



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pg 1– 2: Bishop's P/ message, Pg3: Vatican News, Pg 4: Deacon, Reflection, Pg 5: Corpus Christi Celebration, Noro, Pg 6: Southern Deanery News in Bits, Pg 7 ; Northern deanery news in bits, Pg 8: Health & coming Events.



Bishop Peter Houhou

DOUBT NO LONGER, BUT BELIEVE

Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. It is a great JOY in my heart to see all the Parishes throughout our three Dioceses; the Archdiocese of Honiara, Auki and Gizo, celebrating the Solemnity of the BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI).

In addition, I want to thank all the organizing and planning committees from our 3 dioceses for putting all their time, effort, energy, knowledge, planning, logistics, and liturgical programs for the successful celebration of the Solemnity Feast.

According to the Liturgical Calendar for the Year 2026, in July, there are a few Memorial and Feast Days to be celebrated. As part of the Universal Church, it is our obligation to celebrate them according to their importance. But for this year 2026, I will be focusing on the Feast Day of the doubting Thomas the Apostle that falls on the 3rd day of July. His life is our guiding beacon and light to guide us as we journey through stormy weather and in times of doubt and the challenges that we face in life. Who is Apostle Thomas?

In brief, Apostle Thomas was probably born in Galilee from a humble family, but there was no indication that he was a fisherman. He was a Jew, but there is no account of how he became an apostle to Jesus. Nevertheless, thanks to the fourth Gospel, his personality is clearer to us than some of the other Twelve. He followed Jesus faithfully in his ministry from one district to another, and from one region to another. Interestingly, he had an ardent love for the Lord, and was courageously willing to stand by Jesus in dangerous times, even to die for him. He is also relentlessly sought the truth. Like an inquisitive child, he constantly asks questions. But after the crucifixion, he separated from other apostles, and did not believe the message that Jesus was risen.

For this, he merited the title "Doubting Thomas". That is not all; it happens that a week later, this time Thomas was with the group in the upper room, Jesus appeared again and said to Thomas to come forward and put his finger into his wounds, and to believe and to stop doubting. This is a turning point for Thomas, and he replied, "My lord and my God." And Jesus concluded: "You have come to believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed" (cf. John 21: 24 – 29).

The MORAL AND THE APPLICATION OF THE STORY OF ST. THOMAS FOR MY LIFE.

What is the Moral and Application for my Life? The story of St. Thomas teaches us that doubt can be a pathway to a stronger belief. It encourages us to seek truth with earnest hearts and to be open to the transformative power of a personal encounter with Jesus. Thomas' journey from skepticism to faith serves as a reminder that even in moments of doubt, the light of Christ is revealed to those who seek truth.

The moral of St. Thomas' story is that sincerity in questioning can lead to a radiant and mature faith. It calls us to trust in the infinite love of Christ and to follow Him, wherever He goes, with a commitment to His will and action.

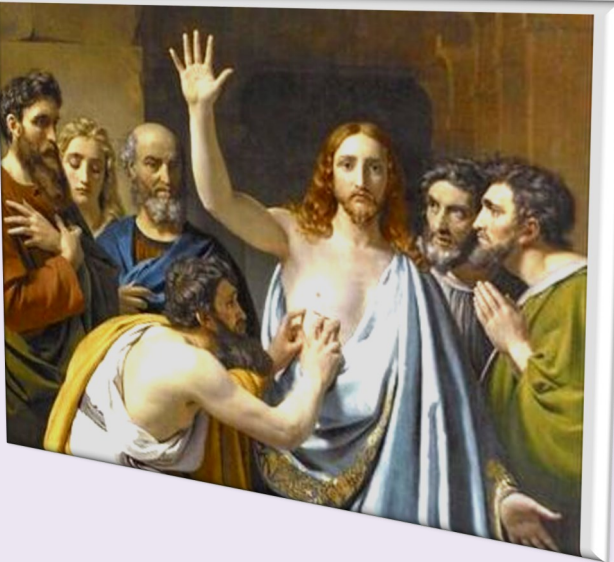
In the application of this story to my life, I can reflect on how I approach my faith. I can be more like St. Thomas, who was courageous and inquisitive, and who sought to understand the deeper truth of Jesus.....

Cont' next page

NO DOUBT, BUT BELIEVE

Bishops P/Message Cont'

....
I



can also be like St. Thomas, who faced the challenges of doubt and ultimately declared, "My Lord and my God." This story encourages me to be open to the transformative of a personal encounter with Jesus and to trust in His guidance and love.

THE APPLICATION OF THE STORY OF ST. THOMAS TO MY PERSONAL LIFE.

The Application of the Story of St. Thomas can be seen and divided into four (4) Areas. In brief, let us dive into each one of them.

EMBRACE HONEST QUESTIONS:

Like Thomas, it is natural to have doubts or seek clarity in life; instead of feeling ashamed, use these moments to explore, learn, and deepen your understanding. Doubt can be a stepping-stone to stronger conviction and spiritual growth.

COURAGE IN CHALLENGES:

Thomas' willingness to face danger for his beliefs encourages us to act courageously in our own lives—whether standing up for what is right, supporting loved ones, or pursuing meaningful goals despite risks.

COMMITMENT TO GROWTH AND SERVICE:

Following St. Thomas' example, one can apply faith through service, learning, and sharing knowledge or compassion with others. Personal encounters with truth, whether spiritual, moral, or intellectual, can transform doubt into action and purpose.

FAITH BEYOND COMFORT ZONES:

Thomas' missionary journeys remind us to step beyond familiar surroundings to grow spiritually and personally. Embracing new experiences, challenges, and responsibilities can strengthen character and deepen understanding.

Beloved sons and daughters in the Risen Lord, reflecting on the journey and life of St. Thomas the Apostle, his journey is inspiring. His life is a journey from doubt into the profession of his faith in the Risen Christ. As a baptized Christian, St. Thomas is supposed to be a model for you to follow. "Doubt no longer but believe; happy are those who believe without seeing." Since this year is the Year of the Eucharist, I want to pose a question before you: Do you believe in the Real Presence of the Risen Lord in the Eucharist?

May the blessing of God the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Bishop Peter HOUHOU



The flag of the Solomon Islands features a diagonal yellow stripe dividing two triangles: the upper triangle is blue and the lower triangle is green. The blue represents the ocean, the green symbolizes the land, and the yellow signifies sunshine. Additionally, there are five white stars in the blue field, which represent the five main island groups of the Solomon Islands. The flag was officially adopted on November 18, 1977, just before the country gained independence from the United Kingdom.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY MARKING THE 48th ANNIVERSARY ON TUESDAY 7 JULY

HOLY SPIRIT, FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHURCH



VATICAN
NEWS

**Sts. Peter and Paul Embody
Church's Unity in Diversity**

At the Angelus prayer on the Solemnity of Peter and Paul, Pope Leo XIV says the Holy Apostles were very different in character and upbringing, but the Holy Spirit brought them to unity for the good of the Church.



ter and Paul.

In the sweltering Roman heat, the Pope said the feast day recalls the bond that unites the Church of Rome to all the other Churches throughout the world “in a communion of faith and charity.” Pope Leo said the martyrdom of Saints Peter and Paul in Rome acts like a seal upon the New Testament, revealing the depth of God’s love in Jesus Christ.

“It is by their word and their martyrdom,” he said, “that the Gospel of Christ has, so to speak, taken root in Rome, revealing right here, in the capital of the empire, its power to renew through a new knowledge of God and of the infinite dignity of every human being, a new understanding of power—not as dominion, but as service to human life.”

Jesus’ call to follow Him still resounds from the capitals to the most remote regions through those who have chosen to answer His call, said the Pope. By celebrating Peter and Paul, we take up our part in Jesus’ own mission, since God’s grace shines in our lives as we live as imperfect but forgiven sin-

Pope Leo XIV prayed the Angelus with pilgrims in St. Peter’s Square on Monday, as the Church celebrated the Solemnity of the Holy Apostles Pe-

ners.

Pope Leo XIV then reflected on the differences between Peter and Paul as men.

“They differed in background, upbringing and character, not only before but also after they were called, for the one Lord did not make them the same,” he said.

Through their differences, Peter and Paul proclaimed the Gospel with their distinctive voices, which the Gospel highlights as an essential part of the good news.

“Within the College of the Apostles, Peter and Paul were not adversaries,” he said. “On the contrary, in a sense they became the symbol of the many other diversities that the one Spirit unites into a single whole.”

The two patron Saints of Rome, he added, experienced the challenges of communion and still served and proclaimed it as “a sacrament of divine life.” “Their witness,” said the Pope, “has contributed decisively to ensuring that the Christian presence in history is directed not toward dominion, but toward service, unity and reconciliation.”

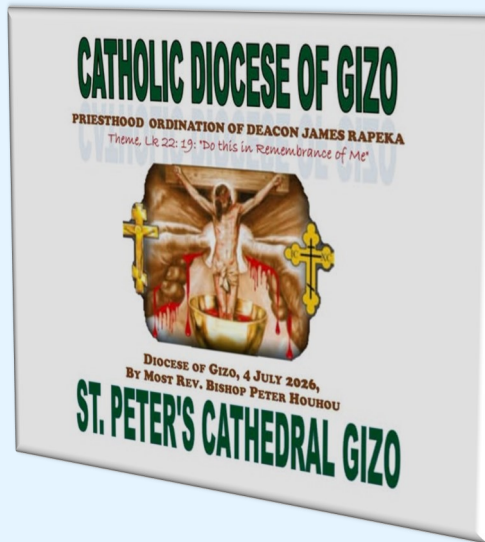
Finally, Pope Leo XIV prayed that the intercession of Saints Peter and Paul may help the Church recognize her “catholicity,” which is universal unity in diversity.

May the Church, he concluded, “recognize her value in fostering fraternal encounter among individuals and peoples, to avoid whatever erodes or harms communion, and to persevere on the ecumenical path and in attentive and honest dialogue with all.”

DEACON JAMES RAPEKA (REFLECTION)



Deacon James Rapeka heads towards Priesthood—4th July



The five-day retreat for Deacon James Rapeka has provided him with a remarkable opportunity to share his personal experiences of God's love during his time at Logha Island, Gizo. This retreat was specifically organized in anticipation of his priesthood ordination, which is scheduled for this Saturday (Weekend), July 4th. He expressed that this experience has been both a joy and a spiritual journey for him, with Christ serving as the mediator to the Father.

Deacon James Rapeka wishes to extend his heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Francis Anil, his retreat master, who dedicated his time to delivering talks and celebrating the Holy Eucharist throughout his preparation for the priesthood.

The retreat has empowered him to progress and respond to the divine call entrusted to him. Additionally, it has provided him with the courage to view his journey from various perspectives, starting

from the seminary to the present, as stated by Deacon James Rapeka.

He recalls his vocation to the priesthood, stating, "who I aspire to be requires self-giving through a celibate life, along with prayerful and emotional maturity in the fullness of Christ."

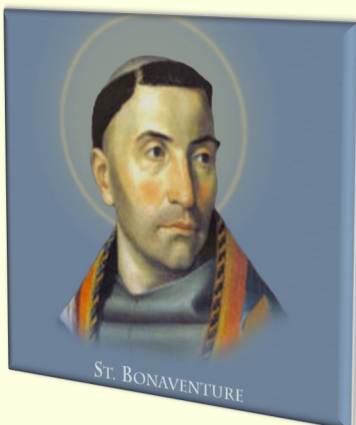
"Becoming a priest is not merely an accomplishment or a matter of being qualified for a position; it is a calling, a divine calling, which must be guided by specific rules or guidelines." He emphasized that the standard should reflect a highly holy quality of priestly ministry.

The Deacon reflects on the address from the Second Vatican Council found in the document *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, which articulates that a priest is a sacred order dedicated entirely to the service of the church. He must embody the person of Christ (*Persona Christi*), exemplifying Christ-like qualities as he celebrates daily masses for the sanctification of souls.

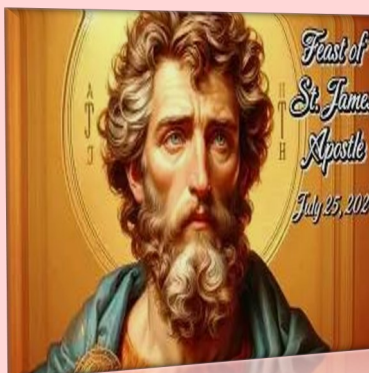
Ultimately, he has selected his Ordination theme for this year, which is the year of the Eucharist, echoing the command of Christ to his disciples during the Last Supper, as recorded in Luke's gospel: "Do this in Remembrance of me" (Lk 22: 19).

"This theme propels me forward, allowing me to delve deeper into my vocation, prayer life, and emotional maturity in the fullness of Christ, as He is the eternal, perfect Priest."

Saint Bonaventure, bishop and doctor of the Church (15 Wednesday)



**25 Saturday
Saint James, Apostle**



**29 Wednesday
Saint Martha, Saint Mary and Saint Lazarus**



CORPUS CHRISTI CELEBRATION, NORO PARISH



Indeed!... The St. Eusebius parish in Noro celebrated Corpus Christi on Sunday, June 14, which has notably captured the public's attention during the procession from Baru to the Noro fishing base.

The procession leads every parishioner forward, with the Holy Eucharist following closely behind, guiding the faithful along the main street of Noro township.

This 3 km procession features singing and the display of banners that reflect their beliefs and their pride as Catholics, as the Church regards the Eucharist as the "source and summit" of their Christian faith.

Two host locations were established: the Police Station and the Noro Fishing Base. Intercessory prayers are supporting both law enforcement personnel and those engaged in fishing for the nation.

While Holy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper, Corpus Christi is entirely devoted to joyful public adoration and gratitude for this sacrament.

Numerous bishops' conferences, including that of the Solomon Islands, move the celebration to the subsequent Sunday to enable a greater number of the faithful to attend and engage.

We extend our gratitude to Bishop Peter Houhou, who is also involved in the program, as



well as to the missionaries from India and Vietnam who have served the parish of Noro.

Thirteen Boys for Come the and See Program, Gizo.

13 Come and See boys have completed their Come and See program at Jerome Quibatu Conference hall, Betania, Gizo, while their focus topic has been brainstorming, challenging them to see further, the life of serving the Church, the Body of Christ.

The purpose was to invite the boys heading towards the priesthood and to inspire them to seek God's guidance while exploring their vocation. This serves as a reminder that the priesthood is a divine calling and plays a crucial role in the salvation of humanity.

This initiative was truly a call to action, encouraging the boys to take the initial step towards discovering their purpose and to seek God's wisdom throughout their journey.

The program was facilitated by several priests: Fr. Dominic, Fr. Iotepa, Fr. Te'e, Fr. Anil, Fr. Henry, Bishop Peter, and our pastoral coordinator, Mr. Augustine. Each of them presented different topics aimed at motivating discussions.

The seminar commenced on the 22nd of June and continued until Friday, the 26th.



SOUTHERN DEANERY NEWS IN BITS

30 Noro FHC Candidates Receive Eucharistic Sacrament.



On Sunday, June 14th, 30 candidates from St. Eusebius Parish, Noro, received the Body and Blood of Christ (Holy Communion) for their first time.

They celebrated their first Holy Communion during a particularly significant weekend gathering, which also featured the participation of 100 youth in the YE Seminar and the commemoration of the solemnity of Corpus Christi.

The parish priest, Fr. Charles, expressed his gratitude to all those who contributed to the preparation of these teenagers as they approached the Holy Eucharist.

Hundred Young People Participate YE, Noro.



Approximately one hundred young individuals from St. Eusebius parish, Noro, participated in a weekend Youth Encounter (YE) Seminar that began on Friday, June 12th PM.

The YE seminar was attended by youths from Solomuni, Noro, Rawaki, and Canaan, along with Catholic students from Biula Secondary School.

This remarkable program continues to nurture the youth in the region, sustaining their spiritual journey with the church, fostering a shared faith and love for Jesus, and encouraging mutual support in their quest for spiritual growth, thereby creating a Christian influence in their communities.

Furthermore, the seminar aims to provide a platform for participants to share experiences, learn from each other, and collaborate on the advancement of their youth ministry initiatives.

We extend our gratitude to all facilitators from Gizo, Consita, Fatima, our Salesian Sisters, Augustine, Rere, and Patere Soloko for their dedication in effectively supporting and guiding these young individuals on their faith journey.

Gizo Parish, Celebrates Solemnity, SS Peter and Paul.

St. Peter Cathedral here in Gizo, celebrates St. Peter and Paul's solemnity this morning, Sunday, 28 June.

A beautiful celebration that gathered parishioners in and around Gizo Township began with the Thanksgiving Mass, featuring beautiful liturgical songs, the Bible and an offertory procession by the Nusabaruku Catholic community.

The Mass was officiated by our bishop, Bishop Peter Houhou, who centered his homily on the lives of these two Saints and their pivotal roles in establishing the church of Christ. He also took the opportunity to remind the parishioners of their (SS Peter and Paul) identity, teachings, and the letters from that era.

Additionally, gratitude was expressed to Fr. Henry Paroi OP, Fr. D. Soloko, Fr. F. Anil, Deacon J. Rabeka, and Fr. T. Pata, who joined the parishioners during the Mass celebration, assisting our bishop.



NORTHERN DEANERY NEWS IN BITS**Thirteen from Toumoa Receive First Holy Communion.**

Thirteen candidates from Toumoa village celebrated their first Holy Communion during a priest's visit to their community on the 21st Sunday of June.

Fr. Qello, their priest, expressed that it was a joyous event, emphasizing to the children that Christ will always reside in their hearts, guiding them in faith, love, and service.

He congratulated the children on their first Holy Communion and extended his gratitude to their families for their support.

Eighteen Receive First Holy Communion, Voruvoru.

Congratulations to the 18 candidates who received their First Holy Communion on Sunday, June 21st, at the Voruvoru Mission Station.

We express our gratitude to those who guided them on their journey to receive Christ's Body and Blood, particularly in enhancing their spiritual connection with Him (Christ) and in becoming more integrated into the Church community.

We also extend our thanks to the parish priest, who plays a pivotal role in the First Holy Communion celebration, educating the children about the importance of the Eucharist and preparing them for their initial reception of Communion.

23 Receive Sacrament of the Eucharist, Shortland.

Twenty-three candidates from Aleang village, Shortland Island, received the Sacrament of the Eucharist while celebrating their two patron saints, Peter and Paul, on 29 June.

This event signified the children's commitment to embrace Christ throughout their lives as devoted Catholics. Additionally, seven children were also baptized, marking their formal welcome into the church.

Fr. Qello, who presided over their Thanksgiving Mass, encouraged the children in their faith and love, expressing his hopes for their journey within the church.

Additionally, approximately 50 children received the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist in that parish, Shortland Island last month. And more children have received the same Sacrament from other parishes, resulting in a cumulative 200 Holy Sacraments (Communion) for June.

LIVER RELATED CONDITIONS

<https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/liver>

Which symptoms are related to these conditions?



- weight loss
- feeling generally unwell
- fever
- bloated abdomen, swollen ankles
- abdominal pain in the upper right side
- anaemia, vomiting blood or passing black stools (denoting altered blood)
- changes in mental state — confusion, drowsiness
- changes in sleep pattern (awake at night)

When should I see my doctor?

If you have any of the symptoms listed above and they won't go away, see your doctor.

If you have any of these symptoms, seek medical help immediately:

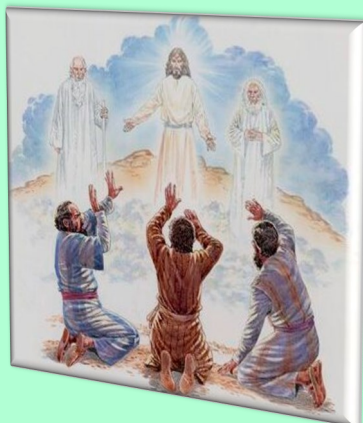
You might not notice symptoms in the early stages of liver disease since symptoms can be vague and depend on your condition. Symptoms that may indicate something is wrong with your liver include:

- jaundice
- dark urine
- nausea
- vomiting
- diarrhoea
- appetite loss
- jaundice
- drowsy and confused or very sleepy
- vomit blood or black poos
- fever and shivery
- short of breath
- very swollen belly develop sudden stomach pain or fever

To be continue next issue

▪ UPCOMMING SOLEMNITY FOR AUGUST 2026 ▪

The Transfiguration of the Lord
(6 Thursday, August)



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(15 Saturday, August)



Saint Augustine, bishop and doctor of the Church
(Friday, 28 August)

