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Bishop Peter Houhou
Catholic Diocese of Gizo

Journeying together, preparation for The Solemnity Feast of Pentecost

Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord, Easter greetings to you all. Hope you have a good and joyful Easter celebration. Beloved Priests of our Diocese: Diocesan and Religious, thank you very much in-

deed for being with all our beloved laity during the Holy Week to celebrate the Holy Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we are journeying during the Easter Season in preparation for the Solemnity Feast of Pentecost, the month of May, according to the tradition of our Church, May is the month of our Mother Mary. This is a beautiful time to journey with her, pray with her, and ask her to pray for you.

As a member of the Universal Church during May, according to the general calendar of the Jubilee Year 2025, we asked to pray and organized a program for the following:

1. Dates: 1- 4 May; this is a time to organize a spiritual prayer program for the Jubilee of our beloved Workers. Pray that God may continue to bless them in their good work in serving our beloved country Solomon Islands.

2. Dates: 4-5 May; this is a time to organize a spiritual prayer program for the Jubilee of our Entrepreneurs. Pray that God may continue to bless them in their good work in serving our beloved country Solomon Islands.

3. Dates: 10-11 May; this is a time to organize the spiritual prayer program for the Jubilee of Musical Bands. Pray that God may continue to bless them in the great Gift they have received from God as musicians. When we are sad, the Spirit is working through them to cheer us up.

4. Dates: 16—18 May; this is a time to organize a spiritual prayer program for the Jubilee of Confraternities. Pray that God may continue to bless them to maintain oneness.

5. Dates: 24—25 May; this is a time to organize a spiritual prayer program for the Jubilee of Children: Pray that God may bless them to be good children in our families, communities, parishes, Diocese provinces, and in our beloved Nation, Solomon Islands. Let us work together to protect and care for our children. They are a Great Gift from God to all our Families.

6. Dates: 30 May –1 June; this is a time to organize a spiritual prayer program for the Jubilee of Families, Grandparents, and the Elderly. Pray that God may bless all our Families, Grandparents, and our beloved Elderly. All of us belong to a Family; All of us have our beloved Grandparents; All of us have our beloved Elderly.

As our spiritual companion on the journey during this Easter Season, I encourage us all to journey together in Faith, Hope, and Love with the Universal Church, as we celebrate the JUBILEE YEAR 2025.

May the Spirit of the Risen Lord be with us.

Your servant, Bishop Peter HOUHOU

VATICAN NEWS

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**VATICAN
NEWS**

Conclave to elect new Pope to begin on May 7th



The conclave to elect the 267th Pope will begin on May 7th, following the conclusion of the Novendiales Masses to pray for the eternal repose of the late Pope Francis.

The Cardinals present in Rome have agreed to begin the conclave on May 7th, 2025. The date was set on Monday morning by the approximately 180 cardinals present (just over a hundred of whom are electors) gathered for the fifth General Congregation in the Vatican. The conclave will take place in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel, which will remain closed to visitors during those days.

What happens during the conclave?

The conclave will be preceded by a solemn Eucharistic celebration with the votive Mass Pro Eligendo Pontifice attended by the Cardinal electors. In the afternoon, the Cardinal electors proceed in a solemn procession to the Sistine Chapel, where the Conclave begins to elect the new Pope. At the end of the procession inside the Sistine Chapel, each Cardinal elector takes the oath as prescribed in paragraph 53 of *Universi Dominici Gregis*. Through this oath, they commit, if elected, to faithfully fulfill the *Munus Petrinum* as Pastor of the Universal Church.

They also pledge to maintain absolute secrecy regarding everything related to the election of the Roman Pontiff and to refrain from supporting any attempts of external interference in the election.

At this point, the Master of Pontifical Liturgical Celebrations proclaims *extra omnes*, meaning that all individuals who are not part of the Conclave must leave the Sistine Chapel.

Only the Master himself and the ecclesiastic designated to deliver the second meditation remain.

This meditation focuses on the grave responsibility that rests upon the electors and the necessity of acting with pure intentions for the good of the Universal Church, keeping only God before their eyes. Once the meditation is delivered, both the ecclesiastic and the Master of Pontifical Liturgical Celebrations leave.

The Cardinal electors then recite prayers according to the *Ordo Sacrorum Rituum Conclavis* and listen to the Cardinal Dean, who asks whether they are ready to proceed with voting or if any clarifications regarding the rules and procedures.

All election procedures take place exclusively in the Sistine Chapel within the Vatican Apostolic Palace, which remains completely sealed off until the election is concluded.

Throughout the election process, the Cardinal electors must refrain from sending letters or engaging in conversations, including phone calls, except in cases of extreme urgency.

They are not allowed to send or receive messages of any kind, receive newspapers or magazines of any nature, or follow radio or television broadcasts.

How many votes are required to elect a Pope?

To validly elect a new Pope, a two-thirds majority of the electors present is required.

If the total number of electors is not evenly divisible by three, an additional vote is necessary.

If voting begins on the afternoon of the first day, there will be only one ballot. On subsequent days, two ballots are held in the morning and two in the afternoon.

After the votes are counted, all ballots are burned. If the ballot was inconclusive, a chimney positioned over the Sistine Chapel emits black smoke. If a Pope is elected, white smoke will billow out of the chimney.

If the electors fail to reach an agreement on a candidate after three days of inconclusive voting, a break of up to one day is allowed for prayer, free discussion among voters, and a brief spiritual exhortation

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REFLECTION & MAY FEAST DAYS

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..... by the Cardinal Proto-Deacon
(Cardinal Dominique Mamberti).

What happens immediately after a new Pope is elected?

Once the Cardinals have elected a new Pope, the last of the Cardinal Deacons calls the Secretary of the College of Cardinals and the Master of Pontifical Liturgical Celebrations into the Sistine Chapel.

The Dean of the College, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, speaking on behalf of all the electors, asks for the elected candidate's consent with the following words: "Do you accept your canonical election as Supreme Pontiff?"

Upon receiving consent, he then asks: "What name do you wish to be called?"

The functions of a notary, with two Ceremonial Officers as witnesses, are carried out by the Master of Pontifical Liturgical Celebrations, who drafts the document of acceptance

and records the chosen name.

From this moment, the newly-elected Pope acquires full and supreme authority over the universal Church. The Conclave ends immediately at this point.

The Cardinal electors then pay homage and pledge obedience to the new Pope, and thanks are given to God.

The Cardinal Proto-Deacon then announces to the faithful the election and the name of the new Pontiff with the famous line: "Annuntio vobis gaudium magnum; Habemus Papam."

Immediately afterward, the new Pope gives the Apostolic Blessing Urbi et Orbi from the Loggia of St. Peter's Basilica.

The final step required is that, after the solemn inauguration ceremony of the Pontificate and within a suitable time, the new Pope formally takes possession of the Patriarchal Archbasilica of St. John Lateran.



A REFLECTION ON HOPE FOR THE SICK

Fr. Jacob Qetobachu
St John Bosco Parish Taro

Hope is a quiet, persistent force that can transform even the darkest moments into something bearable. For those who are sick, hope

seems fragile or distant, but it remains an essential companion on the road to healing. It is not like hope that guarantees recovery, but the hope that sustains strength when the body feels weakest.

For the sick, hope may be found in the smallest moments of grace. It could be in a compassionate touch from a loved one, words of encouragement, or the quiet assurance that there is still a future, no matter how uncertain it may seem. Hope whispers that even in pain and suffering, there is a light somewhere ahead, a place where peace and healing

can be found, whether in this life or beyond.

Hope does not promise that everything will be easy, nor does it offer quick solutions to the trials of illness, instead it offers the strength to endure, the courage to face each new day, and the belief that, even in suffering, life still has meaning. The sick are not defined by their illness but by their resilience, by the hope that allows them to rise, even when they feel knocked down.

Hope, for the sick, is a constant reminder that though illness may challenge the body it cannot take away the heart's ability to dream, to believe, and to love. It is the belief that healing is possible that there is always something to hold on to, and that no matter how long the night, the morning will come.

May those who are sick find strength in hope to face each day with courage, knowing that they are cherished and that hope – no matter how faint it can be, always shines bright in the darkest times.



The Feast of Mary Help of Christians is celebrated on May 24.

The tradition of this advocacy goes back to 1571, when the whole of Christendom was saved by Mary Help of Christians when Catholics throughout Europe prayed the Rosary. The great battle of Lepanto occurred on October 7th 1571. For this reason this date has been chosen as the feast of the Holy Rosary.

Solemnity of the BVM (31st May)

The Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary is observed

annually on May 31. It commemorates Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth and the encounter of Jesus and St. John the Baptist while in the wombs of their mothers.



PASTORAL & OTHER NEWS

Diocese of Gizo, New Education Secretary.



Since the retirement of Wryne Bennett from the Office of the Education Secretary, the office now has a new Education Secretary, Mr. Willie Abito.

Mr. Willie held a primary school teaching position

and a school leadership role for 30 years in the Western and Malaita Provinces. Last year, he completed his contract with the Western Education Office as Planning Officer.

"Apart from paid work and Formal Education record provided here, I have been involved in many communal engagements by the Province, Church, and other organizations delivering services and goods".

He was delighted to serve the Lord with the chance given to him by the diocese to carry forward the purpose and vision of our Catholic Education Sector, as well as to faithfully serve Him with the abilities and gifts He had bestowed upon us.

Sr. Matrina Qilaziutu OP Celebrates Golden Jubilee.



Sr. Matrina Qilaziutu was so happy to celebrate her Golden Jubilee with her Dominican family and the communities in St. Peter Cathedral, Gizo, on 26th April.

Presiding over her Jubilee Mass, Fr. Henry Paroi thanked God for the Blessing of Sr. Matrina and her journey as a Dominican sister. He also challenged other Dominicans to follow Sr. Matrina's steps.

Sr. Matrina Qilaziutu comes from Tabarato Village in Choiseul, and she was accompanied by the late Sr. Joana Tebitara of Wagina Parish entering the Dominican Sisters



Novitiate together. On April 25th, 1975, they made their first profession and took their vows from M.M. Josephine Campton OP, Prioress, in the presence of late Bishop Eusebius John Crawford.

She spent seven years in primary school before assisting Sr. M. Christopher at Moli Primary School from 1966 to 1968.

She completed her grade 4 teaching training at Honiara's Nazareth Apostolic Center before spending two years teaching at elementary schools run by the Diocese of Gizo.

She then underwent the formation for three years before joining the Dominican family on April 25, 1975. She taught in Gizo Primary School after completing part-time training at Teaching College. She taught at the primary schools of Titiana, Nila, Pirakamae, Moli, and St. Anna's Vocational Training School for Girls.

Then, in 1993, she was named Vicarress Leader of the Dominican Sisters and was re-elected for four more years.

She studied theology at Nungulina College in Darwin from 2001 to 2002. And returned to Solomon Islands to work as a Formator for Novices from 2006 to 20011.

To shape and mold her as a Dominican Sister, she had her renewal in Australia while performing pastoral duties in the Diocese of Gizo and for the Sirovanga Catholic Women's Group.

She once served as a Vicariate Bursar for the Dominican Sisters of Gizo and the congregation.

Sr. Matrina celebrated her Jubilee at Gizo, where she began her professional career 50 years ago.



SD NEWS AND OTHER NEWS**Don Bosco Cup, SPUTC Gizo.**

Bosco Cup 2025 tournament on April 9th.

This occasion also marks their first term ending for the school, and they were thankful to host the competition, which began with the Thanksgiving Mass.

They appreciated Bishop Peter's homily, which encouraged them to be filled with hope and strive to become better individuals and good citizens of the country.

They found inspiration in Bishop Emeritus's speech during the closing ceremony, urging every student to keep dreaming and strive to improve themselves.

Easter Celebration Peacefully, around the Diocese.

Celebrating Easter was indeed a peaceful time during the Holy week here in our Diocese.

Coming together as one in communion, from Shortlands and parishes around Choiseul, including our Catholic Community in Isabel, Gizo, and Noro,

the Church was blessed with the spirit of Easter as every parish commemorated Christ riding on a donkey into Jerusalem, His death, and Resurrection.

Each parish had its own style of celebrating Easter, meaning to motivate parishioners to be nourished by the gift of Easter.

Many people had time to reflect on the meaning of life, as well as the power of love and forgiveness. This reminds every parishes in the diocese that there is always hope in the power of resurrection and that there is always a new beginning.

The events served as a reminder of victory over sin and a source of daily hope, when these parishes began celebrating on Ash Wednesday.

**More Babies Receive Sacrament of Baptism.**

More babies in our parishes have received their Baptism during the Easter Vigil. They were welcomed as reborn sons of God, united in our Church.

The event also allowed several parents to participate in the ceremony and witness their babies being baptized.



NORTHERN DEANERY NEWS IN BITS**Three days CFC Workshop Successfully in Moli.**

Moli Pastoral Center bustled with activities from April 9th

through to the 11th, as Couples for Christ held their successful workshop.

According to Anthony's report from Moli Parish, the well-attended event was guided by the facilitators Dr. Steven Aumanu and his wife Nopo Aumanu, who made the journey from Honiara to share their insights.

An assortment of 35 members participated, including couples seeking to reinforce their bonds, youths, handmaids, and devoted servants.

Over the thought-provoking few days, complex discussions and exercises reinforced Christian values for all in attendance in novel and engaging ways, leaving each one refreshed and their faiths reinvigorated.

Divine Mercy Celebration Success around the Diocese.

Divine Mercy groups, whom are so active in our parishes, marked the solemnity of the Divine Mercy on Sunday, 27th April 2025.

As usual, the celebration drew together parishioners, particularly Divine Mercy groups from every



parishes, who brought the liturgy to life throughout their Eucharistic Mass.

St. Joseph Moli Parish participants wore red overdresses as a formal reminder of Jesus' deep compassion for Humanity.

For Christ the King Parish of Voruvoru, the Divine Mercy groups from the zones gathered at the parish station to celebrate the Divine Mercy Sunday and witnessed the blessing of the Holy Door, joining the Universal churches for the Jubilee of Hope.

At St. Dominic Parish, Sirovanga, Fr. Willie OP assisted Fr. Ben Revichibatu OP the main celebrant for the Mass.

Also a special prayer was offered by Fr. Willie OP for everyone.



APENDICITIS IN DIAGNOSIS & MAY SOLENITY**APPENDICITIS.***continue from last issue***Treatment**

Appendicitis treatment usually involves surgery to remove the appendix. Before surgery, antibiotics to treat infection may be given.

Surgery to remove the appendix

Appendectomy is a surgery to remove the appendix. Appendectomy can be performed as open surgery using one abdominal cut about 2 to 4 inches long. This is called laparotomy. The surgery also can be done through a few small abdominal cuts. This is called laparoscopic surgery. During a laparoscopic appendectomy, the surgeon places special tools and a video camera into your abdomen to remove your appendix.

In general, laparoscopic surgery allows you to recover faster and heal with less pain and scarring. It may be better for older adults and people with obesity.

But laparoscopic surgery isn't right for everyone. You may need an open appendectomy if your appendix has ruptured and infection has spread beyond the appendix, or you have an abscess. An open appendectomy allows your surgeon to clean the abdominal cavity.



Expect to spend 1 to 2 days in the hospital after your appendectomy.

Draining an abscess before appendix surgery

If your appendix has burst and an abscess has formed around it, the abscess may be drained. To drain it, a tube is placed through your skin into the abscess. Appendectomy can be performed several weeks later, after the infection is under control.

If your appendicitis isn't serious and doesn't require surgery, antibiotics may be used alone. However, if the appendix isn't removed, there is a higher chance of appendicitis coming back.

*To be continue next issue***• UPCOMMING FEAST DAYS FOR JUNE 2025 •****THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (1st June)**

The Ascension of the Lord Year C encourages us to trust in Jesus' promises and look forward to His return. It also reminds us of our mission to share His message with the world.

PENTECOST SUNDAY (8 JUNE)**PENTECOST SUNDAY**

It is the Holy Spirit who enlivens, enlightens, guides, and sanctifies the Church. Pentecost an observance commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on to the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ.

HOLY TRINITY (15 June)

Trinity Sunday (also called the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity) falls one week after Pentecost Sunday. It is also symbolic of the unity of the Trinity.

