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PAPUA NEW GUINEA – Port Moresby – 08.09.2024 – 08.45

Holy Mass

Sir John Guise Stadium

**Words of thanksgiving at the end of the Eucharistic celebration
by His Eminence Cardinal John Ribat, M.S.C.,
Metropolitan Archbishop of Port Moresby**

Original text

Your Holiness,

Missionary work in Papua New Guinea started with the arrival of the first missionaries from the Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Matupit Island, now in the Archdiocese of Rabaul, on 29 September 1882. Three years later, members of the same Congregation arrived on Yule Island, now in the Diocese of Bereina, on 1 July 1885. Subsequently, missionaries arrived from the Society of Divine Word, the Society of Mary, the Franciscans (Ordo Fratres Minorum, Ordo Fratres Minorum Capuchins), the Company of Mary, the Missionaries of Mariannahill, and the Passionists. These Congregations were later joined by others, and together they spread the Catholic faith, also providing healthcare and education. As a result, the Church has developed and grown in Papua New Guinea for 142 years now.

This development has not taken place without difficulties. There have been some very difficult and hard times, involving violence, murder, destruction of property and natural disasters resulting in the loss of life. We are always praying for peace, renewal, healing and blessings.

Your Journey to our beloved country Papua New Guinea is timely. It brings us blessings, peace and encouragement and deepens our faith. We are very grateful for the Eucharistic celebration that we just celebrated with you. It unites us with the Church of Rome. Thank you sincerely for a wonderful and enriching visit. May our good Lord continue to bless you abundantly, especially with good health, as you continue to carry out your ministry.
