



Vox Populi - the Voice of the People

12 October 2022

Since the founding of the Catholic Church, Australia has only been visited by three Popes: Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

Pope Paul VI made a four-day visit to the country in December 1970 and Pope Benedict visited for eight days as part of World Youth Day in July 2008. But Pope John Paul II, now Saint John Paul II, holds the rare distinction of being the only Pope to have visited the country twice.

He came for a week-long visit in November 1986, visiting the major cities and then going to the heart of the country, with a stopover in Alice Springs. In 1995, he made a second visit, spending three days in Sydney for the beatification of Saint Mary MacKillop.

The iconic images of Saint John Paul II holding a koala and visiting Alice Springs have left an indelible on the faithful in Australia. In beatifying Mary MacKillop, he played an important role in promoting the cause of Australia's first saint.

Now a saint himself, Saint John Paul II is venerated by many Australians. He is one of just a handful of known saints to have been to Australia and one of the few people living today would have living memories of.

Through the late 20th century he was fierce defender of the church's teaching against an increasing tide of secular influence, and helped to end Communist rule in both his native Poland and the rest of Europe.

He was a witness to the power of forgiveness and compassion, and placed a special emphasis on the universal call to holiness.

This year, when we honour Saint John Paul II on his feast day, we will also have the opportunity to share in a unique connection with the famed Pope, with Gosford parish set to install a relic of the great saint and open a shrine dedicated him.

The shrine and relic will offer inspiration to the people of the Diocese of Broken Bay, the Greater Sydney area, and all of Australia. It will offer a location of pilgrimage to many faithful and provide a form of devotion not common in the Australian context.

Most Reverend Anthony Randazzo DD JCL, Bishop of Broken Bay, will celebrate the installation Mass and has said those who visit the shrine on the Feast Day of Saint John Paul II, October 22, have the ability to receive a partial indulgence.

All parishioners and faithful from across our Diocese are invited to attend the opening of the shrine and installation of the relic, to share in the joy of this unique and special occasion.

INSTALLATION OF RELIC OF SAINT POPE JOHN PAUL II

On October 22, Bishop Anthony will be installing a relic of Saint Pope John Paul II at St. Patrick's Church, East Gosford. At this Mass, St. Patrick's will be established as a Shrine, with a blessing of the associated Pastoral Centre. The Shrine aims to invoke new inspiration for evangelisation, offering pilgrims a form of devotion that is not common in the Australian context. Those who attend the Mass are eligible to receive a partial indulgence, and the Shrine will be open during the day for prayer and veneration. A celebration with refreshments will follow.

All are warmly welcome to join in this wonderful event. Please register your attendance at JPPI.Centre@bbcatholic.org.au, including your full name and the number of people attending with you. Large groups (especially bus groups - e.g., from parishes and schools) are asked to make contact early to ensure arrangements can be made.

Date: Saturday 22 October 2022

Time: 11:00 am

Venue: St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 76 York Street, East Gosford

More information is available at: www.bbcatholic.org.au/gosford/JPPI