



Vox Populi

16 October 2024

The Synod on Synodality has been in full swing for two weeks now, with the participants focusing on a range of issues, all centred around creating a more Synodal Church.

Bishop Anthony Randazzo and Kelly Paget have been kept busy with full daily schedules and little time for a break during the day.

A particular focus for both of them is to highlight the unique issues faced by the Oceanian and Australian Churches. For many people across Australia and across Oceania, they live on the periphery of society. Isolation is a very real challenge for many people in the region. In the Pacific, communities are separated by thousands of miles of ocean, while in Australia, people can live several hours away from the nearest major town.

Part of the Synod of Synodality, is to encourage all the People of God to greater participation in the Mission of the Church, no matter where they are in the world.

In his recent trip to Oceania, Pope Francis sought to remind people that no matter how far away they seemed, the Church was always willing to come and find them, and that their voices mattered. Saint John Paul II was particularly prolific in reminding people the Church was truly global, visiting 129 countries during his pontificate.

On Tuesday, the Church will celebrate the Memorial of Saint John Paul II. A Relic of Saint John Paul II was installed on 22 October 2022 and the Parish of Gosford will celebrate the second anniversary of its installation this week.

Bishop Anthony Randazzo announced the Shrine of Saint John Paul II at Gosford would be a Shrine of Hope for families, and a place of pilgrimage, worship, prayer, and hope for God's people in Broken Bay during the Jubilee Year.

As the Synod continues and as we celebrate the Memorial of Saint John Paul II, we should be encouraged to consider how we can participate more actively in the life and mission of the Church, especially as the Jubilee Year approaches.