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Bishop Peter Houhou
Catholic Diocese of Gizo

PARTICIPATING IN THE MISSION OF JESUS CHRIST

Dear beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, as your servant bishop and spiritual companion on the journey in our diocese, especially during this Lenten Season 2025. Before we dive into the reflection for the month of April, first of all, I want to acknowledge

the presence of all our beloved Priests serving in our Diocese: Diocesan and Religious who are out there in our Parishes, journeying in companionship with our people. As your bishop, I want to thank you so much for your love and commitment to your mission of serving the people of God in our Diocese.

Our pastoral message for this month of April, in brief, I will put out two points for our reflection on how we as baptized Christians in our Family, Community, Parish, and Diocese are to participate in the mission of Christ as we are journeying together in celebrating the Jubilee Year 2025.

According to the general calendar for the Jubilee Year, in particular, for the month of April, there are 3 important areas put before us to reflect upon: 1) - 5 to 6 of April, the focus is on the Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers. 2) - 25 to 27 April, Jubilee of Teenagers, and 3) - 28-30 April, Jubilee of People with Disabilities. For our reflection, we will be focusing only on numbers 1 and 3.

5- 6 April 2025: Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers.

On the above dates, people in different parts of the

world are celebrating the Jubilee Year together with those who are sick and Health Care Workers, reflecting on the call to be a missionary (Health Care Workers to the sick. There are also many who made the decision to take a pilgrimage to Rome to join and celebrate together with others as a Universal Church.

Let me take our minds back during the time of Jesus. As he moved from one community to another, one district to another or one region to another, many people came to him for healing. When people heard of his coming, they brought many sick people to him and he heal them. Mathew 17: 14-20, Jesus heals a boy with a Demon. Matthew 14: 34-36, Jesus heals the sick in Gennesaret.

Now, during our time: in our homes, clinics, and hospitals, we also have many sick people who are suffering and in great need of our help. Many of them have been sick for weeks, months, and years and no one is visiting them. Hope we will have a chance to visit them.

As we are celebrating the Jubilee Year 2025, I humbly encourage each one of us to make a commitment during this Lenten season, following a good example of Jesus reaching out to others in their time of need, especially those who are sick in our family, community, clinic, and hospital.

Also during this time of celebration, let us thank and pray for those who have given their time and made commitments as healthcare care Workers: Doctors and Nurses who are serving the sick in our clinics and hospitals, that the spirit of Jesus will be with them in their work, to guide them, and to give them the strength to serve with great passion.....

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VATICAN NEWS & BP PASTORAL MESSAGE CONT'

Bp Pastoral Message Continue

..... 3) 28 – 30 April: Jubilee of People with Disabilities.

Again, during the time of Jesus, as he moved around the region, he also came across so many people with disabilities. Whenever these people with disabilities were brought to him, he felt sorry for them and healed them. There were so many of them: the blind, the lame, the cripple and those who were paralyzed. Mk 10: 46-52, Mk 8: 22-26, Lk 6: 6-11

In our beloved Nation Solomon Islands, we have only one center providing a home to accommodate our beloved deaf and mute at St. Isidro, Aruligo, North West Guadalcanal. The center was established by late Brother George SM from Holland. The purpose of establishing the center was to bring all these sons and daughters with disabilities together not to be healed physically from their disabilities, but to train them with different skills.

Following the footsteps of Jesus Christ, we too in our time, can contribute and participate in whatever way we can to this great mission to help those with disabilities in our families, communities, Parishes, and Diocese, just like Brother George did dur-

ing his time.

Beloved brothers and sisters, our journey together during this Jubilee Year 2025, is to be a missionary for those who have disabilities in our families, communities, Parishes, and Diocese. Let us open our eyes, raise our heads, and look around you. You can see that there are many children out there who are in great need, crying for your help. Let us open our arms to embrace and welcome them into our homes.

To conclude, as we are celebrating the Jubilee Year 2025, let us continue to reflect on our two points as from above, (1) Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers, and (3) Jubilee of People with Disabilities. Let us join hands together with our beloved Health Care Workers to reach out to those who are sick and those with disabilities in our families, communities, parishes, clinics, and hospitals. By doing this, we are participating in the Mission of Jesus Christ.

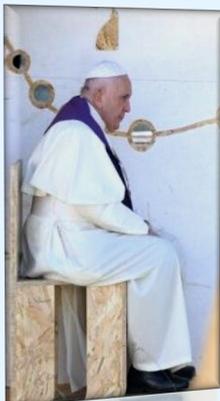
May the Blessing of God the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit be us all our Mission.

Your Servant Bishop Peter Houhou



VATICAN NEWS

Pope Encourages Confessors to be Ministers of Mercy



Pope Francis invites Confessors to be “Ministers of Mercy” as they accompany the faithful on their path of Reconciliation and Renewal.

In a message on Thursday, 27 March, Pope Francis reflected on the privileged role of confessors, especially during the 2025 Holy Year.

His words of encouragement were addressed to participants of the 35th Course on the Internal Forum, organized by the Apostolic Penitentiary.

“Celebrating Mercy, particularly with the pilgrims of the Jubilee, is a privilege: God has made us ministers of Mercy by His grace, a gift we receive because we ourselves have been, and continue to be, the first to experience His forgiveness,” he said.

The event, held from March 24-28, provides ongoing formation for confessors in light of the importance of their sacramental ministry. Addressing them as “Dear brothers,” the Pope urged them to be men of prayer, as prayer is the foundation of

their ministry.

“In prayer are rooted the foundations of your ministerial action, through which you extend the work of Jesus, who still and always repeats: ‘Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore’ (John 8:11),” he wrote.

As the Church celebrates the Jubilee Year, the Holy Father said, “May this liberating word of the Lord resound throughout the Church (...) bringing about the renewal of hearts that flows from reconciliation with God and opens the way to new fraternal relationships.”

The Pope also highlighted the connection between mercy and peace, affirming that true peace is born from God's mercy and brings hope that does not disappoint.

Concluding his message, Pope Francis expressed gratitude for the indispensable sacramental ministry of confessors and entrusted them to the care of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

REFLECTION & UPDATE



Fr. Jacob Qetobachu
PP St. John Bosco Parish Taro

**REFLECTION ON THE 2025 JUBILEE
– PILGRIMS OF HOPE FOR THE PRISONERS**

As we celebrate the 2025 Jubilee of Pilgrims of Hope, it is essential to reflect on what hope truly means, particularly for those who live behind prison bars. For the Pilgrims of Hope, this jubilee serves as a reminder of the unwavering belief in the possibility of redemption, renewal, and transformation, even for those who seem most distant from freedom.

For prisoners, hope is not merely the expectation of physical release but a deeper yearning for spiritual liberation; it is a strength that enables an individual to endure hardship and believe in the possibility of change both within and beyond the prison walls.

Hope is often found in the smallest moments; in the kindness of a fellow inmate, a letter from a loved one, and so on. It is in these fleeting and profound instances that inmates can glimpse a future where their actions and past no longer define them. In a world that may have condemned them, hope enables them to reclaim their humanity.

The Pilgrims of Hope, through their work, continue to journey alongside those who have been forgotten by society.

For them, Jubilee is not just a celebration of the past but a reminder of their mission to offer hope to the hopeless and light to those in darkness.

As we mark this milestone, let us remember that true hope never abandons anyone, no matter their past. Through love, prayer, and solidarity, hope remains the most powerful tool to help inmates find their way to healing and freedom.



UPDATE: JUBILEE 2025

Pilgrims of Hope

JUBILEE 2025



Rellysdom Aaron Malakana
Catholic Media Gizo

The Pope has set aside several Jubilee Days throughout 2025 to acknowledge and celebrate diverse groups of persons and ministries within the Church.

Last month, churches worldwide celebrated three significant occasions:

The Jubilee of the World of Volunteering is celebrated on 8 and 9 March. This is a chance to express gratitude, support, and encouragement to the numerous lay people who have volunteered and made a positive impact on the world.

The 24 Hours for the Lord on 28 March, is intended to inspire the faithful to partake in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, prayer, and introspection. And the Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy, from March 29 to 30, honors individuals who strive to provide kindness to the world.

This month April, our Churches around the

world have focused on three very important occasions as we continue to celebrate the year of the Jubilee.

Scheduled from April 5 and April 6, we celebrated the Jubilee of the sick and healthcare workers, is a heartfelt celebration that honors the commitment of the sick and the kind professionals who provide care for them, which seeks to give people who struggle with their health and those who work persistently in the healthcare industry spiritual comfort and appreciation.

April 25 and April 27 were scheduled for teenagers, celebrating the Jubilee of teenagers. This event strives to inspire and enhance youngsters' faith by providing them with a unique opportunity to participate with their peers in a celebration of faith, hope, and love.

And for 28-30 April, the jubilee celebration has included people with disabilities. This is an opportunity to emphasize that everyone has a place in the Church—not in spite of their differences but because of them.

BISHOP EMERITUS & OTHER NEWS

Bishop Emeritus Visits Nusa-Baruku Primary School.



Bishop Luciano Capelli SDB, the emeritus bishop, urged the students of Nusabaruku Primary

School to maintain a clean school environment, and strongly advised them to refrain from using copen, (A homemade drug placed under the tongue) and said it may dry up the fluid (cerebral fluid) around our brain.

He said it is sad if one is affected, as it may affect the entire community.

Bishop Emeritus visited the school this early this month; He reminded the students that their school's standards are that high and that everyone can reach the national level if they are dedicated to their studies.

Bethania Conference Center Named.



Bethania Conference Center has been named after the country's only Permanent Deacon, Late Rev, Jerome Kuibatu.

The Conference Center is commonly used to accommodate priests for annual meetings and retreats. This is deserved by Rev, Kuibatu who was always present for pastoral programs.

A small ceremony witnessed by his wife marked Jerome's 1st Anniversary of his death on 12 March permitting a small number of people who were also part of the ceremony.

The center was consecrated by our beloved Emeritus bishop, Bishop Luciano Capelli SDB.



Sr. Ruth Del Pilar Visit to SPUTC



Salesian Sister, Sr. Ruth Del Pilar from Italy had her blessed time in the diocese since Friday 17th March.

She was traditionally welcomed upon arrival and was well received by the Salesian Sisters and students from St. Peter UTC.

Spending her time with her family the Salesian Sisters, she had time with them to Orovae Island homestay to share and reflect upon Pope's theme message "Pilgrims of Hope"

On the 2nd Sunday of Lent, Sr. Ruth had the opportunity to encounter the Sunday school children, youth, and Bishop Emeritus, Bishop Luciano Capelli SDB.



ST. JOSEPH MOLI PARISH NEWS**Assistance PP Encounters Parish Communities.**

A New assistant parish priest Fr. Willie Mau OP had the opportunity to know his parishioners during his couple of visitations around the parish.

Parishioners thanked him for his involvement in some of the parish programs.

A parish media volunteer, Anthony stated that recently, during the Divine Mercy group on Charity activity, he had the opportunity to get involved to know the communities. Anthony said this was an opportunity to have him celebrate Mass, visit the sick, giving communion, and praying for them.

He also visited the Sasamunga Catholic community where he had time to celebrate Eucharist, visit the sick, and get to know them.

Youths Thank Ephrem Valeke for the Guitar.

The young people of St. Joseph Parish Moli were pleased to receive a guitar from Ephrem and his

family during the Thanksgiving Mass as their Lenten gift.

The youth chairman, Mr. Penton, expressed gratitude to Ephrem and his family for their support of the youth movement, stating that only God could honor their kindness, even though they were unable to reciprocate the gift.

He added that the guitar would be used during liturgies.

40 Teenagers Receive their Sacrament of Confirmation.

St. Joseph Parish Moli has been engaged the Divine Mercy group in Lenten activities for the past few days, leading up to their patron saint's solemn commemoration on the 20th of this month. These include charitable activities, visits to the sick and aging, staging Stations of the Cross, and hosting a Holy Mass with Zone 3.

Their campaign resulted in the consecration of 40 youths, who received their Sacrament of Confirmation on the third Sunday of Lent.

A beautiful liturgy celebration was presided over by our Lordship, Rev. Bishop Peter Houhou, who encouraged the candidates to hold firm in their faith; Anthony corroborated this in his report from Moli Parish. Anthony stated that the bishop's homily reminded them of the Holy Spirit they received and that they were Christ's soldiers against evil.

He stated that their celebration includes the beginning of the MYSA's annual league competition.



ST DOMINIC & HOLY ROSARY PARISH NEWS**Pilgrimage Cross Launch, Sirovanga Parish.**

This Ash Wednesday, to get the parish to begin its Easter session, the parishioners from St. Dominic Sirovanga are launching their pilgrimage cross to visit the zones around their parish.

In a statement on social media, their parish chairperson, Chris, confirmed that with the theme "Participation Brings Unity and Hope," they reflected on the Jubilee Year Logo and came up with their Evangelizing Message, "Take up Your Cross and Follow Me."

Chris said that the pilgrimage would continue till Good Friday.

They are getting the parish marked by reflection, repentance, and preparation for Christ's Resurrection.

He thanked Fr. Ben Ravichibatu, Sister Leonie, and the team.

Easter Cross Commence Pilgrim, Nila Parish.

The Easter Cross pilgrimage has begun at Holy Rosary Parish Station Nila, coinciding with the start of Lent.

Fr. Qelo described it as a lovely procession with the pilgrimage cross led by St. John Bosco Senior Secondary students and staff. Its first stop was St. John Bosco Junior Secondary School.

The Lenten Cross pilgrimage will move from village to village, island to island preparing parishioners for Holy Week.

At this time, the Church has encouraged everyone to praise and worship the Lord, read the Bible, and pray more frequently, said Fr. Qelo.

And we are all asked to celebrate Lent correctly and anticipate a greater relationship with the Lord.

**Prayer Leaders Seminar Nila.**

Holy Rosary Parish Nila successfully hosted a two-day seminar on how to become a leader to serve as a prayer leader.

The seminar was facilitated by Fr. Qelo, took place from the 27th to the 28th of March 2025 and was attended by youths, catechists, and other im-



portant parish members.

The goal of the seminar was to give these leaders the tools they needed to help organize a family, community, or parish on how to run a small setup prayer group.

APPENDICITIS IN DIAGNOSIS & MAY SOLEMNITY

APPENDICITIS.

continue from last issue

Diagnosis

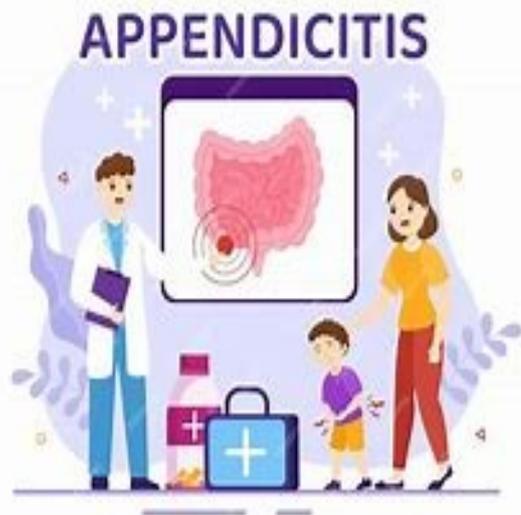
To help diagnose appendicitis, a healthcare professional will likely take a history of symptoms and examine the abdomen.

Tests used to diagnose appendicitis include:

- **Physical exam.** A healthcare professional may apply gentle pressure on the painful area. When the pressure is suddenly released, appendicitis pain will often feel worse. This is because of inflammation of the lining of the abdominal cavity, called the peritoneum.
- A care professional also may look for abdominal stiffness and a tendency to flex the abdominal muscles in response to pressure over the inflamed appendix. This is called guarding.
- A care professional also may use a lubricated, gloved finger to examine the lower rectum. This is called a digital rectal exam. People of childbearing age may be given a pelvic exam to check for other problems that could be causing the pain.
- **Blood test.** This test checks for a high white blood cell count. A high white blood cell count may mean there's an infection.

- **Urine test.** A urine test, also called a urinalysis, may be done. A urinalysis makes sure that a urinary tract infection or a kidney stone isn't causing the pain.

Imaging tests. Imaging tests may help confirm appendicitis or find other causes for pain. These tests may include an abdominal X-ray, an abdominal ultrasound, a CT scan or an MRI.



To be continue next issue

▪ UPCOMMING FEAST DAYS FOR MAY 2025 ▪

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.

