



MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2022



Greetings to everyone. The virus has caught up with us...we thought we could get over it but he found us and forced us to change our habits. One of the many sad effects, besides the mask we have to wear and the hands we have to wash, it made us look at each other with suspicion, forcing us to keep 'social distance' from each other. We have to watch each other and in one way made us feel afraid of each other.

*Like in other parts of the world, our children will soon get tired to stay home, they will miss their friends and might develop problems. We will certainly encounter many problems and issues. Besides being isolated by nature, this pandemic will try to isolate us more. **What can we do to keep in touch and to support one another?***

Our commitment for this year, given to us by the Bishop's Conference is to be *SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORD*...How can we do this surrounded by so many problems? The more the dark, the brighter will be the light. One way is certainly to experience **COMMUNION.**

To achieve communion we can do lots of activities. Praying individually or as families, communicating more and sharing our experiences. Let us call and encourage each other. To this purpose, let me share with you the situation of our diocese as I gather from the communication I can have on my part:

Gizo we do not have a clear idea of the number of positive cases... people are being vaccinated, all shipments are closely monitored, the wharf area is closed to traffic, A cargo plane is coming today. Frs. Lawrence and Soloko serve the Cathedral and the Nusabaruka community. Schools are closed. Vessels are few and well checked, there are no flights, only chartered ones. Tune in to Catholic Diocese of Gizo FB for on line streaming participation in the Eucharist

Nila: Lock down, only sick cases are coming to the Hospital, 4 schools are closed Fr. Stanis watches over the campuses with Fr. Aritoka, all schools are closed. They need cargo very badly

Waghina: Fr Humberto informed us of the great concern, a number of positive cases, lock down. Father and many people are affected with fever, colds and cough. They have no medicines, they need cargo badly

Taro: closely monitored, market 3 times a week like Gizo, curfew 5pm to 9am next day Fr. Benedict is rendering his services there, he tells us 'we have 3 new confirm positive now in Taro' (Febr. 9, 22); we will lockdown Start tomorrow 12 noon to Monday.

Moli: No movement to and from the Island... no communications

Sirovanga: Fr Simon and Lawrence are looking after their flock. *"People come to church... we are still OK but we are controlling movements of people"*

Voruvoru: out of reach, we have no communications. Fr Henry is in Honiara, Fr Tomas is there with another OP new priests from Tabarato.

Noro: Fr Anil is Ok and greets everyone, there are a good number (40 as of today) positive people being advised to isolate and have quarantine. Market is 3 times a week, curfew from 6 pm to 6 am. We wish happy journey back to India to Fr Visu for some rest and checkup. He was escorted to Munda by the police.

Vanga: Fr Te'e is holding on with a lot of work in his hands. Instructors are not there, students too, no classes. The lockdown stopped the students on the day they were supposed to come Fr Te'e tells us *"We restrict all our movements and keep monitoring the situation especially Gizo...we continue to talk about what we should do to avoid transmission of the virus"*

Let us keep in touch, call each other, pray for one another, experience communion, and participate in the mission the best way we can. Prayerful blessings from your bishop with a Solomon Heart made in Italy.

by luciano capelli, sdb

Inside this issue

Bishops message	page 1	Sea tragedy	page 5
Parish reflections timetable	page 2	Pictures of the sea tragedy	page 6
World day of the sick	page 3	Southern Deanery News	page 7
Youth Page	page 4	Northern Deanery	page 8 & 9
		Health Tips	page 10

Schedule Timetable for our Priest Reflection.

Reflections based on our Monthly Calendar 2022 its Events and Pastoral Programs.

Parish Priest	Message of the Event	Month
	Set up of timetable	January
St. Eugebius	Presentation of the Lord (Day of Consecrated life 2nd Wednesday)	February
Holy Rosary	Fathers Month (Ash Wednesday 2nd Wednesday)	March
Sacred Heart Parish Wagina	Easter Sunday (Christ is Risen ALLELUIA 17th Sunday)	April
St. Dominic Sirovanga	Marys Month (Ascension of our Lord 29th Sunday)	May
St. Joseph Moli	Vocation Month	June
Christ the King Parish	From Catholic SI Calenda 2022 We invite all our Catholic people to: Plan some action (cleanups, tree planting, etc.) for the protection and care of the environment and for the care of the poor in your community and parish. Undertake some activity in your community to promote law and order, such as defending the rights of innocent women and young people, and protecting them from any unjust treatment by courts or police.	July
St Donbosco Taro	Bible and Mother We invite all our Catholic people to study the Bible to understand and appreciate the values of the Ten Commandments, love of God the Creator, and our fellow human beings.	August

“Getting immunized is an act of Love and Care for the others whom we might infect”

A strong message from our bishop, Most Rev, Bishop Luciano Capelli sdb who urged everyone to follow these simple procedures:

1. EVERYONE IS REQUIRED TO RECEIVE IMMUNIZATION SHOTS
2. SINCE TODAY, NO BETEL NUT NOR SMOKING OR SPITTING WILL BE TOLERATED ANYWHERE WITHIN THE CHURCH COMPOUND
3. WASH OUR HANDS, COUGH IN THE ELBOW. PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING, EVERYWHERE IN THE CAMPUS
4. THE PRIESTS WILL SANITIZE THEIR HANDS AND WEAR MASK WHILE DISTRIBUTING COMMUNION

(This may also apply to other parishes)



The 30th World Day of the Sick has as its theme:

“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (Luke: 6:36)”

In his message for the World Day of the Sick, the Holy Father highlighted five points.

1. Merciful like the father

Being merciful like the Father makes us turn our gaze towards God who is rich in mercy.

2. Jesus, the mercy of the Father

The supreme witness of the Father’s merciful love for the sick is his only-begotten Son.

3. To touch the suffering flesh of Christ

Jesus’ invitation to be merciful like the Father has particular significance for healthcare workers.

4. Centres of care as “houses of mercy”

The World Day of the Sick is also a good occasion to focus our attention on centres of care.

5. Pastoral mercy: presence and proximity

In the past thirty years, pastoral health care has also seen its indispensable service increasingly recognized.

Thirty years ago, Saint John Paul II instituted the World Day of the Sick to encourage the people of God, Catholic health institutions and civil society to be increasingly attentive to the sick and to those who care for them.

Questions:

- 1. Are we doing our part as Christians to visit the sick in our communities?**
- 2. Are we committing the health workers in our prayers during this pandemic**



CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE – THE POPE AND THE YOUNG

The world needs prophets and true witnesses of hope in a time of uncertainty and trial, Pope Francis told Catholic young people.



In his message for World Youth Day 2021, which was celebrated at a diocesan level on November 21, the feast of Christ the King, the pope said the experiences wrought by the pandemic not only brought to light the problems plaguing the world, they also were an opportunity for many, especially young people, to help save lives and sow “the seeds of hope.”

“If our world is to arise, it needs your strength, your enthusiasm, your passion,” he said.

His message centered on a verse from the Acts of the Apostles: “Stand up. I appoint you as a witness of what you have seen.”

Pope Francis chose several verses that reflect on the call to “arise” and “stand up” as the themes for World Youth Day 2020–2022 in dioceses around the world, leading up to the international gathering in Lisbon, Portugal, in 2023.

The question asked by St. Paul — who was known as Saul at the time — to Jesus on the road to Damascus, “Who are you, Lord,” is not just a question, but a prayer that young men and women today must ask Christ, the pope said.

“Prayer means talking directly with Jesus, even

though our heart may still be confused and our mind full of doubts or even contempt for Christ and Christians,” the pope said. “I pray that every young person, in the depths of his or her heart, will eventually ask the question: ‘Who are you, Lord?’”

Christ’s response to Saul, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” was a profound response that revealed to the future apostle that he had already encountered Jesus in the Christians he persecuted, the pope said.

This revelation, he continued, is also a word for Christians today who proclaim, “Jesus, yes, the church, no!” as if one could be an alternative to the other.”

“One cannot know Jesus if one does not know the church. One cannot know Jesus apart from the brothers and sisters in his community. We cannot call ourselves fully Christian unless we experience faith’s ecclesial dimension,” the pope explained.

When blinded after his encounter with Christ, Saul’s “certainties and pride dissipate,” which serves as a reminder for Christians today to be humble and to be aware of one’s own limitations, he said. “Those who are convinced that they know everything about themselves, other persons and even religious truths, will find it hard to encounter Christ.”

He also warned that pride can also lead young people to lose themselves “in fighting meaningless and even violent battles” that may have begun as fights to uphold just causes, but “once carried to extremes, turn into destructive ideologies.”

“How many young people today inspired, perhaps driven, by political or religious convictions, end up becoming instruments of violence and destruction in the lives of many others!” the pope wrote. “Some, moving with ease in the digital world, use virtual reality and social networks as a new battlefield, unscrupulously employing the weapon of fake news to spread venom and to wipe out their adversaries.”

Pope Francis encouraged young people to learn from St. Paul, a once scrupulous follower of the law who, despite his past persecution of Christians, was entrusted by God with spreading his word.

“Today Christ speaks to you the same words that he spoke to Paul,” the pope said. “Arise! Do not remain downcast or caught up in yourself: a mission awaits you! You, too, can testify to what Jesus has begun to accomplish in your lives.”

Unforgettable Tragedy A Last Goodbye to 14 lives lost at sea



With the first sunrise of 2022, Paul's family set out in two loaded Ray-boats from Gizo to Shortland Islands for the ceremonial cementing funeral of their grandfather and grandmother late Kairoronga and Ruuta. On the journey, one of the boats, with 14 family members, mostly women & children, lost its way under bad weather and never made it to the shore. It was fortunate for the other boat to make it ashore at Moli Island. After some days of

searching by the police and family members with the discovery of two dead bodies floating, it became clear that all those onboard must have undergone the same tragedy.

11th of January 2022 the Diocese of Gizo arranged a funeral Mass and a farewell ceremony at the sea, which was followed by a simple gathering meal with the Sons, daughters, family, and relatives of Mr. Paul Wenteraoi.

Is this act of concern enough or shall we give more in aid for their new beginning? A way to give hope to the hopeless. Genuinely, the loss remains overwhelming and the pain this family has to endure for long is surely unimaginable. 2022 with the arrival of corona virus in our midst will be a very challenging year for the family because their hopes for a brighter and Happier New Year vanished with the 14 on January 1st as they waved their last goodbyes to their families, disappeared over the horizon. Together we can lessen the burden of our brothers and sisters.

Keep praying for the family as each one considers the funeral expenses, cultural obligations associated with the costs of laying to rest 14 lost souls. Please help this family to properly say goodbye to their loved ones. With dignity, with love, and support it is good to give an aid that can be a memorable thing, beautiful enough to release or ease the pain and hardship this family might endure.



On behalf of the DIOCESE OF GIZO, we take this opportunity, and thank you for any contribution you can make, no matter how small. Let's make it a time to help in ways that we can, to heal grieving hearts, no matter in what corner of our Earth they beat. Every gesture is appreciated. Please Contact the Bishop of the Diocese of Gizo if You wish to make Donations.

Catholic Church Gizo
Registered Trustees (Inc.)
PO BOX 22, Western Prov.
Solomon Islands
dogizo@solomon.com.sb +677 60265
lcapelli@catholicgizo.org +677 7494945

...eternal rest grant unto them oh lord



and may perpetual light shine upon them



...may they rest in peace...

GIZO PARISH – SOUTHERN DEANERY NEWS IN BITS

Climate Change could be worse than Tsunami

Climate change could be worse than the 2007 tsunami said concerned mothers from Nusabaruku.

There are high tides coming at the end of every year, which we taught is normal and safe at low land, but now high tides are unusual for us, said the mothers.

They said that some of them have heard of climate change others nothing, but now they have learned from others what is happening and witness themselves the raising sea level. More of them are now moving up still others are staying.

Since the high tides are coming and gone and started to disappeared, more of our men (husbands) has ignored the warning because they were busy diving at night and sleeping during the day; this could be one of the reasons the husbands are staying back and did nothing to prepare for the worst, while women are in fear and concern.

One of the women, said that after the 2007 tsunami we rehabilitated and live our life again in coastal areas, but in the future, high tides may vanish our areas permanently.

Months between November 2021 and January 2022 Gizo Island has experienced unusual high tides, which alarms many people residing in coastal areas.

In general, the tide height of about 1 to 2 meters must have also caused fear and confusion to other communities around the country.



MANEABA AT NUSABARUKA



A RESIDENT AT LOGA

2022 School Year Delayed due to COVID-19 Community Transmission.

Schools throughout our Diocese will not start potentially for a month or more, and any advice to beginning classes will only come from the Ministry of Health and the COVID-19 Oversight Committee.

Initially, the 2022 school year is to begin on 24th Monday, January, but the COVID-19 outbreak in Honiara, Western and other provinces has continued interrupted.

That the delay is because COVID-19 has so far affected communities in Honiara and other provinces.

The government hopes to have the students vaccinated in the weeks ahead to fight against the current community transmission.

Main while our diocese is urging everyone out there in the parishes to comply with our current Covid 19 protocols.

SIRO & MOLI PARISH – NORTHERN DEANERY NEWS IN BITS

A WEDDING DEMAND MORE BUSH MARRIAGE TO RECEIVE SM



As more Baptism and Confirmations have been recorded in our parishes, receiving the Sacrament of Matrimony is still a priority, an area demanding more to be given to the people as many have not yet receive their marriage Sacrament.

Douglass and Jina Tako have been blessed on their wedding day on the 22 of January this year 2022.

Fr. Simon Suvenava op from the St. Dominic parish Sirovanga has consecrated the couple with two baptisms; which has brought up their number. Others who gone through "bush marriage" were encouraged to come forward to receive the sacrament of matrimony.

It has been confirmed that the number of births in our parishes is raising and many couples were living together without receiving matrimony. For this our diocese is urging every *bush marriage* to receive Sacrament of Marriage.

Corona Virus Awareness Kicks off in the Moli Parish (Antholy Telovai)

Since our nation confirmed the community outbreak in Pelau and Honiara; Moli has prioritized Corona as the number one issue to look at.

First is their meeting to let the parishioner know the current situation that affects the nation, especially Choiseul province, their plan protocol and asked to abide by current rules, which demand the community to lessen gatherings like gambling and crowding.

Leaders asked everyone to comply with the rules, which are established, and asked everyone to cooperate.

MOLI AWARENESS ON CORONA VIRUS



Today is a very special day, the day of the presentation of the Lord and the day that we commemorate the Day of Consecrated Life. Thank you, Lord, for this day and for all the Grace that you grant unto us each day.

Thank you for the Gift of all Religious men and women over the world. May you continue to guide us in your ways.

And help us to serve you in everyone we meet every day.

HAPPY FEASTDAY TO ALL OF US



3 wise man from the west

Fr Henry Paroi



Sharing meal with Sariana community to celebrate NY

We have just celebrated the feast of the Epiphany when three Wise men from the east visited and offered gifts to our new born King. While being grateful and happy with this revelation of God himself to human beings, Christ the King Parish is also very happy for the three wise men, sent by Bishop Cappelli from Gizo. The visitors from the west came to install a solar power set that could run the priest's house and the station. Thank you very much Vincent, Tony and Milford for the wonderful job. This solar set will certainly change life at the parish, it will make life much better and bearable. It was a precious Christmas gift from Bishop Cappelli, and thanks to the Bishops. The constant problem with the small solar system is gone; and from of all, the great light has appeared in the presbytery and the station. Christ has enlightened the darkness of our inner lives, likewise this solar light has

enlightened the darkness of the station. This is really a good one, thumbs Up! As I write, and quite unfortunately, the three wise technicians are now stranded at Voruvoru. They arrived before Christmas with Fr. Henry, since then they are still there. But they are also lucky to have stayed on for they have seen and taken part at many Christmas and New activities in the parish. Moreover, they have been taken to the four zones that made up the parish where they have seen people and the way they celebrated Christmas and new year. They were able to visit other smaller communities as well. Surely observing and listening is a learning experience, a new discovery. I am sure this has been the case for the three. One thing that we all found difficult was we could not ring out or receive calls during the whole period of Christmas and New Year. I could see in the faces of the three wise men anxious to ring out, but nothing was happening. They could not call their parents and loved ones since the network system here is very unreliable. Everybody was sending messages for Christmas and new year while we at Voruvoru got stuck. But this is also a new experience for the three wise men, in rural villages like Voruvoru we do not always have access to many of these modern forms of communication, we always have problems with them even when they are there. On Christmas Eve, Fr. Thomas took the three to Katazi where they had Mass with the people over there and then left for Christmas morning Mass at Tutu. Fr. Henry went to Tutu for Christmas Eve and got back to Voruvoru for Christmas Day Mass while Sarina was lucky to have Fr. James Erea administering the sacraments and saying holy Masses there but has left for Honiara on 29th December.

Thanks to Fr. James for helping out and all other services you provided during your stay. For New year celebrations, Fr. Henry went to Sariana with the three wise men to join the community for the celebration. It was so good to have been with the people and to be part of the great feast prepared for the occasion. Staka pig ma! We are sure the three have enjoyed their time at Voruvoru and will look forward to what the year has for them. We wish them all the best and good luck in their endeavours. God Bless You!



Solar installation

They even had the time to chop fire wood for patere kitchen.

THE COVID 19 (THE OMICRON & DELTA VIRUS)

Also collection from ZOE health program USA

Continue from January issue

What are the symptoms of Omicron?

The top 5 symptoms in both periods were:

1. runny nose
2. headache
3. fatigue (mild or severe)
4. sneezing
5. sore throat

This analysis found no clear difference in the symptom profile of Delta and Omicron, with only 50% of people experiencing the classic three symptoms of fever, cough, or loss of sense of smell or taste.

Loss of smell and taste become much less common. It was in the top 10 symptoms earlier in 2021, and now it's ranking with only 1 in 5 people experiencing it.

While Omicron may feel more like a cold to many of us, it can still hospitalize and kill people or leave them suffering with long-term symptoms that disrupt their day-to-day lives.

Also, the fact that Omicron is much more infectious than Delta means it can spread quicker.

When cases are really high, large numbers of people will have to isolate at home for days, something that is

already having a significant impact on other countries.

Delta variant symptoms are the same. (Now in our Country)

Typically, vaccinated people are either asymptomatic (No signs of illness) or have very mild symptoms if they contract the delta variant. Their symptoms are more like those of a common cold, such as cough, fever or headache, with the addition of significant loss of smell.



To be continue next issue

THE DIOCESE OF GIZO UPCOMING EVENTS 2022

For the Month of March

We propose to reflect in 2022 on the communion and participation of clergy and laity in the mission of bringing the gospel to the world (Pastoral Letter of the Bishop PNG/ SI).

1. Youth Encounter St. Dominic Parish, Friday 14th.
2. Hey dad and Media training— Moli N/ Deanary Wednesday 9 to 12.
3. SCC LEADERS Training Christ the King Parish, 23 to 26th.