Dear Members of Diocesan Family,

**Letter in support of the Archbishop’s November Appeal – Newton College, PNG**

Here in North Queensland our neighbouring Dioceses are the Northern Territory, Rockhampton – and Port Moresby. Most of the Diocese is closer to PNG than it is to Brisbane and indeed the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea started life as a Diocese of the Province of Queensland. So we have a special relationship with our closest neighbours in Papua New Guinea and it is good to continue our long standing links with them.

Theological training for those seeking ordination in PNG is centred on Newton College which is located near Popondetta in Oro Province. I visited Newton College in 2009 when I was a lecturer at their sister college in the Solomon Islands. Newton College has a beautiful chapel, donated by the Anglican Church in Japan as a means of expressing sorrow for the losses caused by invasion in the Second World War: reminders of the war and its cost are to be found throughout this part of PNG where many bitter battles were fought in 1942 and 1943. The Chapel though serves as a reminder of a call as Christians to reconciliation and peace and is a truly beautiful building.

The students are keen and dedicated and most live with their families on site. The rhythm of college life flows around the Chapel and the lecture rooms and their houses. However they struggle with a significant lack of resources. Things we take for granted in an Australian college (like fast internet, a well-stocked library, and electricity 24 hours a day) are largely not available in PNG. Students have to tend to food gardens, help fundraise for the college, and contend with an interesting security situation in addition to completing their studies. But they do study and upon graduation of their studies they go on to minister as Deacons and Priests in one of the most challenging environments in the Anglican Communion.

Accordingly I commend this appeal to you. Please give generously and support our neighbours in Papua New Guinea; with your help and the grace of God they can do mighty things in the name of our Lord Jesus.

May God bless you all.

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+Keith, North Queensland

The Right Reverend Dr Keith Joseph
Bishop of North Queensland