



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pg1,2&3: Bp's P/ message. Pg4: Vatican News, Pg5: Pastoral, Pg6: Assumption of the BVM celebration Pg7: Youth page Pg8: S & N deanery News Pg9: Health & coming Events.



Bishop Peter Houhou

WHO IS THE GREATEST AMONG YOU?

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, May the PEACE of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, the PRINCE of PEACE be with you all.

Before we dive into answering the above question, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for the journey we have taken together in our families, communities, parishes, church ministries, Religious Communities, and the diocese at large.

I know you have experienced and encountered countless challenges during the month's journey, as parents, community leaders, ministry coordinators, catechists, priests, religious brothers and sisters, and not forgetting as bishops who also shoulder the burden of the diocese. Brothers and Sisters, let us continue to shoulder the burden of our diocese together with great passion.

As your servant bishop of the diocese, I am encouraging us all to work together. Nothing else we can do, but our working together is the key and way forward to transform the diocese into a beautiful home sweet home for us and our children and their children's children to enjoy, now, and in the years to come. By doing this, believe it or not, we will see great revelation of changes unfolding before our eyes, just like an unopened flower slowly unfolding itself by the gentle touches of the rays of the sun in the early morning of each new day. Brothers and Sisters, I want to encourage and remind you again that all of these will not happen instantly or overnight, but slowly, it will happen according to its own timing, and it will be taking its shape in all levels of leadership in our diocese. The truth about all these happenings now is that no one is a spectator, but an actor and a builder. Putting our efforts, minds, and

joining our hands together, we will build our diocese. We do our part and leave the rest in the caring hands of God the Creator.

Amidst all these challenges, never forget that God is shouldering all the burdens of the journey of each day with you. Also, not forgetting that Jesus Christ is also with you in your journey. Always have faith that the Holy Spirit is with you, to give you the strength to keep moving forward; to guide you in all that you do; to show you the right path to follow; and above all, to humble you to continue to serve him more faithfully wherever you may be.

As Spiritual Father of the Diocese, I continue to encourage you, not to be discouraged and lose hope, but be courageous and have hope as you journey in serving God's people, hoping that something good is coming your way. Always have hope and keep on doing good in serving our people. Remember, that when you are experiencing challenges and difficulties in life or in your ministry, never ever give up, you are sowing the seed for something good. Always remember, what you have shown in tears, one day you will reap with great joy, praising the name of the Lord. In brief, let us reflect on the question: Who is the greatest among you? As we continue to journey in our Families, Communities, Parishes, Religious Communities, Church Ministries, and Diocese, we often witness so many times people arguing as to who is the greatest. I would say this is natural, and humanly speaking, everyone wants to be great.

Gerry Pierse C.Ss R in one of his reflections made a beautiful presentation to answer the above question, but he focused on the worldly perspective, and I quote: "To be great in the common understanding, is to have possessions, prestige, and power." This is very common among human beings,

Cont' next page

BISHOP'S MESSAGE CONTINUE

This Publication is from the Catholic Media Office

Diocese of Gizo PO Box 22, Gizo Western Province Solomon Island.

Website: www.catholicgizo.org, Facebook page: Catholic Diocese of Gizo, Landline (677) 60130.

Photo's & articles from the parish media volunteers, Chris L—St. Dominic parish, Anthony Telovae—St. Joseph parish, Fr. Tomas—Christ the King parish Voruvoru, Fr. Jacob— St. John Bosco Taro, Fr. Charles—St. Eugebiu Noro, Fr. Qello— Holy Rosary parish, and The Catholic Media office- Rellysdom Aaron Malakana

Bp's PM cont'

..... and he continues:

"Unfortunately, religion often tends to follow this worldly trend. The greatest of a religion is often measured by its possession – the size of its buildings, or the number of its followers, its prestige, and its' power." In addition, he continues: "The purpose of religion is seen as getting God on our side so that we can have wealth and health." and he continues: "Unfortunately, religion often tends to follow this worldly trend. The greatest of a religion is often measured by its possession – the size of its buildings, or the number of its followers, its prestige, and its' power." In addition, he continues: "The purpose of religion is seen as getting God on our side so that we can have wealth and health."

After reflecting on Gerry Pierse's presentation, let us now prepare our minds and hearts to listen to what the Scripture has to say to us in answer to the above question. According to the Gospel of Mark the Evangelist; when Jesus and his disciple came to Capernaum, and after going indoor Jesus asked his disciples, "What you were arguing about on the road?" (Mk 9:33). There was a great silence, no one dares to say anything or even to answer him, because among themselves they knew what they were arguing about. Jesus sat down and called the twelve disciples, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must place himself last of all and be the servant of all." (Mk 9:35). To make them understand what he was saying to them, Jesus uses a very simple and humble image of a child. He took a child, stood him by his side and said to them, "Whoever welcomes this child in my name, welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, also welcomes the one who sent me. For the one who is least among you all is the greatest." (Lk. 9:48).

Brothers and Sisters, reflecting on the two perspectives presented above in answering the ques-

tion. Who is the Greatest among You? I believe that it helps you to see the difference between the worldly perspective and the spiritual perspective. Under the worldly perspective, Gerry Pierse highlights three (3) important points where many times as Christian we often fall into. a) Possessions, b) prestige, and c) power.

a) Possessions: Brothers and Sisters, many times as Christians, we are tempted to own many things, thinking that by accumulating properties, people around us will see us as the greatest. Nothing is wrong with owning many properties, but we should also have the attitude of giving and sharing with others. Jesus, in his ministry, challenges the Pharisees and those who are listening to him; share and give to those in need, and you will receive in return more gifts, even overflowing. As Christians, we should balance our lives by owning what is enough for us, and sharing with others what we have. By doing this, the result will not only be great on Earth, but you will have a great reward in the Kingdom of Heaven.

b) PRESTIGE:

Brothers and Sisters, after reflecting on the world of possessions, we have come to the point of realization and seen that we have fallen in love with material things of this world. We have trapped ourselves in the world of materialism, and we cannot escape. As mentioned in point "a", the only remedy for us to be released was to balance our life; owning what is enough for me and sharing with others what I have.

Now, as we come to our second point of reflection on prestige, we, too, many times we have been tempted and fallen from our status or position. People no longer have respect for us, because we thought that achievement and success are not for others but only for me. As Christians, we should let go of or detach ourselves from this selfish attitude and see that others, too, can reach achievements and success

Cont' next page

BISHOP'S MESSAGE CONTINUE

Bp's PM cont'

.....in different areas of life. Now, when putting all our achievements and success together, we are building a happy family, living in harmony and respect for one another, and at the end of the day, we come to discover that together we are doing great things for the glory of the Lord our God.

C) POWER: Reading newspapers, National or International, watching TV, listening to the radio, and other means of communication; Internet, Facebook, etc, you could see that everywhere in different parts of the world people are fighting for power.

Beloved brothers and sisters, in our beloved Nation Solomon Islands; in all our beloved nine Provinces that made up our Nation; in our beloved five mainline Churches that made up Solomon Islands Christian Association (SICA) and other small Christian Churches; in our beloved Catholic Church Solomon Islands (CCSI); in our beloved Catholic Diocese of Gizo; in all our beloved eight Parishes that made up our beloved Diocese; in our beloved deaneries, communities, church ministries, Religious Communities; families and individuals; As the spiritual father and the servant Bishop of our Diocese, I want to put this important message before our attention and watchful care that there are people out there who are not genuine. When they have given the POWER, they will be an obstacle to building up the Mystical Body of CHRIST in our Families, Communities, Deaneries, Parishes, Dioceses, and also be an obstacle to development in all our Provinces and the Nation of Solomon Islands as a whole from shore to shore.

To end our reflection, let us thank Gerry Pierse C.Ss R for sharing with us a brief thoughts of his experiences on the world's perspectives to answer the question of who is the greatest? He helps us to see one side of the coin, and St. Mark 9:33-37 and St. Luke 9:46-48 help us to see both sides of the coin through the eyes of the Word of God in the Scriptures. Since this year is the Jubilee Year of Hope, I believe and hope that the above thoughts will guide our journey through September 2025.

Thank you for taking your precious time.

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

Servant Bishop Peter HOUHOU.

MV ST. PETER SINKING

An article from the Solomon Star News dated 22 August under the heading "MV St. Peter Sinks at Logha Wharf" has mentioned that the cargo vessel owned by the Catholic Church of Gizo, that the vessel sank at Logha Wharf on Monday morning.

However, the initial paragraph of the article contains two inaccuracies regarding the description of the vessel and the date of the sinking.

In the subsequent paragraph, the article presents another falsehood, claiming that the ship had suffered from mechanical issues for a decade. Moreover, the author asserts that he interviewed a witness regarding the circumstances of the sinking.

Additionally, he enhances his article by emphasizing several key points:

1. The negligence exhibited by the crew and the caretaker.
2. The reasons behind the sinking are attributed to collective failure.
3. The environmental concerns associated with the incident.

The vessel, known as Kamila, was acquired from PNG and is registered under the name St. Peter in the Solomon Islands. It does not prioritize cargo or passengers, as its intended purpose is to support pastoral programs.

A wooden ship was previously coated with fibro in Gizo by our overseas friends and local workers, and it has been operating between Choiseul and Western Province for an extended period.

The vessel is now in need of maintenance. Upon inspection, it was determined that several areas require attention. However, since the church has purchased another ship, MV Galilee, the St. Peter has been left unattended and is scheduled to be preserved as a historical vessel. The engine, which remains in good condition, has also been removed.

Continue page 8

SOCIAL MEDIA



VATICAN
NEWS

Social Media has the Power to Build a Better World

Social media is a way for the Church to be among the people, and work toward the common good, not about compromising the truth to gain followers or 'likes.'



'Towards Full Presence'

The Document's aim is to promote a common reflection on the involvement of Christians in social media, which have increasingly become part of people's lives. Inspired by the parable of the Good Samaritan, the document offers an opportunity to begin a shared reflection on how to promote a culture of being "loving neighbours" in the digital world as well.

Asked about the need for such a document and its significance, Ruffini recalled that, from the very beginning of the Dicastery, they perceived the need of making a reflection and then a document on this topic, especially as technology was rapidly changing.

What was sought, he said, was a reflection "starting from the Gospel," from "a theological and pastoral perspective on how to deal with technology that is changing."

No to compromising truth

The social media in which we should be present, he noted, should not "nourish hate speech, fake

news, deepfakes," but "nourish the truth, the love and compassion."

"The most important thing," he said, "is to be aware of this and to be aware that we can also say that in the history of humanity, always there is evil. And for us believers, there is the devil that is working always in the way that the history develops."

He noted that technology is not something that "should invent us"; instead, we must "negotiate the rules and the algorithms" to "share and work toward the common good," which he lamented, "we too often forget."

"We know that maybe a fake news [will] have more followers than the truth, but is this the way we will develop the better world? I don't think so. In any sense, I don't think so."

Ongoing Discernment

Vatican News also interviewed Sister Nathalie Becquart who discussed the proper approach to social platforms.

"It's an ongoing discernment, and that's why I really want to highlight that this document is coming from a synodal approach involving many people because nobody alone has the magic solution to have a good presence on social media and then the context is different. And so that's why it's very important that this document helps people to do their own discernment, especially with others as Christians in their own community, to find and to discern the way and ongoing discernment."

She also acknowledged the risks inherent in social media. "In the digital culture, you have the best and you have the worst. So that's why it's very, very important to educate people, to train them to do this.

Continue next page

VATICAN NEWS & SOLEMNITY FOR THIS MONTH

Vatican News Continue

Discernment and to be conscious about the pitfalls." Many in the Church, she reiterated, have asked for guidance on this theme. She recalled that during the Synod on Young People in 2019, the youth asked for advice on how to move properly in the digital realm, in a fruitful, and faithful way. How to be present on social media, despite its difficulties, she expressed, is a widely-desired reflection. "This is the reality of the Church today, and the People of God," she said.

Sr. Becquart highlighted how, in this atmosphere, sensibility, awareness and good judgment are required. That view, unfortunately, is not shared by everyone, and therefore, we need to continue exercising a healthy scepticism.

Embracing the 'language' of the times

Msgr. Lucio Ruiz, the Secretary of the Dicastery for Communication, offered a reflection on the work, and highlighted how we can learn from missionaries, who, before their tremendous work, learned 'the language' to communicate and contribute to the new evangelization.

Pope Francis, he said, makes ever greater contributions to the reflections of his predecessors, to adjust to the current moment, in a way that is most appropriate and impactful for the times, embracing the instruments, accordingly, in their proper measure.

This task, he noted, belongs to us, as a 'Church that goes out,' to reach everyone, to the existential peripheries. "We need to go, we need to go out," he insisted.

Msgr. Ruiz suggested that social platforms are important, and are about "enriching" what "is real." "The Church needs to go down to the 'field,' something which Jesus told us to do, noting it is impossible to not be present. It is the culture, nowadays, and where there is man, there, the Church needs to be present."

A comfort to the disabled

Sr. Veronica Donatello, S.F.A., head of the National Service for the Pastoral Care of Persons with Disabilities of the Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI) and a consultor of the Holy See Dicastery for Communication, often recognized for providing the sign-language service during the papal events, as she did during the pandemic, addressed the press conference.

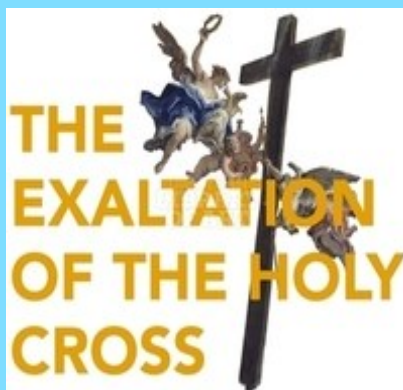
She highlighted, in particular, how social media can be an important tool for disabled people, noting how it often enables them to feel a greater sense of "existing" or of "being present."

However, Sister Donatello warned that despite the great value of these technological resources, they will never be able to replace what is real, such as being present or offering an embrace.

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH (Wednesday 3rd September)



THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (Sunday 14th September)



SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS (SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER)



ASSUMPTION OF BVM CELEBRATION

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Celebrate around Diocese Praise.

The celebration of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been praised, and many have noted the progress and enthusiasm of our mothers, who participated in the solemnity from August 15 to 17.

The gathering reminded them of their future glory, Mary's unique role in salvation history, and the hope that Heaven is a home.

As highlighted by Fr. Charles Antony from St. Eusebius Noro parish, "the event was a graceful moment of deepening our faith through shared life experiences and a heartfelt procession with Mother Mary".

He said that it served as a beautiful reminder of our journey as pilgrims, continually guided by her loving presence.

Many of them, from the eight parishes within our diocese, were deeply nourished by the spiritual insights into who Mary is, what she means, and why we celebrate the solemnity.

The event also highlighted opportunities for mothers, fathers, and children to share their love by exchanging gifts and getting involved in charity by visiting the needy ones.

The celebration concluded successfully with the Eucharistic Mass, speeches, feasting, entertainment, and a final blessing from their priest.



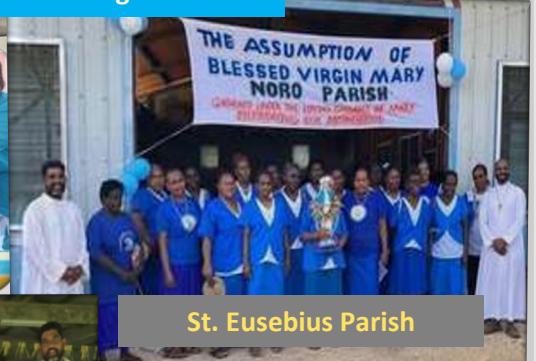
St. Dominic Sirovanga



Christ the King Voruvoru



Holy Rosary Parish Nila



St. Eusebius Parish



St. Joseph Moli & John Bosco Parish



St. Peter Parish Gizo



SPUTC SEMESTER MASS AND WYD NUHU

Thanksgiving Mass for another Semester.



Because the Mass is such a sacred and transcendent encounter with God, it is of the utmost importance that schools carefully abide by the liturgical norms that the Church has established. For this reason, today, August 1st, St. Urban Training School thanked God for the gift of protection and guidance on the journey that the students and staff have experienced.

As usual, a Thanksgiving Mass was held to pray for their upcoming semester and the return of the second-year students after their practical attachment.

A profound reflection on the Gospel reading continued to motivate the students, presented by Deacon Mathew OP and Bishop Peter Houhou, who expressed gratitude to God for His blessings upon the students, the principal, and the staff.

The Pledge was recited, serving as a reminder to the students of their membership in the SRS Student Council of St. Peter UTC, for years 1 and 2, 2025. This encourages them to be enthusiastic, uphold positive attitudes and behavior, and cultivate a spirit of unity.

St. John Bosco's Birthday, Celebrate at Nila & Gizo.

St. John Bosco's birthday was celebrated at Nila schools, the Primary, Secondary, the Technical, and the St. Peter Urban Training Center at Gizo, to commemorate his date of birth.

As usual, the celebration commenced with the



Thanksgiving Mass, to thank the founder's spirit for his love for the youths around the world.

World Youth Day Celebrated at Nuhu, Shortland.



Youth from the Shortland Islands are fortunate to partake in the global World Youth Day celebration, scheduled from August 22 to 24 at Nuhu Village.

This event united eight youth groups from surrounding villages within the Shortland Islands.

The program features four cultural events, including cooking, dancing, and the crowning of king and queen shows.

This initiative was coordinated by the Ministry of Youth in the Western Province.

The program concluded with a closing Mass followed by a feast.



NILA & SIROVANGA IN NEWS**Aleang Community Honor Transfiguration & Anniversary.**

On the 6th of August, the Aleang community commemorated the solemn feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord as well as the anniversary of the late Fr. Lawrence Isa.

Fr. Qelo, who was present with the community, reported that they conducted a prayerful celebration, which began with the recitation of the Rosary and was followed by the Eucharistic Mass.

He noted that the community facilitated a significant liturgy, with all participants actively engaging in the gathering.

Pirakamae Bridge Rescue.

iron frame, it has inspired many to consider replacing the timber flooring for the footpath.

Now, it serves the communities, especially students and mothers, who often rely on crossing it.

For a long time, the Pirakamae Bridge from Sirovanga was not used by the inland communities.

However, since the bridge has a sturdy

MV ST. PETER SINKING

Cont' from page 3

The ship was left in its location because there was interest from a potential buyer. This is the reason for its abandonment.

It is important to note that the vessel did not sink on Monday, but rather on Saturday, after all our crew members had been out the day prior. The crew was engaged with another vessel, MV Galilee, while others were busy securing seaplane (Bishop's Sea Plane) parts in a container for transport to Noro.

The sinking of the vessel was attributed to heavy rainfall on Thursday night, which led to water accumulation. This issue was communicated to the workers who are engaged to Nusatube airstrip on Friday.

On Saturday night, the vessel sank between 4 am and 5 am. The suspected cause was a leak in the fibro coating of the vessel, which allowed water to enter without alerting anyone.

Due to the removal of the Engine from the vessel, there is currently no oil discharge in Gizo harbor that poses a concern to the public.

The article written by Augustine Pelevelomo contains ten inaccuracies.

1. The date of the vessel's sinking
2. The intended purpose of the vessel
3. The decade of mechanical issues
4. The eyewitness account
5. The identity of the interviewed worker
6. The negligence exhibited by the crew and caretaker
7. The failure of everyone to perform daily inspections
8. The involvement of St. Peter Don Bosco staff
9. The public's role in the environmental issue
10. The logistical shortcomings faced by the Diocese and the increasing environmental concerns for local communities.



KIDNEY INFECTION (PYELONEPHRITIS)

continue from last issue

<https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/kidney-infection#what-is>

.....



When should I see the doctor?

You should see your doctor if you have symptoms of a kidney infection, as you will usually need treatment with antibiotics.

If you are very unwell, you may need to be treated in the emergency department or admitted to hospital for intravenous (IV) antibiotics.

When should I seek urgent care?

You should seek care urgently from your doctor or local emergency department if you have symptoms of widespread infection, for example:

- high fever (over 38.5°C)
- a fast pulse rate (over 120 beat per minute)
- difficulty breathing
- confusion
- severe drowsiness

You should also seek urgent care if you have a low-

ered immune system or you have a history of kidney problems.

How is a kidney infection diagnosed?

Your doctor will ask about your symptoms and examine you. If they suspect a kidney infection, they may refer you for tests:

A urine test can help clarify whether there is an infection in your urinary tract.

An ultrasound or CT scan can check for a blockage in your urinary tract.

Blood tests can check for infection in your blood.

How is a kidney infection treated?

If you have a kidney infection, you might need to start treatment in hospital with intravenous (IV) antibiotics directly into a vein. When your symptoms have improved enough, you may be able to take your antibiotics orally (by mouth) at home.

If a blockage in your urinary tract has caused the kidney infection, you might need a medical procedure or surgery urgently to correct the blockage.

What are the complications of a kidney infection?

Kidney infections can lead to various complications including:

- septic shock
- kidney failure
- multiorgan failure

To prevent these complications, it is important to treat kidney infections promptly.

To be continue next issue

▪ UPCOMMING SOLEMNITY FOR OCTOBER 2025 ▪

Holy Guardian Angels (Thursday, 2 October)



OUR LADY OF ROSARY (Tuesday 7 October)



ST. JOHN PAUL II (WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER)

