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Bishop Peter Houhou

IS THERE LIFE AFTER DEATH?

GRACE and PEACE of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Hope you enjoy the journey that you have taken with each other and above all with our beloved Mother Mary in praying the Holy Rosary during Oc-

tober 2025.

Before we dive into answering the above question of the mystery of the two (2) great realities, "LIFE" and "DEATH". As the spiritual father of the Diocese, I want to acknowledge all your valuable contributions in whatever form of service you render in serving and protecting life in Families, Communities, Parishes, Deaneries, Church Ministries, Schools, and the Diocese at large.

In the beginning, when God created the beautiful universe that we are living in now, the earth was formless and desolate. The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness, and the Spirit of the Lord was moving over the water. Genesis 1: 1- 2.

Each new day as from day 1 to 5, God created everything. God commanded, "Let the water be filled with many kinds of living things, and let the air be filled with birds. So God created the great sea monsters, all kinds of creatures that live in the water. And God was pleased with what he saw. He blessed them all and said to the creatures that live in the water to reproduce and to fill the sea, and he also said to the birds, Increase in number. Genesis: 1: 20 - 25

What a beautiful universe our God and creator has made. Who will take care of it? To take care of all that was created, on the sixth day God changed His commanding voice: "Let there be" to "Let us" create human beings in our own image and likeness. God took some soil from the ground in His loving and caring Hands and formed a human being; breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils, and the man began to live. Genesis 1: 26.

What is Life? Life is life. Life cannot die. Life lives on. Life has no end. Life is eternal. Above all, Life is a gift from God to every created creature and being that exists under the Heavens. The following scripture texts confirm that, yes, there is life after death:

SCRIPTURE TEXTS:

John 3 16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 6:

For the wages of sin are death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 6: 25-33

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Isn't life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air:

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BISHOP'S MESSAGE CONTINUE

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Bp's PM cont'

..... they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you, by being anxious, can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the fields, how they grow, they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.....

John 11: 25-26

Jesus said to Mary, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

John 5: 24

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Leviticus 24: 17-18

"Whoever takes a human life shall surely be put to death. Whoever takes an animal's life shall make it good, life for life.

John 12: 25

Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Hope the above Scripture Texts help you to answer the question: "Is there Life after Death?" At your own time, read them reflectively and prayerfully as you journey during the month of November 2025, praying for the souls in Purgatory.

After God has completed what he was doing from day one to five, God changes His commanding tone of voice, "let there be" into a gentle and relational voice; "let us create man in our own image and likeness". Genesis 1: 26 ff. "Then the Lord God took some soil from the ground and formed a man out of it; He breathed Life-giving breath into his nostrils and man began to live. Genesis 2: 8 – 9.

To conclude, beloved brothers and sisters in the Name of Jesus who died on the Cross and was buried in the Tomb, and on the third day he has Risen from the dead. The dead have no power over him.

Thank you for taking your time.

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

Servant Bishop Peter HOUHOU

NEW FOR THIS MONTH NOVEMBER

The Diaconate of Br. James Rapeka

Today, the Catholic Diocese of Gizo expressed gratitude to God for the gift of Brother James Rapeka from the Guadalcanal province, specifically from Tangarare parish, who has been ordained as a deacon.

His ordination ceremony was attended by the parishioners of St. Peter, Gizo, along with his parents and relatives, who dedicated him to the Catholic Diocese of Gizo.

Under the guidance of our Most Rev. Bishop Peter Houhou, Brother James was ordained as a Deacon, with the support of Vicar General Fr. Steven Te'e, Fr. Henry Paroi OP, Fr. Michael Iotepa, and Fr. Dominic Soloko.

Deacon James Rapeka has selected a theme for his diaconate: "DO NOT BE AFRAID, FOR I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS." (Jeremiah 1:8) – a message of hope and courage from our Lord, which reflects his faith in God's presence and guidance as he responds to the call to serve His people through ministry, the proclamation of the Word, and charitable acts.

This special occasion was also attended by fellow seminarian brothers.



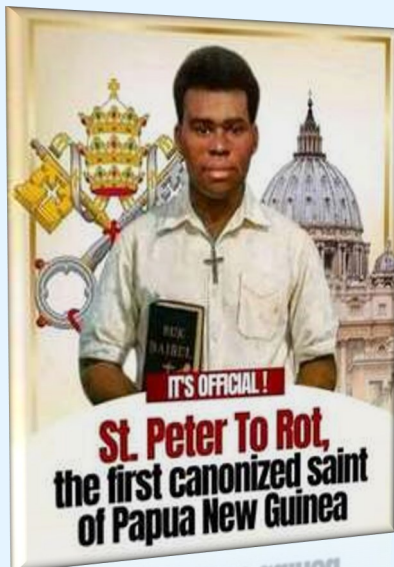
CANONIZATION — ST. PETER TO ROT



VATICAN
NEWS

Pope Leo XIV Canonises Peter To Rot of Papua New Guinea

Pope Leo XIV Canonises Peter To Rot: Papua New Guinea's First Native Saint



VATICAN CITY — Sunday, 19 October 2025 — In a landmark moment for the Church in Oceania and beyond, Peter To Rot (1912_1945) of Papua

New Guinea has been formally canonized by

Pope Leo XIV at a Mass in St. Peter's Square, becoming the first native saint of Papua New Guinea.

A life of faith, service, and witness
Born on 5 March 1912 in Rakunai village, East New Britain Island (then part of the Territory of New Guinea), Peter To Rot was a catechist, family man, and lay leader in his community. His parents were among the first local converts to Catholicism in the region.

During the Japanese occupation of Papua New Guinea in World War II, missionaries were imprisoned or expelled, but To Rot continued his evangelizing work secretly: preparing couples for marriage, teaching children, visiting the sick, and distributing Holy Communion to isolated communities.

A particularly courageous aspect of his ministry was his public opposition to the revival of polygamy during the occupation — a traditional practice that the Japanese authorities sought to sanction in an effort to gain favor locally. His defense of Christian marriage led to his arrest and, in July 1945, he died in prison, reportedly poisoned.
From beatification to sainthood

Peter To Rot was beatified on 17 January 1995 by Pope John Paul II. (vaticannews.va) On 31 March 2025, Pope Francis approved the decree for his canonization. (vaticannews.va) The formal date for canonization — 19 October 2025 — was set by Pope Leo XIV at his first Ordinary Public Consistory.

Significance for Papua New Guinea and beyond
Church leaders in Papua New Guinea mark the event as a milestone. Archbishop Rochus Tatamai of Rabaul described Peter To Rot's canonization as "a blessing for the whole country... reminding us that society itself depends on the strength of families".

The path of this humble layman — husband, father of three, catechist — underscores a key message of the Church: holiness is attainable in ordinary life, not only in religious or clerical states. As Fr Tomas Ravaioli, vice-postulator for the cause, explained: "He shows young people that holiness is possible in family, in school and daily struggles."
The canonization event

At the ceremony in St. Peter's Square, Pope Leo XIV pronounced the act of canonization, inscribing Peter To Rot's name in the Book of Saints. The celebration drew pilgrims from Papua New Guinea, the wider Pacific region, and the global Church, many of whom followed via livestream.

Looking ahead: legacy and devotion

For Papua New Guinea, the canonization inaugurates a new chapter in the country's national Christian heritage. The faithful are preparing local celebrations in East New Britain, including the celebration on December 11-14.

His defense of marriage and fidelity, his catechetical zeal in adverse conditions, and his martyrdom reinforce the universal call to sanctity in every state of life. As one commentator put it:

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Pope Leo XIV Canonizes Peter To Rot: Papua New Guinea's First Native Saint.

"He is the kind of saint the Church today."

About Saint Peter To Rot

Born: 5 March 1912, Rakunai, East New Britain, Papua New Guinea

Died: July 1945, East New Britain (in detention)

Beatified: 17 January 1995 (Pope John Paul II)

Canonized: 19 October 2025 (Pope Leo XIV)

Designation: First native saint of Papua New Guinea

Patron themes: Catechists, married lay persons, defence of Christian marriage, people of Papua New Guinea

This moment not only honours a remarkable man of faith but also invites Catholics worldwide — and especially in the Pacific — to recognise the universal nature of the Church's mission: that sanctity is possible in every culture, every station of life, and amid the most challenging circumstances.

Relay (Catholic Bishops Conference PNGSI)

4-day Retreat, Fr. Lawrence Isa Chapel, Aleang.



We extend our gratitude to God for the gift of Br. James Rapeka, who is preparing for his diaconate next month, said Fr. Ben Qelo, specifically on November 9, at St. Peter's Compound in Gizo.

His delightful four-day retreat at Sulukiai, conducted at Fr. Lawrence Isa Chapel in Aleang Village, was described by Fr. Ben Qello as a welcoming atmosphere imbued with peace, which fostered a more profound connection with God.

Fr. Qelo expressed his gratitude to God for the grace that was bestowed upon them (Fr. Ben and Br. James) during the retreat.

All Souls & All Saints Day (1st and 2nd November)



All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day are significant days in the Christian calendar, particularly in the Catholic tradition

Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Feast Day - 21 November



(Friday 21st November)

CHRIST THE KING (Sunday 23rd November)



NEW EDUCATION ACT 2023



The new Education Act 2023 of the Solomon Islands was initially presented to educators at the Nila mission station in Nila parish during priest meeting that took place in the first week of October.

It was introduced by our newly appointed Diocesan Education Sec-

retary, Mr. Willy Abito, who had the honor of engaging the teachers from seven distinct Catholic schools: senior and junior secondary, Primary, PPY, Kindergarten, Technical, and vocational.

His initial strategy involved personally visiting each school to meet with its teachers and principal, with the goal of presenting the Education Act 2023.

Additionally, he introduced the Administration Instructions (AI), which comprise a set of standards and procedures (Manuals) for key entities within the education system. This encompasses Provincial Education Coordination, Education Providers, School Boards, Schools, Early Childhood Education Centres, as well as Teachers and Leaders.

Moreover, there are two other manuals: the Education Funding Code and the Education Learning Framework & along with the SE Certificate Scheme.

During his visits to these schools, he examined the relationships among teachers, students, and board members.

He also had the opportunity to gather all the teachers, along with their principal, from the seven schools at Nila and Tuha for a briefing session, where he addressed questions and provided answers.

The new Diocesan Education Secretary was also privileged to deliver a brief report to the priests and the bishop regarding the Education Act 2023 during their priest meeting.

The Education Act 2023 is designed to oversee and regulate early childhood, primary, and secondary education, which includes provisions for the registration of teachers, education providers, schools, and early childhood education centers. It also entails the repeal of the existing Education Act (CAP.69) and addresses issues related to these objectives.

The Act 2023 is regarded as a historic milestone for the Solomon Islands, signifying a substantial reform in the education sector. It seeks to establish a strong and adaptable framework that can meet both current and future educational demands.

The legislation took effect on January 1, 2024, and it was emphasized that this Act aims to empower upcoming leaders and enhance access to quality education for every child in the Solomon Islands.



More on next issue

CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN GRADUATION

150 Students from Catholic School, Diocese of Gizo, Graduates.



Approximately 150 students from our Catholic Schools graduated last month, in October.

These graduates primarily came from Primary, Secondary Forms 3 and 5, as well as the Technical programs at Nila and Moli Catholic Secondary School.

The total number of graduates may reach up to 300, considering that Vanga and the St. Peter Training Centers still have students who are set to graduate.

It was an occasion filled with emotion, as students experienced a blend of pride and anxiety regarding their future while reflecting on their journey, which was marked by both challenges and achievements.

Overall, the day held significant meaning, creating a profoundly emotional experience for both parents and students.

The speeches delivered were inspiring and served to motivate the graduates as they transitioned to the next phase of their lives, celebrating their accomplishments and encouraging them to seize future opportunities.

A VISIT TO BUALA, CATHOLIC COMMUNITY, ISABEL

Fr. Dominic Soloko's visit to the Isabel Catholic community from October 22 to 28 was characterized as a catalyst, sparking enthusiasm among the residents of Buala.

"It is your faith that will keep the flame burning" – Fr. Dominic Soloko



SOUTHERN DEANERY NEWS (A VISIT)

Men's Group from Gizo Visits Correctional Center.



The men's group from St. Peter Parish in Gizo had the opportunity to visit the inmates at the Gizo correctional center on Sunday, October 12.

This visit was filled with excitement as the group engaged in singing, prayer, and reflection on the shared Gospel reading.

Their purpose is to foster transformation and hope, assisting the inmates in cultivating a positive perspective, uncovering their true identity, and acknowledging their inherent value.

SPUTC Hospitality Students, a Field Trip to Imagination Island Resort.



Students from St. Peter Urban Training Center are on a field trip to a locally owned island resort situated near Gizo Township on Tuesday, October 21st.

This visit was a significant opportunity for their educational journey, as noted by their teacher, Sr. Salome Faloamae, who accompanied them.

Students from St. Peter Urban Training Center are on a field trip to a locally owned island

She expressed her gratitude to the management and staff of the Imagination Island Resort for their warm welcome to the stunning island.

The trip served as a crucial educational resource, providing students with practical experiences, exposure to diverse environments, and opportunities for real-world learning that extended beyond the classroom.

The Peters Cathedral, Gizo, celebrates the Feast of Gratitude with Salesian Sisters.



The parishioners of St. Peter Cathedral, Gizo, were filled with joy as they joined the Salesian Sisters in demonstrating their

love and gratitude towards God on Sunday, 26 October.

Particularly noteworthy was the presence of Sr. Louise Mkeogh, the Provincial Salesian Sister of the Pacific region, who celebrated her feast of gratitude alongside the parishioners. Accompanying her were the Salesian Sisters from Gizo and others from Honiara.

"We express our gratitude to those who have dedicated their lives entirely to serving the poor and the numerous youth, adhering to the charism of their founders, St. John Bosco and Mary Mazzarello." This was a highlighted message during the introduction of the Eucharistic Mass celebration, which was presided over by the parish priest, Fr. Henry Paroi OP.

Additionally, the Thanksgiving Mass was also for the commemoration of the canonization of St. Maria Troncati (A Salesian Sister) and St. Peter Torot, who were declared saints this month, October.

NILA PARISH IN FEAST DAY

Nila Feast Day Celebration, Call all Parishioners to Cooperate.



C. John Messiah

The Holy Rosary Parish on Shortland Island has successfully commemorated its feast day on the 7th of October, coinciding with the month dedicated to the Rosary in the Church Liturgical Calendar.

This splendid celebration served as a call to action for every individual to assume responsibility for the growth of their parish.

Fr. Henry Paroi, OP, a native of the island, fervently advocates for vocations to the priesthood within the parish during his speech.

He noted that they are marking the 126th anniversary of the parish's establishment, but he also urged the parishioners to reflect on their faith.

He recognized Fr. Stanis, the previous parish priest, for implementing initiatives that enhanced the parish's development, and the church buildings constructed by the parishioners as manifestations of their faith. Nevertheless, he voiced his concerns regarding the tendency of individuals to overlook church activities that pertain to their faith, emphasizing that faith and virtuous conduct must be integrated into action.

He then reminded the parishioners of the slogan emphasized in our diocese, "Dynamic Fidelity," stating that we are vibrant in our faith through the actions we undertake. However, he expressed concern regarding many individuals who have neglected their duties as responsible parishioners.

Fr. Henry emphasized the importance of reflecting on the 126 years of history, as those missionaries have accompanied the parish on its journey. He urged everyone to contemplate and support the vocation to the priesthood as we accompany our first local bishop and promote localization within the diocese.

He calls upon all parents to encourage the vocation to the priesthood, recognizing that they may have a divine calling. He urged every community to foster vocations to the priesthood, asserting that

the promotion of vocations is a collective responsibility.

Once more, he expressed gratitude to God for the presence of other priests who have served the parish for decades.

As he himself ages, he requested everyone to support the newly installed young parish priest, who hails from the Shortland Islands also.

At the conclusion, the chief's representative, John Messiah, called on the parishioners to remember their ancestors who embraced the Gospel, even when they were considered heathens.

He emphasized that while we are raised in the Christian faith by our parents, there is no justification for intolerance; instead, we must foster a spirit of cooperation with our priests, the parish council, and one another.

He encouraged all to embrace Bishop Peter Houhou's message in favor of the newly appointed parish priest, Fr. Michael Iotepa, and subsequently reminded everyone of the challenges that lie ahead, urging everybody to concentrate on the ideal—our collective destiny.

The chief representative reminded each parishioner that for the last 30 years, the parish has had one native parish priest, Fr. Henry Paroi OP, and expressed gratitude to every Religious order for their service to the parish. He also conveyed sincere appreciation for the newly elected parish priest, Fr. Michael Iotepa, who hails from that parish.

Once again, Chief John expressed his gratitude to Fr. Stanis L, a Burmese missionary who dedicated many years to the parish and contributed to its growth through infrastructure projects. Furthermore, he called upon every parishioner to support Bishop Peter Houhou and Fr. Michael as we embrace localization in our diocese.



Fr. Henry Paroi OP

NORTHERN DEANERY NEWS (MOLI & NILA)

Moli Host Feast day of St. Faustina.



The St. Joseph parish, Moli, successfully organized the feast day of St. Faustina

na Kowalska from October 3rd to 6th at the parish mission station.

The event saw a significant turnout from the Divine Mercy group representing St. John Bosco Taro, St. Joseph Moli, and DM from Toumoa, Holy Rosary parish Nila.

This beautiful celebration aimed to honor the occasion and unite groups from various parishes, allowing everyone to come together in prayer, confession, attend Adoration, and listen to spiritual talks delivered by Fr. Willie and Fr. Jacob.

On May 18, 2020, Pope Francis mandated the inclusion of Saint Faustina Kowalska, Virgin, in the General Roman Calendar. Each year, St. Faustina is commemorated as an Optional.

Additionally, in St. Dominic parish held a blessed assembly to commemorate the occasion at Barakakasa village. They observed the feast day with a spiritual discourse delivered by Sr. Leonie Meqo OP and the parish priest, Fr. Ben Rivichibatu OP.

Men's Group Mission for Men's Group.

The St. Joseph men's group from Nila parish has convened, intending to establish a men's group within the parish.

Their primary aim is to engage with communities as part of a mission to create groups that promote spiritual development, accountability, and mutual support among men.



These groups are designed to: provide a framework for integrating faith into various facets of life, including family and parish

participation, grounded in faith and mutual support, allowing men to express their feelings and opinions, and to cultivate their identities as Catholic men.

The group may play a crucial role in revitalizing men's faith and encouraging their active participation in the Catholic Church.

Moli Parish, Gift with \$38,000 Plus.



St. Joseph Moli Parish received a generous total of over \$38,000, collected during

their harvest fundraising festival held on October 18th.

Anthony, a media volunteer from the parish, said that it was a expressed profound gratitude toward all those who made significant contributions, including clans, families, and individuals who genuinely want to support the parish's fundraising initiatives.

This program aims to motivate these groups to find their own ways of raising funds while they await the actual date to make their donations.

At the festival, donations were made, sales of both uncooked and prepared food items took place, and interactive games were organized to involve parishioners in the celebrations.

The parish priest, along with the chairperson, Paul Telovae, conveyed their heartfelt thanks to everyone for their enthusiastic participation during the event.



KIDNEY INFECTION (PYELONEPHRITIS)*continue from last issue*<https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/kidney-infection#what-is>**..... Can kidney infections be prevented?**

You can reduce your risk of getting a kidney infection by drinking plenty of water and by seeing your doctor if you think you have a urinary tract infection.

Why is water important for good health?

Water is an essential part of a healthy balanced diet. Over half of the human body is made up of water. We need water to:

- digest food and to absorb nutrients
- move our bodies well
- get rid of waste products
- keep our body at the right temperature
- Drinking water also keeps your teeth and mouth healthy.

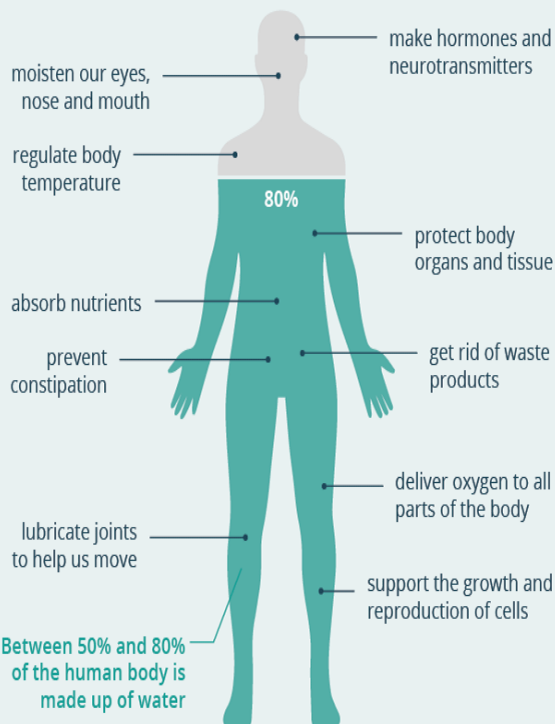
Fluoride. This helps to protect against tooth decay. Water is also needed for the body to make saliva. You need saliva to wash food away from your teeth. Saliva also helps you:

- chew
- taste
- Swallow

If you tend to get urinary tract infections after having sex, it's possible that passing urine as soon as possible after sex can reduce your chance of an infection, but the evidence is unclear.

Read more about how to prevent a urinary tract infection.

Drinking plenty of water every day is important for good health. Our body relies on it for many of its functions. Water helps to:



We get about one fifth of the water we need from food and the rest from drinking fluids.

Men need about 10 cups* of fluids every day, women need about 8 cups and kids need 4-8 cups depending on their sex and age.

It's a good idea to choose water over other drinks that contain added sugars or alcohol.

*To be continue next issue***▪ UPCOMMING SOLEMNITY FOR DECEMBER 2025 ▪****CHRISTMAS**

“The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.”