

FIRST REPORT - Monday, April 02, 2007 12:38 PM:

I received a call from Bishop Bernard O'Grady OP asking me to call him back as soon as I could. His call reached me a few moments after I had heard someone mention a tsunami in the Shortlands. I immediately tried to call Bishop Bernard but the line was over loaded and it took about fifteen minutes. I eventually got through. I was not speaking to Bishop Bernard but to someone close to him. Bishop is safe, the Cathedral has been badly damaged and the lower floor of Bishops House has been flooded. As I type this email the local radio, Solomon Islands Broadcast Corporation is speaking about the situation in Gizo. All the low lying areas of Gizo are under water, everyone is being asked to move to higher land. The township is very badly hit. At Everyone on the island of Loga where the Dominican Sisters and the Friars have their formation programmes, have moved to higher ground. All their buildings it seems are endangered by the seas. The earthquake continues intermittently. The situation is serious. In Gizo there are two confirmed deaths. One is young girl and the other is an old woman.

I have no information of what is happening at Vanga Point. Here in Honiara there is a state of real concern as we wait for the waves to hit Honiara. Ships in Honiara have been told to move out from the port. Here the situation is one of fear.

Back to the Western Solomons, from other parts of the Western Solomons, there has been loss of homes, but reports are scattered. The continuous report coming from Gizo is one of panic. All low lying land is restricted area. The hospital has been evacuated. The water situation in Gizo is very serious. Most of the water tanks have crashed to the ground; this is going to be a major problem. The scene is of general panic in Gizo. That's all I can give for the moment.

Please pray for the people of Gizo and from all here in Solomon Islands so that our situation does not worsen.

In Christ,
+ Adrian