

POPE JOHN PAUL II's VISIT TO SOUTHERN AFRICA

In 1982, the bishops issued an invitation to Pope John Paul II to visit South Africa. No date was finalised for the visit.

In the meantime arrangements were made for the Holy Father to visit Southern Africa for two specific events, namely, the closing of a meeting in Zimbabwe of all the bishops of nine Southern African countries and the beatification, in Lesotho, of Father Gerard.

Several countries were chosen to be included for brief visits. It was not practical to include the dioceses of South Africa.

The bishops share the desire of a great number of people for the Holy Father to visit South Africa and appreciate the disappointment of many that he will not be coming on this occasion. The bishops hope and pray that the time will not be far off when the Holy Father will be in our midst.