

Catholic Bishops of Oceania will meet in PNG in 2002

The decision was made at last week's meeting of the Executive of the Federation of Catholic Bishops' Conferences of Oceania held in Papua New Guinea. Bishops Peter Connors and John Gerry are the ACBC elected representatives on the FCBCO Executive.

The theme of discussions will be based on the Holy Father's recent Apostolic Letter "Novo Millennio Inuente" which was released earlier this year. Details of speakers and topics are yet to be finalised.

The Bishops from Oceania gather together following the Second Vatican Council in which recommendations were made for neighbouring Bishops' Conferences to meet at least every four years for pastoral interaction, collaboration and discussion. The Bishops last met during the Synod of Oceania held in Rome in 1998 and prior to that in New Zealand in 1994.

The region of Oceania encompasses the following Bishops' Conferences: Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference (ACBC); Episcopal Conference of the Pacific (CEPAC); Catholic Bishops' Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands; and the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Conference (NZCBC). The General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference of PNG, Mr Lawrence Stephens, has been charged with the task of organising the meeting in collaboration with other General Secretaries in the region.

On Friday, 31st May the Bishops will visit the Shrine of Blessed Peter To Rot.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Mr Lawrence Stephens via email at cbc@dg.com.pg

For media interviews please contact Bishop Peter Connors on 03 5337 7121