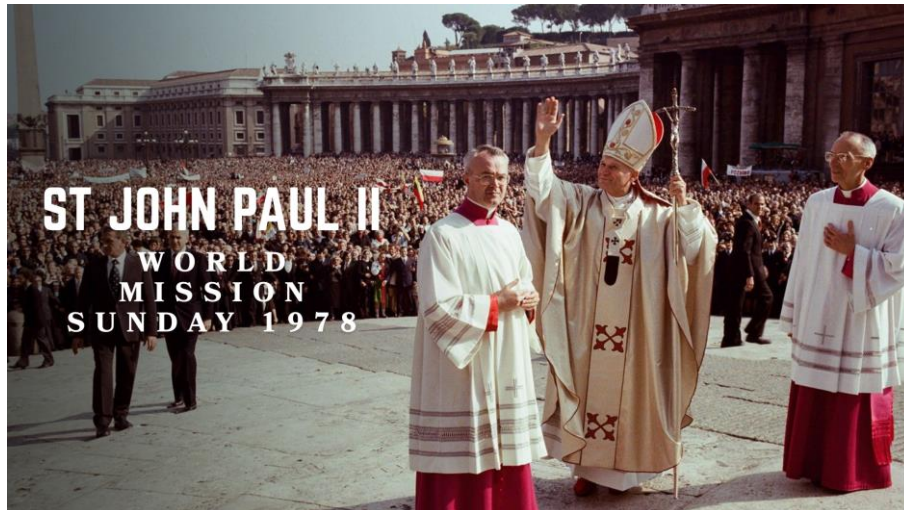




Vox Populi

15 October 2025

Saint John Paul II is a particularly cherished saint for many.

For many Catholics through the late 20th century, he was a constant part of their lives. Countless people across the globe would see him on television or hear his speeches, and some were even lucky enough to see him in person.

Born Karol Wojtyła in Poland in 1920 and living through the Nazi occupation of Poland during his early adulthood, he ascended to become Pope, serving as the Pontiff for almost three decades.

As Pope, he visited Australia twice, once in 1986 and once in 1995, for the beatification of Saint Mary MacKillop. For many people in Australia, he is the only saint they would have ever seen in the flesh.

His feast day on October 22 represents a special day of devotion for many people, venerating a saint they knew and lived alongside.

Unlike most saints, who are venerated on their death date, Saint John Paul II is venerated on the date of his inauguration as Pope: October 22.

His inauguration in 1978 coincided with World Mission Sunday, which we celebrate this weekend.

Saint John Paul II recognised World Mission Sunday as a critical day for the Church, which allowed it to renew its commitment to missionary work throughout the world.

It's fitting that the man who emphasised the universal call to holiness and travelled more widely than any Pope before him would be inaugurated on a day dedicated to renewing the Church's commitment to bringing the Gospel to every corner of the globe.