

New English and Pidgin version of the Mass still unexplained

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THE new revised English version of the Mass was supposed to be introduced on 27 November 2011, first Sunday of Advent, but after almost one year only few dioceses and parishes in PNG have done so.

Lay people are moving from place to place experiencing old and new responses in the Mass. There should be uniformity; and the reasons behind the changes should be explained.

Why is it that now we need to have an English translation closer to the original Latin version? PNG is a nation of differences and that includes religion. It is undoubtable that, despite Christianity, we still have a deep relationship with traditional religion and spirituality. How can we explain the

new changes considering the PNG outlook?

In the Profession of Faith (Creed) we now say, "God from God, Light from light, true God from true God, not made, consubstantial with the Father... The term 'consubstantial' needs to be thoroughly explained; or better maintain the previous translation, "One in Being" with the Father.

The Pidgin revised version, also to be introduced soon, will need explanation as well. Take, for example, a frequently used dialogue during the Mass as it appears in the new English revised version:

Priest: **The Lord be with you**
Assembly: **And with your spirit.**

In Pidgin it may go like this:

Priest: **Lord i stap wantaim yupela**
Assembly: **Na wantaim**

spirit blong yu.

The meaning of the word 'spirit' for a Melanesian would be a kind of celestial or immaterial being, almost a ghost, which is detached from the earthly reality.

The human person, however, consists of both body and spirit.

There is a need for a philosophical as well as religious explanation to it.

How can we have a liturgical celebration in tune with the local culture and at the same time respectful of the original Latin text? There seems to be no direction and no explanation yet from our Bishops' Conference regarding the new English and Pidgin version of the Mass.

And there is no indication on when all parishes must start with it, thus ensuring a nationwide common policy and practice.

The trouble with PNG politics? money!

By Fr Franco Zocca SVD
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WHY 3425 candidates for 111 seats in Parliament in the 2012 PNG elections? I think the main reason is the money which comes with the position. The "original sin" of current PNG politics, however, is the confusion between the legislative with the executive, the erosion of the principle of separation of powers (Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary), which developed in the last fifteen years or so. Legislators are now executors, Governors are also members of Parliament and Members of Parliament detain executive power in their respective districts.

The consequences are various and mostly negative. By making the position of Member of Parliament so attractive and desirable, the system is causing increasing competition among candidates. This is multiplied by the competition among their supporters, who might recur to all means in order to get their candidates win. And in case of failure to win, fights might erupt among disgruntled supporters.

Furthermore, the amount of money spent by the winning candidates, which often is loaned money, is likely to make them eager to recuperate it as soon as possible also by corrupt means. As far as the losing candidates are concerned, the competition could bring them financial bankruptcy, since they tend to invest in the campaign huge amounts of private and loaned money. Financial bankruptcy may also affect those who financially supported the losing candidates.

Another consequence is the in-

creasing number of petitions to the Court of Disputed Returns. After having invested so much, nobody is willing to withdraw without a fight. Hence the increasing number of cases to the Court of disputed returns with additional waste of money in litigations. After the 1997 elections there were 88 cases brought to the Court of Disputed Returns. For the 2012 elections more than 100 have been presented, which challenge the election of 80 members out of 111. Linked to the increasing number of court litigations is the possibility of elected members being dismissed and having to recur to by-elections, with further waste of money and the absence, sometimes for a long time, of district representatives in Parliament.

But the most serious consequence in my opinion is the discrimination in the distribution of services and resources. The winner, in fact, will tend to benefit those who voted for him and to punish those who voted for other rival candidates. Belden Namah made it clear in the speech he gave after winning the Vanimo-Green River Open: "Let me say today that I will only represent the people of Bewani, Wutung and Oney who voted for me. Without you I would not be elected for the second time. People from Green River, Amanab and Imonda will suffer for five years". (The National, 24 July 2012)



Diocese of Daru-Kiunga General Assembly.

Diocese of Daru-Kiunga - One Vision, One people

By Fr. Yohanes
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87 participants from 13 parishes and all diocesan services attended the Daru-Kiunga Diocesan Assembly on 3-9 September 2012 at Peter ToRot Centre, Kiunga. Some special guests also took part in it: Fr. Roger Purcell MSC, the National Director of Community Animation Service (Mt. Hagen), Bishop Otto Separy of Aitape as Deputy Bishop for the National Pastoral Plan, and Fr. Victor Roche SVD, General Secretary

of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. The aim was to evaluate the first stage of the diocesan pastoral plan and approve the second phase of it.

In his keynote address Bishop Gilles Cote' SMM welcomed all the participants and special guests saying that "we are gathered on behalf of all the people of the diocese to listen, reflect, pray, share and decide the way forward for all".

"Even though the diocese of Daru-Kiunga is so vast, we came together to share ideas

and take decisions in order to achieve the goal of one people and one vision", said Rose Kehani, from the Callan Services, referring to the motto of the diocese.

At the Assembly all the diocesan services presented their plans and programs for the years 2013-2016. "This is great a achievement for the Catholic Church in Western Province; we are now guided by a clear vision and mission to move forward inspired by the Word of God in our daily lives", Fr. Alois Bangur SMM said. He has been working in the diocese for 10

years now.

In the past few years, the diocese of Daru-Kiunga has established Small Christian Communities all around the Western province. People come together to discuss their life situation in a difficult and confusing time of transition to the modern world.

The diocesan assembly closed with the launching of a Diocesan Pastoral Plan for the four years ahead during the Eucharistic celebration on Sunday, 9 September 2012 with lively and active participation by all present.

Nauru and Manus a recipe for disaster

THE Gillard Government has created a recipe for disaster, warns Father Jim Carty as between 40 to 50

male asylum seekers landed in Nauru in mid September, the first arrivals under the Gillard Government's version of

off-shore processing, reports the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney newsletter.

Father Carty, Coordinator of Marist Asylum Seekers and Refugee Services, says putting men who are already traumatised into crowded non-air conditioned tents on Nauru where they will sleep on a palliase, or straw-filled mattress, on a duckboard floor enduring oppressive heat, tropical storms combined with the island's remote isolated location makes for a toxic cocktail.

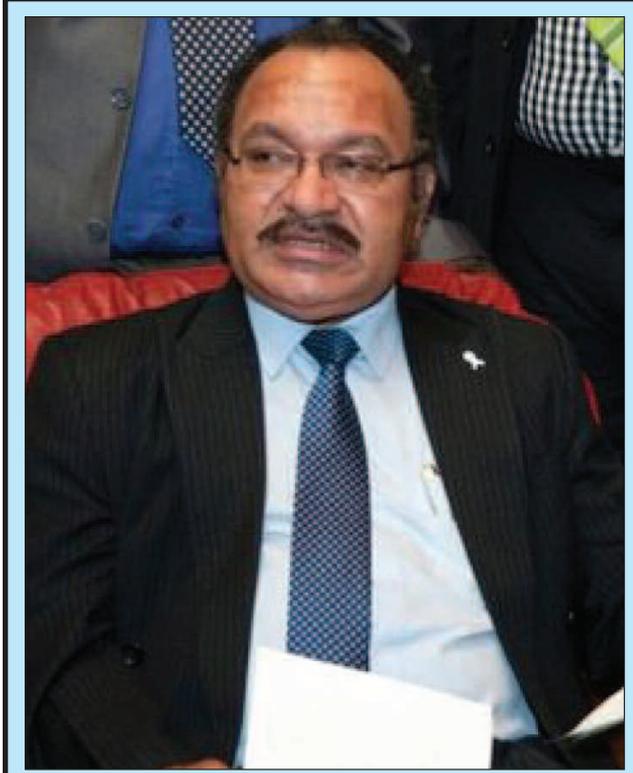
Although the initial group that arrived in Nauru today numbers less than 50, within a few months more than 1500 asylum seekers will be detained on Nauru with a further 600 detained on the re-opened detention facilities on Manus Island.

While women including those who are pregnant along with their

children and unaccompanied minors are expected to be housed in another part of Nauru until permanent accommodation can be built, for at least six months male detainees sent to the Island will be housed in army-issue tents.

Fr Carty describes tents as "incubators for disease" and predicts outbreaks of fungal infections and tropical diseases for those forced to live in tents with no air conditioning and subject to constant heat, humidity and muddy wet floors from the rains.

"The Government may think it is solving a problem by putting asylum seekers out of sight on a remote island, but it is also creating a multitude of other human-related issues as well as breaking United Nations Conventions on Refugees and the Rights of the Child. (Cathnews.com - 16 Sept. 2012)



PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has vowed to crack down on corruption.