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Catholic bishops finish Suva meeting and issue statement

The Catholic bishops of the South Pacific's Oceania region have finished a week-long assembly in Fiji by issuing a concluding statement saying it has been a great joy for the Bishops to gather this week to pray for and consider their shared mission as the Chief Shepherds of the region.

The Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania (FCBCO) brings together members of the bishops conferences of Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea/Solomon Islands and many other islands of the south-west Pacific.

The FCBCO meets every four years. This week's assembly has been held in Suva, with the previous assembly in Port Moresby in 2018.

The Suva assembly focussed on three themes: Care for the oceans; Becoming a more synodal Church; and Formation for mission.

“Our assembly has provided the opportunity for us to pray together, to build fraternal relationships, learn from one another and consider common pastoral challenges,” the bishops said in their statement. “The delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic meant we cherished this chance to gather in particular.”

The next FCBCO assembly will be in Australia in 2027.