

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pg 1– 3: Bp's P/ message. Pg4: Vatican News, Pg 5-6: Pastoral—Year of Eucharist & Late Sante, Pg 7: Southern Deanery News, Pg8: Northern deanery news in bits, Pg 9: Health & coming Events.



Bishop Peter Houhou

PASTORAL MESSAGE FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2026 ST. JOSEPH A MODEL FOR FATHERS

As spiritual father of our diocese, I want to greet you all with the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we are preparing ourselves to take this very important journey during the Lenten Season for this year 2026, let us ask St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus and our father,

also to journey with us. He is a man who travels a great distance from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be registered together with Mary and the child Jesus. He also travelled from Bethlehem to Egypt with Mary and her child, escaped from King Herod, who wanted to kill the newborn child, Jesus Christ. During these times and years of journey and living abroad in a foreign land, he has experienced and encountered so many challenges and difficulties, but since he is following not his own will, but "GOD'S WILL" who has called him to be the guardian of His Son. Despite all the challenges, the Lord is always with him to give him the strength, to guide, and to protect Mary and the child Jesus.

WHO IS ST. JOSEPH?

In these few lines, we will be reflecting on the life of St. Joseph to answer the above question. Saint Joseph, the Spouse of the Virgin Mary and the Foster-father of Jesus, was a descendant of the royal house of David (cf. Matthew 1: 1 – 16). A carpenter by profession, he was living in Nazareth at the time he was

betrothed to Mary. According to ancient tradition, he was chosen among many suitors because his staff miraculously blossomed with lilies.

During the year of engagement, Mary was found with a child. Joseph, who was a righteous man, decided to dismiss her quietly, rather than to expose her to a shameful death. Such was his intention, when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said: "Joseph, son David, do not be afraid to take Mary your spouse, into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her" (Matthew 2: 20-21). When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary into his home.

At the time of the Roman census, they went to Bethlehem to be registered, and there Mary gave birth to the Messiah. When eight days had passed for the child to be circumcised, Joseph gave him the name Jesus. After the departure of the Magi, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph again in a dream and said: "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." (Matthew 2: 13). He took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt.

Some years later, Herod died, and Joseph was instructed by the angel to go back to Nazareth.

Cont' next page

ST. JOSEPH A MODEL FOR FATHERS

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'

Under his guidance, Jesus grew in wisdom and grace, and learned the simple trade of carpentry (cf. Matthew 13: 55). Saint Joseph is considered the patron of good death, because he passed from this world with perfect faith and peace of heart, assisted by Mary and Jesus. Tradition said that he died on March 19, sometime before the beginning of Jesus' ministry. He is invoked as the Protector of virginity, since for the whole of his life, he respected Mary's divine motherhood. He is also venerated as the patron of the Universal Church, and no one who calls on him ever calls in vain.

EARLY LIFE AND CALLING:

Saint Joseph is a humble man chosen by God to be the earthly father of Jesus and the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He was a carpenter, known for his simple and loving work. His quiet strength and deep faith made him a model of obedience and trust in God's plan. Saint Joseph accepted his calling with courage and sincerity, dedicating his life to serving his family and the community.

1. PROTECTOR OF THE HOLY FAMILY:

Saint Joseph is revered as the steadfast guardian of Jesus and Mary. His unwavering care ensured the safety of the Holy Family during times of great uncertainty. His role as a loving father and husband demonstrates the power of trust in God, and his example inspires all believers to protect and nature family bonds.

- **Example of Devotion:** Joseph's quiet strength and reliability set a model for us to follow in our daily lives.
- **Spiritual Fatherhood:** He is often called the patron of workers and families, reminding us that our vocation includes caring for others.
- **Obedience:** Saint Joseph listened to God's message dreams and followed them without hesitation.
- **Humility:** He worked diligently, never seeking glory for his modest efforts.

- **Protection:** He cared for Mary and Jesus, ensuring they were safe through life's many challenges.

2. MODEL OF HUMILITY AND OBEDIENCE

In his humble acceptance of God's will, Saint Joseph exemplifies perfect obedience and modesty. His silent and steadfast faith encourages all who seek to live a life dedicated to serving God without seeking recognition. His simplicity calls us to find joy in fulfilling our duties with love.

- **Quiet Strength:** Joseph's humility teaches us that true strength comes from trusting in God rather than from outward appearances.
- **Obedience to Divine Will:** His example serves as a reminder that aligning our lives with God's plans brings peace and fulfillment.

Saint Joseph inspires many with his quiet heroism and trust in God. His life reminds us to live with simplicity, faith, and devotion. Believers honor him as a protector and guide in times of need, finding in his life a perfect example of love and humility.

3. INTERCESSOR FOR A LOVING FAMILY

Saint Joseph is celebrated as a loving intercessor who continues to watch over the faithful. Believers turn to him in prayer, especially in times of need for family guidance and protection. His intercession is a comfort for those who strive to live in harmony and love, motivated by the sacred duty to care for one another.

- **Heavenly Advocate:** Through prayer, Saint Joseph intercedes for families, strengthening bonds and providing the courage to overcome life's challenges.
- **Symbol of Trust:** His life is a testament to the belief that God works through humble hearts to bless those who follow Him.

Reflecting on the life and the calling of Saint Joseph, to be the husband of Mary and a protector of the Holy Family, I do hope it gives to all our beloved Fathers, in all our Families,

Bp Pastoral Message Continue

ST. JOSEPH A MODLE FOR FATHERS (... CONTINUE)

Bp Pastoral Message Continue

..... and every one of us who also has a responsibility to play in all works of life: our work places, school, community, parish, and diocese at large. His role as a protector of the Holy Family of Nazareth gives us some kind of inspiration and light. And at the same time, challenges us on how we too should live our life and how to respond to God’s call in obedience to do not our will but God’s WILL be done.

Hope the above reflection on Saint Joseph inspires you. Be a living Saint Joseph in your family, school, workplace, community, and parish, for this year 2026. From today and in the years to come, be a proclaimer of Saint Joseph to those who have not yet heard of His beautiful model story.

TOGETHER, LET'S GO TO SAINT JOSEPH:

O blessed Saint Joseph, tenderhearted father, faithful guardian of Jesus, chaste spouse of the Mother of God, I pray you to join with me in praising God the Father through his divine Son who died on the cross and rose again to give us sinners new life.

Through the Holy Name of Jesus, pray with me that we may obtain from the eternal Father the favor we ask for: (State your intention.....)

We have been unfaithful to the unfailing love of God the Father; Beg of Jesus’ mercy for us, his brothers and sisters. Amid the splendors of God’s loving presence, do not forget the sorrows of those who weep. By your prayers and those of your most holy spouse,

Our blessed Lady, may the love of Jesus answer our call of confident hope. Amen

The Lord be with you,

Through the Intercession of Saint Joseph

May the Blessing of God the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit

Be with you as you journey through this Lenten Season 2026.

GOD BLESS

Servant Bishop Peter HOUHOU

LATES DEVELOPMENTS



The handing over and opening of the Isolation unit hospital at Nila Catholic mission station, Shortland Island. Western Province.

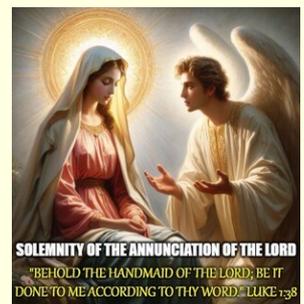
Sirovanga Health Center, Shaping up, St. Dominic Parish, Choiseul Province.



St. Joseph, the Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Thursday 19th of March)



Annunciation of the Lord (Wednesday 25th of March)



POPE ON IRAN WAR



Pope on Iran: Peace not built with mutual threats or death-dealing arms



Pope Leo XIV appeals for nations to recall their moral responsibility to seek peace, as violence escalates in the Middle East after the US and Israel carry out airstrikes on Iran.

Speaking at the Angelus on Sunday, Pope Leo XIV expressed “deep concern” over recent events in the Middle East and Iran.

“Stability and peace are not built with mutual threats, nor with weapons, which sow destruction, pain, and death, but only through a reasonable, authentic, and responsible dialogue,” he said.

The Pope warned of an immense tragedy if violence escalates out of control.

“Faced with the possibility of a tragedy of enormous proportions,” he said, “I address to the parties involved a heartfelt appeal to assume the moral responsibility to stop the spiral of violence before it becomes an irreparable abyss!”

Pope Leo prayed that nations may return to dialogue in order to seek peace.

“May diplomacy recover its role and may the good of peoples be promoted, peoples who long for peaceful coexistence founded on justice,” he said.

“And let us continue to pray for peace.”

On Saturday, Israel and the United States began carrying out joint airstrikes on Tehran and several other Iranian cities.

Iran then responded with attacks on Israel and several Gulf countries which host American military bases.

Later, state-run news agencies announced the death of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who ruled Iran for nearly 37 years.

**Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion
(Sunday 29th of March)**

Palm Sunday
of the Passion of the Lord

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.”

Luke 19:38

April 10, 2022



THE YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

Today, on this First Sunday of Lent, the Catholic Church in the Solomon Islands commences the Year of the Eucharist, a holy period dedicated to revitalizing our faith and enhancing our love for Jesus, who is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. May this significant year bring our families, parishes, and communities nearer to the heart of Christ in the Eucharist, which is the foundation and pinnacle of our Christian existence.

Lord, strengthen our faith in Your Real Presence. Amen.

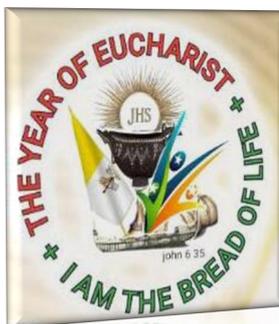
Meaning of the Logo—Year of the Eucharist 2026

Theme: “I am the Bread of Life” (John 6:35)

The logo for the Year of Eucharist expresses the faith, identity, and mission of the Catholic Church in the Solomon Islands, centered on the words of Jesus:

“I am the Bread of Life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirsty.” Created by Fr. Peter Kevin

The **Vatican flag** represents the Universal Church and our unity with the Holy Father and the Mother Church. It reminds us that the faith we celebrate in the Eucharist comes to us through the Church. At the Center the **Traditional Chalice**, symbolizing the sacred vessel used in the Eucharistic celebration and the rich Catholic tradition handed down through generations. In the local context, the chalice also reflects the traditional bowl used for preparing food and water, expressing life, sharing, and community. The **Host**, bearing the letters **JHS** or **IHS**, represents Jesus Christ truly present in the Eucharist. The letters **JHS** come from the Greek name of Jesus and remind us that Jesus is our Savior and the center of our faith. The **Canoe** represents the Catholic Church in the Solomon Islands. Just as a canoe carries people across the sea, the Church journeys together in faith, guided by Christ, bringing the Good News to all communities across the islands. The **Solomon colors** express our national identity, while the **Three stars** represent the three dioceses and the unity of the three groups of the Church: clergy, religious, and laity. The **Bread** represents daily nourishment, our culture of sharing, and above all Christ, the Bread of Life, who sustains His people. May this logo inspire us to deepen our love for the Eucharist and to live our faith in unity and mission.



PRAYER FOR YEAR OF EUCHARIST

Eternal Father, we thank you for the sublime gift of the Most Blessed Sacrament, in which your only begotten Son is really present among us: Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. In this Eucharistic communion, we eat and drink from your heavenly banquet the source and summit for our eternal life. Send your Holy Spirit to unite all people of this nation Solomon Islands around this Eucharistic altar.

Deepen the faith of all to recognize and worship you in the Eucharist. Strengthen and embolden our priests who are ministers of the Holy Sacrament. Sanctify them to be always worthy of this high calling. Infuse a solemn reverence in us when celebrating this great mystery of faith in the liturgy.

Lord Jesus, you said, :I am the Bread of Life” Give us this bread always.

We ask all this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SANTE VETTORATO AND OTHER NEWS

Parishes into Lenten Session.



Parishes of the Catholic Diocese of Gizo commemorate the onset of Lent, which is recognized on February 18th, the observance of Ash Wednesday.

This occasion has provided the priest with an opportunity to remind

the parishioners that the church has engaged in 40 days of fasting, prayer, and contemplation.

Each parish has its unique methods of participating in services, such as reflecting on the importance of Jesus' sacrifice, including the Stations of the Cross or the pilgrimage of the parish cross, while striving to deepen their connection with God.

The Lenten period acts as a time for repentance, introspection, and spiritual rejuvenation in anticipation of the joyful celebration of Easter.

With a total of 50 first-year students, a beautiful liturgy was conducted by these students, which maintained the spirit of the Mass from the start to the end of the liturgical celebration.

During the opening Mass and Fr. Henry's homily, he highlighted the importance of education, the challenges it entails, but also reminded the students that it is fulfilling if everyone commits to putting in the effort and working diligently throughout their academic journey.

Fr. Henry Paroi consistently reminds them that while everyone may encounter difficulties, it is crucial to have God on our side. He also encouraged them to reflect on their identities and the motivations that led them to school.

His message to the students was so inspiring that everyone listened attentively as he shared his insights.

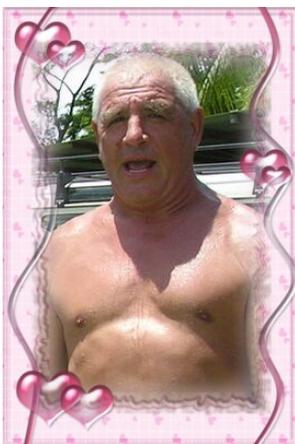
As usual, a group photo was taken with the staff, students, and Fr. Henry Paroi OP following the



SPUTC (Don Bosco) Celebrates, Academic Year through Mass.

St. Peter's Urban Training Center has initiated its Mass celebration for the academic year, presided over by Fr. Henry Paroi OP.

Late Sante Vettorato Remembered.



Today marks the 2nd Sunday of Lent, during which St. Peter Cathedral Gizo, expressed their condolences through a Mass for Sante Vettorato, a volunteer who took part in nine expeditions (Traces) in the Solomon Islands under the Mission of Emeritus Bishop Luciano Capelli SBD.

The Mass held in memory of him served as a poignant reminder to the parishioners of a man who exemplified unwavering dedication to his commitment to God and the church within the Diocese of Gizo.

The late Sante Vettorato was fondly remembered by many from Nila Wagina, Gizo, and Noro as a beloved friend to the children in their community.

Messages of condolence were extended to his wife and daughter.

In remembrance of him, a brief presentation highlighting his time in the Solomon Islands was shared.

GIZO AND NORO NEWS

Parish Council Meeting. (Updates)



St. Peter Parish Gizo has organized its inaugural meeting for this year to discuss updates, primarily to guarantee that team members are responsible for their assigned tasks and deliverables.

It provides teams the opportunity to modify priorities and plans as necessary, ensuring that all members are aligned and striving towards the same objectives.

A daytime meeting was conducted on the 15th Sunday of this month.

The Guanellian Family, Noro, for Intercession.



The Guanellian spiritual family in St. Eusebius parish, Noro, shares their sorrow at the death of

Father Joseph's beloved father.

They encourage the community to unite in prayer for the repose of his soul, as well as for peace and strength for Father Joseph and his family during this challenging time.

The parish remains in prayer alongside the parishioners who assembled in intercession for the soul of Father Joseph's father on the second day, which falls on 13 February, standing together in faith and beseeching the Lord for his eternal rest and for ongoing comfort for Father Joseph and his loved ones.

Parish Key People Commission.



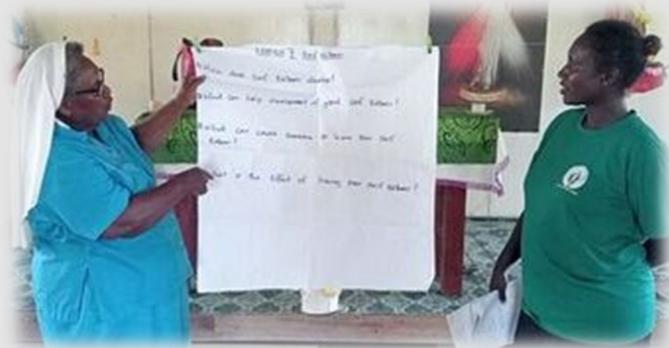
St. Peter Parish in Gizo has appointed key individuals from its various zones and other organizations to assume their roles for the current year.

These key people were commissioned and consecrated by Bishop Peter Houhou on the 1st Sunday of Lent.

Their mission is to embrace their responsibilities in serving their organization and to motivate everyone to get involved. Additionally, they facilitate opportunities for church members who are unfamiliar with the new workers to meet them and witness their enthusiasm for encouraging participation among the parish community.

MOLI AND SIRO NEWS

Moli Parish Commenced a Month HEY MUM Program.



St. Joseph, Moli Parish has initiated its HEY MUM Program across the parish zones. According to the parish media volunteer, Mr. Anthony Telovai, the program will continue until the end of this month.

The Hey Mum programs have been a consistent initiative within the diocese for the last 10 years. The program is structured to consist of 8 sessions.

Participants in these seminars were divided into groups to facilitate group discussions and presentations.

For the Hey Mum program, brainstorming was one of the methods employed during the sessions; this technique was utilized for addressing "Difficult issues" and other topics during their meetings.

The Hey Mum program is also advised for mothers who are currently facing specific challenges with their children.



Sirovanga Launch Pilgrimage Cross.

St. Dominic Parish Sirovanga is commencing its Pilgrimage Cross to signify the start of its Lenten



Session on the inaugural Sunday of Lent. Reporting from the parish, Chris noted that the launch was witnessed by the parishioners at the mission station.

The Lenten Cross will travel through different areas in support of the Ash Wednesday ashes, acting as a reminder for the faithful to come closer to the church and to place their faith in the Lord.

Sirovanga Sunday School Teachers undergo Training .



The Sunday School Teachers of St. Dominic Sirovanga Parish have successfully concluded their two-day training at the mission station.

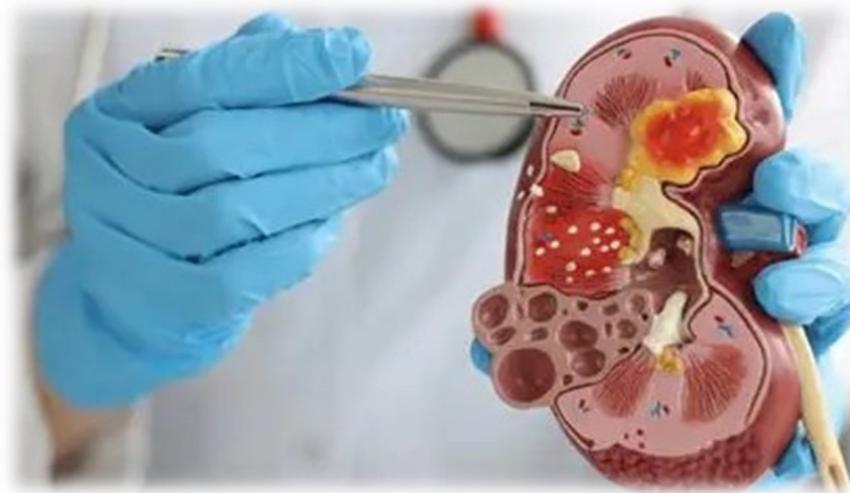
This program was crucial in equipping Sunday school teachers with the skills necessary for enhancing lesson planning and delivery.

Facilitated by Sr. Leonie Meqo OP, Chris P Leuku, and Eusebius Pikabatu, the program began in the third week of February.

KIDNEY STONES – COMPLICATIONS

Kidney stones continue [Kidney stones - treatment, symptoms and diagnosis | healthdirect](#)

What are the complications of kidney stones?



Kidney stones can sometimes obstruct (block) the flow of urine. Stones in your ureter can cause a complete or partial blockage. If your kidney stones block your urinary system you will need to have treatment in hospital.

There can be a urinary tract infection at the same time as a kidney stone. If this happens, you will need urgent treatment with [antibiotics](#) and treatment for the kidney stone.

Sometimes kidney stones can damage the ureter, causing scarring. This can cause narrowing that may need to be treated.

Kidney stones can also happen again, especially if you:

- are young
- are overweight
- have family members who have had kidney stones.

Can kidney stones be prevented?

There are things you can do to reduce the chance of getting kidney stones. These include:

- drinking plenty of fluids every day — so that your urine is clear
 - eating a [healthy, balanced diet](#) with plenty of [fibre](#)
 - reducing the amount of fat and animal protein (meat) you eat
 - reducing the amount of salt you eat
 - maintaining a healthy body weight
- If you've had kidney stones before, your doctor may recommend specific treatments to prevent more stones. Their advice will depend on the type of kidney stone you had.

To be continue next issue

UPCOMING SOLEMNITY FOR APRIL 2026



THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Easter Triduum is the holiest three day period in the Catholic liturgy year, commemorating the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, also called Sacred Triduum or Pascal Triduum, begins on the evening of the Holy Thursday and concludes on the evening of Easter Sunday. Although it spans three days chronologically, it is celebrated as one continuous liturgical event, highlighting the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery the suffering, death, and resurrection that bring salvation to humanity.