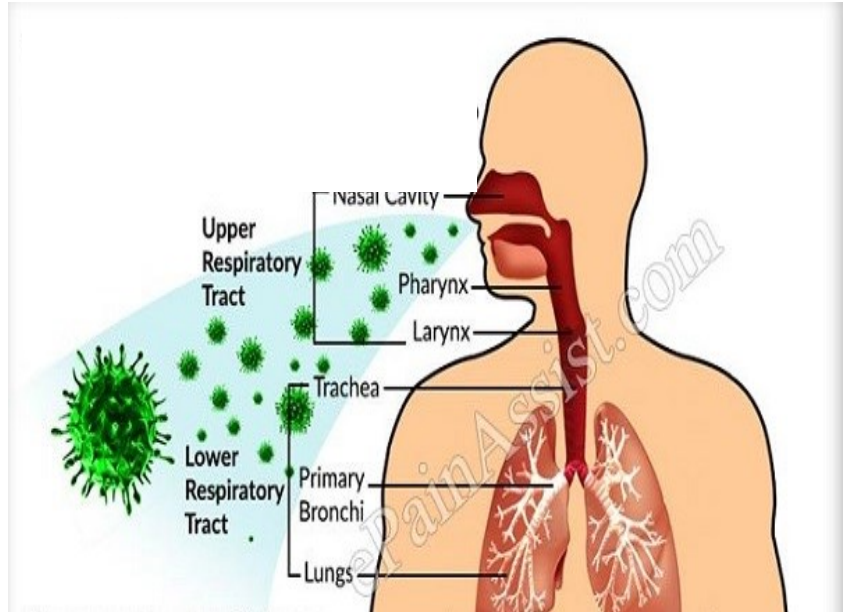
Now the Omicron variant, variant B.1.1.529, was first reported to WHO on 24 November 2021 and was classified as a variant of concern by WHO on 26 November 2021.

Now the Omicron virus is another concern in our country and is now affecting our neighboring countries like Fiji alerting our students studying there.

More evidence is emerging that the Omicron virus is affecting the upper respiratory tract, causing milder symptoms than previous variants. The omicron variant often leads to a headache.

If you’ve been exposed to someone with COVID-19, your symptoms could be COVID-19. Loss of smell and loss of taste are COVID-19-specific symptoms that often mean you’re infected with the coronavirus.

That a COVID-19 test can help you determine the difference between the common cold and COVID-19. Once you start feeling those symptoms, it’s worth isolating yourself and getting a couple of tests.



Note:

Both viruses are contributed to infecting the Upper and Lower Respiratory systems. The lower includes our lungs (Chest) and the upper includes our mouth and nose (Head).

The Covid 19 virus causes complications like Pneumonia and Short of breath.

To be continue next issue

THE DIOCESE OF GIZO UPCOMING EVENTS 2022

For the Month of February

For the past three years we have been reflecting on the role of the laity in the church. We spent a year (2019) considering how lay people become holy in the time and place and situation in which they find themselves. Then we spent a year (2020) reflecting on the kind of formation that our lay people need in order to take up their

proper place in the church and the world. Then in 2021 we reflected on the ways in which lay people are called to service in many different ways (Pastoral Letter of the Bishop PNG/SI)

1. **24th to 26th February— The Justice and Peace Seminar for Southern Deanery Parish.**
2. **Continue every Thursdays Youth Mass.**