



# **PARISH SOCIAL PROFILE**

**Based on the 2016 Australian Census**

**Merriwa Parish**  
**Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle**

**Census ID: 061061**



Date of report:	May 2020
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# AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

## Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research

May 2020

Dear readers,

*The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is pleased to make available to you this profile of the Catholic population of your parish.*

*I hope that you will find it to be a valuable tool for your parish's pastoral planning by helping you understand the local Catholic community and assess its needs. Parish pastoral councils in particular will find it a useful resource.*

*The data in this profile have been sourced from the Australian Census, which is carried out every five years by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Most of the data comes from the 2016 Census, but some comparisons are provided with 2011 and earlier years.*

*It is important to remember that most of the data in this profile applies to all those people living within the boundaries of your parish who identified themselves as Catholic in the Census. Census data inform us about a population's demographic characteristics, but not about their religious practice.*

*This social profile, produced for every Catholic parish in Australia, is an outcome of the National Catholic Census Project established by the Bishops Conference at the time of the 1991 Census. This project is managed by the ACBC National Centre for Pastoral Research. The Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research is most grateful to the Centre's staff for the work that they do in providing demographic resources for parishes and dioceses, including this social profile.*

*This profile is provided to you free of charge by the Bishops Conference as part of its commitment to the support of parish life. I trust that you find it informative, useful and thought-provoking.*

Yours sincerely,

(Professor) Gabrielle McMullen AM

Chair, Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research

# Your Parish Social Profile

## At a Glance (pages 2 and 3)

Provides a brief glance at some key demographic indicators for your parish.

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## Parish Overview (pages 4-7)

Provides a clear overview of the Catholic community of your parish and how it is changing – a useful tool for parishes in their pastoral planning.

### Overview Tables

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## Parish Details (pages 9-25)

Provides much more detail about the Catholics of your parish, allowing for deeper analysis of the nature of the Catholic community as you plan in particular areas of ministry.

### Detailed Topics

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# Your parish community in 2016

**Pastoral planning** is the process of a Catholic community organising itself to carry out the mission of the Church in its own locality. It is a process built upon a parish's knowledge in three areas:

- Knowing its vision—its aspiration for itself.
- Knowing what sort of people make up the Catholic community and the general community.
- Knowing the resources (strengths, gifts and circumstances) available to the diocese to realise the vision.

This Parish Social Profile has been developed as a resource for pastoral planning, and it focuses on the second two of these three areas of knowledge.

The Church strongly encourages pastoral planning. As Pope John Paul II said:

*"I earnestly exhort the Pastors of the particular Churches, with the help of all sectors of God's People, confidently to plan the stages of the journey ahead, harmonising the choices of each diocesan community with those of neighbouring Churches and of the universal Church ... It is not a matter of inventing a 'new program'. The program already exists: it is the plan found in the Gospel and in the living Tradition."*

Novo Millennio Ineunte #29

By giving a clear picture of the parish's demographic reality, this profile helps the parish leaders name its strengths and shortcomings and better understand how it might use the resources it has to pursue the mission of the Church.

## A SNAPSHOT OF YOUR PARISH (2016)

Total Population: 2,293

Catholic Population: 673

Catholics make up 29.4 per cent of the total population

Median age of Catholics is 43 years

Total Catholic families: 239

72 Catholics live alone

38 Catholics were born overseas

0 Catholics do not speak English well

40 Catholics need assistance with core activities

194 Catholics have changed address since 2011





# What has changed in your parish since 2011?

This chart will help you identify at a glance changes in some of the key indicators for Catholics in the parish between 2011 and 2016, and may alert you to possible trends that are occurring. The 2011 and 2016 figures are drawn from the Parish Overview tables on pages 4-7. All figures in this table refer to Catholics only. The term 'Catholic' in this report refers to all persons who identified themselves as Catholics in the Census, not only those who have some form of active association with the Church.

	Parish in 2011	Parish in 2016
Catholic population	694	<b>673</b>
Catholics aged 0-14 (%)	19.4	<b>19.3</b>
Catholics aged 65+ (%)	16.2	<b>18.5</b>
Catholics born in NESC <sup>1</sup> (%)	3.0	<b>4.5</b>
Catholics not proficient in English (%)	0.4	-
Catholic families	272	<b>239</b>
Catholics living alone	64	<b>72</b>
Catholic students attending Catholic schools <sup>2</sup> (%)	39.8	<b>40.5</b>
Catholics with university degree (%)	7.8	<b>9.4</b>
Catholic males in labour force (%)	62.9	<b>69.1</b>
Catholic females in labour force (%)	46.4	<b>59.1</b>
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling (%)	69.3	<b>67.8</b>

**Notes:**

1. NESC = Non-English-Speaking Country as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
2. The percentage of all students who are Catholic attending Catholic schools.

**Note on comparability with 2011 figures:**

The boundaries of some parishes changed between 2011 and 2016. These boundary changes mean that, in these parishes, figures for 2011 and 2016 may not be comparable.

Where parishes have been amalgamated between 2011 and 2016, the 2016 figures in this profile refer to the overall figures for the parishes involved.



# Parish Overview

**Table 1: Population** (for more details on Population and Religion see page 9).

The Parish Profile begins by looking at the total population living within the parish boundaries, and the percentage who identified as Catholic. The rest of the figures in this overview refer only to these Catholics, except where otherwise indicated.

*How has the make-up of the parish population changed over the last five years? Of the changes identified here, which do you think have been particularly significant for the life of the parish?*

**Table 1: Population<sup>1</sup>**

	Parish 2016	Parish 2011	Diocese 2016	Australia 2016	Diocesan Group <sup>2</sup>	Australian Group <sup>2</sup>
Total population <sup>3</sup>	<b>2,293</b>	2,146	706,930	23,401,892	5	5
Catholic population	<b>673</b>	694	154,475	5,291,834	5	5
Per cent Catholic	<b>29.4</b>	32.3	21.9	22.6	1	1
At same address since previous Census (%)	<b>62.9</b>	54.2	56.5	57.3	1	2
Median age <sup>4</sup> (years)	<b>43</b>	38	41	40	3	2
Aged 0-14 (%)	<b>19.3</b>	19.4	19.5	19.8	3	3
Aged 65+ (%)	<b>18.5</b>	16.2	18.4	16.6	3	2
Males per 100 females	<b>108.0</b>	109.3	90.8	90.6	1	1

**Table 2: Disability** (for more details on Disability and Carers see page 12).

Table 2 shows the percentage of Catholics who are disabled to the extent that they require assistance for some core activities (i.e. they need help or assistance with self-care, communication or mobility). It also shows the percentage of Catholics who provide unpaid assistance to a person with some form of disability.

*In what particular ways does the parish support disabled persons and their carers?*

**Table 2: Disability**

	Parish 2016	Parish 2011	Diocese 2016	Australia 2016	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Need assistance with core activities (%)	<b>5.9</b>	5.1	6.6	5.8	4	3
Provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability <sup>5</sup> (% of Catholics aged 15+)	<b>11.5</b>	13.4	13.6	12.5	5	4

**Notes:**

1. All figures in this report refer to Catholics only, except for Total Population and certain other clearly indicated figures.
2. A Diocesan (or Australian) Group value of 1 signifies that the parish is in the 20% of parishes with the highest value for this item in the diocese (or in Australia); a value of 5 signifies that the parish is in the 20% of parishes with the lowest value for this item in the diocese (or in Australia).
3. The population figures for the parish, diocese and Australia do not include overseas visitors.
4. Median Age: Half the Catholic population are above this age, half are below it. A Diocesan (or Australian) Group value of 1 signifies that the parish is in the 20% of parishes with the highest median age.
5. The Census asked whether a person had provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability in the two weeks prior to the Census.





# Parish Overview

**Table 3: Employment** (for more details on Occupation and Employment see pages 23-25).

The extent to which people are involved in the labour force, and the type of work they are doing, influences and shapes many aspects of the community's life.

*How might the changes in the employment status of Catholics over the last five years have affected your parish?*

Table 3: Employment	Parish 2016	Parish 2011	Diocese 2016	Australia 2016	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Managers and Professionals <sup>1</sup> (% of those recording an occupation)	26.8	28.7	28.8	34.1	3	4
Workers in 'blue collar' occupations <sup>2</sup> (% of those recording an occupation)	45.5	43.0	34.8	29.6	1	1
Men, employed or seeking work <sup>3</sup> (%)	69.1	62.9	64.4	69.7	2	3
Women, employed or seeking work <sup>3</sup> (%)	59.1	46.4	56.9	60.6	3	3
Unemployed at time of Census <sup>4</sup> (%)	4.4	5.0	6.6	5.8	5	4
Youth unemployed at time of Census <sup>5</sup> (%)	10.6	7.5	13.4	12.2	4	4

**Table 4: Birthplace and Language** (for more details on Birthplace and Language see pages 17-19).

This table begins to explore the ethnic balance of the parish's Catholic community, which in itself may raise issues of communication and inclusiveness.

*How does the cultural mix of the parish compare to that of the rest of the diocese and of Australia as a whole?*

Table 4: Birthplace, Indigenous Status & Language	Parish 2016	Parish 2011	Diocese 2016	Australia 2016	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Born overseas in English-speaking country <sup>6</sup>	1.2	1.3	3.3	5.6	5	5
Born overseas in non-English-speaking country (%)	4.5	3.0	6.7	19.1	4	5
Immigrants from non-English-speaking countries arriving in Census year or previous 3 years	8	-	917	106,428	5	5
Catholics of Australian Indigenous origin	57	54	7,244	133,528	4	3
Speak language other than English at home (%)	3.0	2.0	5.3	20.4	4	5
Not proficient in English <sup>7</sup> (%)	-	0.4	0.5	2.6	-	-

**Notes:**

1. This group includes, for example, farmers and farm managers, sales, marketing and production managers, education and health service managers, retail managers, school principals and school teachers, medical practitioners, nurses, scientists, arts and media professionals, accountants, engineers and IT professionals.
2. This group includes, for example, toolmakers, technicians, electricians, carpenters, plumbers, bakers and chefs, veterinary nurses, hairdressers, machinery operators, drivers, cleaners and labourers.
3. The percentage of Catholics aged 15+ who are in the labour force (i.e. employed or seeking employment).
4. The percentage of Catholics aged 15+ who are in the labour force and were unemployed at the time of the Census.
5. The percentage of Catholics aged 15-24 who are in the labour force and were unemployed at the time of the Census.
6. New Zealand, United Kingdom, Ireland, United States, Canada and South Africa.
7. Percentage of all Catholics who reported that they spoke English not well, or not at all.



# Parish Overview

**Table 5: Education** (for more details on Education and Qualifications see pages 20-22).

Knowing the proportions of students in your parish and the type of educational institution they are attending can be important even if your parish does not have its own school, for these figures are relevant to the exercise of planning deeper connections with young people and their families. It is also important to be aware of the educational retention rates of your young Catholic adults (aged 15-24).

*Has anything changed in these areas over the last five years?*

*Why do you think this is so?*

*How does your parish compare to the rest of the diocese?*

**Table 5: Education<sup>1</sup>**

	Parish 2016	Parish 2011	Diocese 2016	Australia 2016	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Catholics aged 15+ with bachelor degree or higher qualification (%)	9.4	7.8	14.2	20.6	4	5
Aged 15-17 attending an educational institution <sup>2</sup>	85.0	81.3	89.4	92.2	4	5
Aged 18-19 attending an educational institution <sup>2</sup>	21.1	46.7	54.6	62.9	5	5
Aged 20-24 attending an educational institution <sup>2</sup>	24.2	36.1	33.5	38.2	3	4
Catholic primary students attending Catholic schools (%)	55.9	67.3	47.0	53.1	2	3
Catholic primary students attending Government schools (%)	33.8	32.7	47.3	41.0	5	4
Catholic secondary students attending Catholic schools (%)	18.8	11.8	45.7	54.5	5	5
Catholic secondary students attending Government schools (%)	64.6	88.2	45.9	35.1	1	1
Primary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic <sup>3</sup> (%)	44.1	38.6	30.2	28.1	1	1
Secondary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic <sup>3</sup> (%)	43.8	66.7	34.2	35.7	2	2

**Notes:**

1. The data in this table relates to the students who live in your parish and not necessarily to the schools in your parish. Students may be attending schools outside your parish.
2. Percentage of all Catholics in each age group.
3. 'Students ... who are not Catholic' includes a small proportion whose religion was not stated in the Census. Some of these may be Catholic.



# Parish Overview

## Tables 6, 7 and 8: Marital status, Families and Households (for more details see pages 13-16).

In 2016, 82 per cent of Australia's Catholics lived in a family setting, with a further nine per cent living alone. The most common type of Catholic family was a couple family with children (45 per cent of all families where at least one person was a Catholic), followed by couple families without children (35%) and one-parent families (parent Catholic, 12%).

*What areas below show significant change over the last five years? What might this mean?*

*In what areas is the parish quite distinctive compared to the rest of the diocese? The rest of Australia?*

*What possible opportunities or concerns for the parish do you see here?*

**Table 6: Marital Status of Catholics aged 15+**

	Parish 2016	Parish 2011	Diocese 2016	Australia 2016	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Never married (%)	32.3	33.0	32.6	33.3	3	3
Married (%)	50.3	50.5	48.0	49.7	3	3
Divorced or Separated (%)	13.3	12.5	13.0	11.2	3	1
Widowed (%)	4.1	4.0	6.4	5.8	5	5

**Table 7: Families<sup>1</sup>**  
*in which at least one person is Catholic*

	Parish 2016	Parish 2011	Diocese 2016	Australia 2016	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Families	239	272	63,408	1,997,833	5	5
One-parent families	28	24	7,832	231,370	5	5
One-parent families (% of all families)	11.7	8.8	12.4	11.6	3	2
Couples of mixed religions <sup>2</sup> (%)	52.8	61.8	66.3	55.9	5	4
De facto couples <sup>3</sup> (%)	20.5	17.5	18.3	17.1	2	2
Median annual family income <sup>4</sup> (\$)	72,791	55,532	89,531	100,270	5	5

**Table 8: Households<sup>5</sup>**  
*in which at least one person is Catholic*

	Parish 2016	Parish 2011	Diocese 2016	Australia 2016	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Households	351	339	81,063	2,548,354	5	5
Persons living alone (aged under 35)	6	9	1,458	53,499	5	5
Persons living alone (aged 35+)	66	55	13,358	407,684	5	5
Persons living alone (total)	72	64	14,816	461,183	5	5
Persons living alone (% of all persons)	10.7	9.2	9.6	8.7	2	2
Dwellings owned or being purchased (%)	67.8	69.3	72.2	71.2	5	4
Median monthly housing loan repayment <sup>6</sup> (\$)	1,269	1,280	1,802	1,873	5	5

### Notes:

1. A family is defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering, and who are usually resident in the same household. Family members who live elsewhere are not included in the Census definition.
2. Married or de facto couples where only one partner is Catholic as a percentage of all couples where at least one partner is Catholic.
3. De facto couples as a percentage of all married couples.
4. Fifty per cent of families have a higher income, fifty per cent a lower income. Family income is the sum of the incomes of all family members aged 15 and over.
5. A household can consist of one or more families, non-family groups or persons living alone.
6. Fifty per cent of households with a housing loan pay a higher repayment, fifty per cent a lower figure.



# Parish Details

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# Religious affiliation

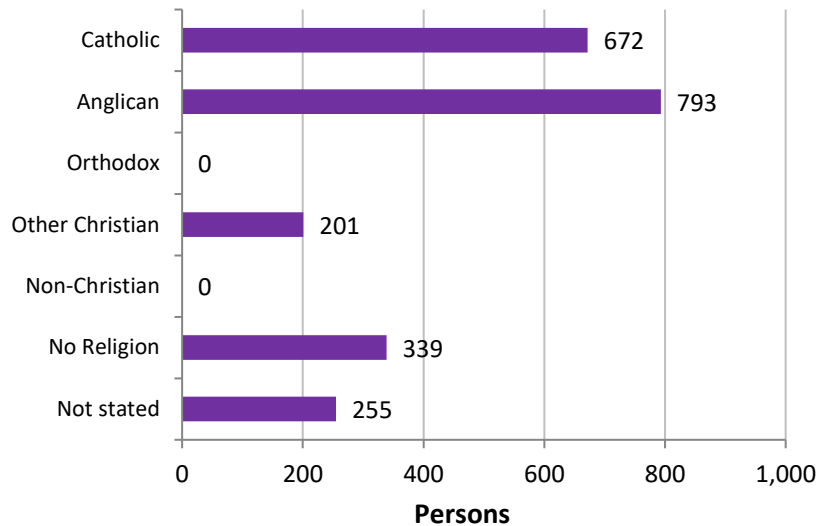
The Census question about religion is optional, and just under ten per cent of people across Australia chose not to answer it. Note that the question is about religious identification rather than religious practice or belief. For the 2016 Census, the ABS moved the 'No Religion' response category to be the first response category in the religion question. Prior to 2016, it was the last response category.

*How does the number of Catholics in the 0-9 age group compare with the number of children baptised in the parish in the period 2007-2016?*

*What are the largest non-Catholic religious groups? What involvement does the parish have in ecumenical and interfaith activities and programs?*

*What challenges to the parish are associated with the increase in the number of people who report that they have no religion?*

**Religious Affiliation  
(All persons)**



Notes: No Religion also includes Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation

Not Stated also includes Inadequately Described.

**Table 9: Religious affiliation by age**

	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	Total
Western (Latin Rite) Catholic	80	86	63	75	96	109	81	53	25	668
Maronite Catholic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Melkite Catholic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ukrainian Catholic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chaldean Catholic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syro-Malabar Catholic	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
<b>Total Catholic</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>672</b>
<b>Per cent Catholic (of total population in age group)</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>33.2</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>29.7</b>
Anglican	107	90	68	77	100	92	112	86	61	793
Orthodox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Christian	30	20	3	21	22	34	35	18	18	201
Non-Christian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No Religion	72	56	43	32	38	42	34	18	4	339
Not Stated	39	33	22	21	38	31	32	22	17	255
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>2,260</b>

Note: Since the 1996 Census, following consultation with the Eastern Catholic Bishops, Eastern Catholics have been counted separately from Western (or Latin Rite) Catholics. Catholics belonging to the Chaldean, Maronite, Melkite, Syro-Malabar or Ukrainian Catholic Churches have been requested by their Bishops NOT to tick the box marked 'Catholic' on the Census form, but rather to write, for example, 'Maronite Catholic' in the space provided. Those Eastern Catholics who were unaware of this request and who ticked the 'Catholic' box are counted as Western Catholics.





# Age and sex

**Table 10:  
Age by sex**

	Males 2016	Females 2016	Total 2016	Total 2011
<b>Age (years)</b>				
0	4	-	4	6
1	-	8	8	9
2	4	3	7	8
3	7	4	11	12
4	6	6	12	15
5	-	7	7	9
6	6	5	11	13
7	5	5	10	11
8	4	3	7	4
9	-	9	9	12
10	4	7	11	5
11	-	4	4	13
12	3	10	13	6
13	7	3	10	8
14	7	-	7	4
15	4	5	9	15
16	6	3	9	9
17	4	-	4	24
18	3	-	3	7
19	5	3	8	8
20-24	13	13	26	36
25-29	13	20	33	43
30-34	14	21	35	38
35-39	25	19	44	42
40-44	24	20	44	48
45-49	19	27	46	37
50-54	29	24	53	44
55-59	31	26	57	43
60-64	22	13	35	55
65-69	28	19	47	43
70-74	21	14	35	24
75-79	13	12	25	20
80+	9	13	22	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>697</b>

**NOTE REGARDING THE RANDOMISATION OF CENSUS DATA:**

The Catholic population of the parish may be slightly different in different tables in this profile as a result of the randomization procedure used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in carrying out its statutory obligation to protect the confidentiality of individuals. This variation in figures does not impair the value of Census data as the Census is intended to be an instrument that paints a broad picture rather than a precise measurement of a particular locality. Care should always be taken in interpreting small counts in tables.

The table on this page shows the number of Catholics in this parish in 2016, by age and sex, and compares the total number of Catholics in each age group with the figure in 2011.

In 1996, the median age of Catholics in Australia was 33 years; by 2016, this had risen to 40 years.

The age profile of parishioners is important information for parishes to take into account as it plans its activities. It is also important to keep an eye on how the age profile is changing over time—is the parish becoming older, younger or staying about the same? Each of these possibilities may require different pastoral responses.

In 2016, among Australian Catholics as a whole, 52 per cent were female and 48 per cent were male. But it is not always like this. Among Catholics aged under 20, males outnumbered females, whereas females accounted for 58 per cent of Catholics aged 75 or more. There are also local factors, such as the presence of particular industries or the different rates of movement to the cities by young men and women, that can affect the proportion of men and women in the Catholic population of the parish. These variations also raise pastoral issues.

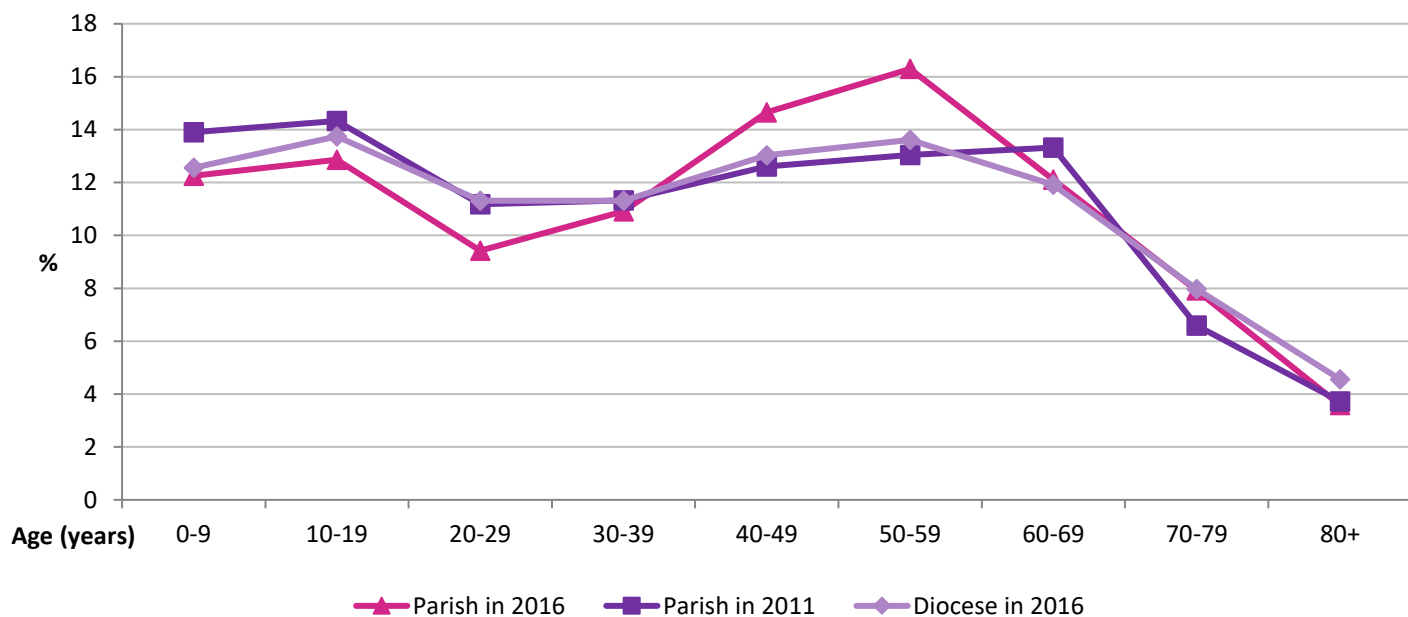
*Take time to study the table. Are there any surprises in it? Is there anything that calls for a new or modified response from the parish? What are the major changes since 2011? Can you get a sense from the table of what the parish age profile might look like in 2021, the year of the next Census?*



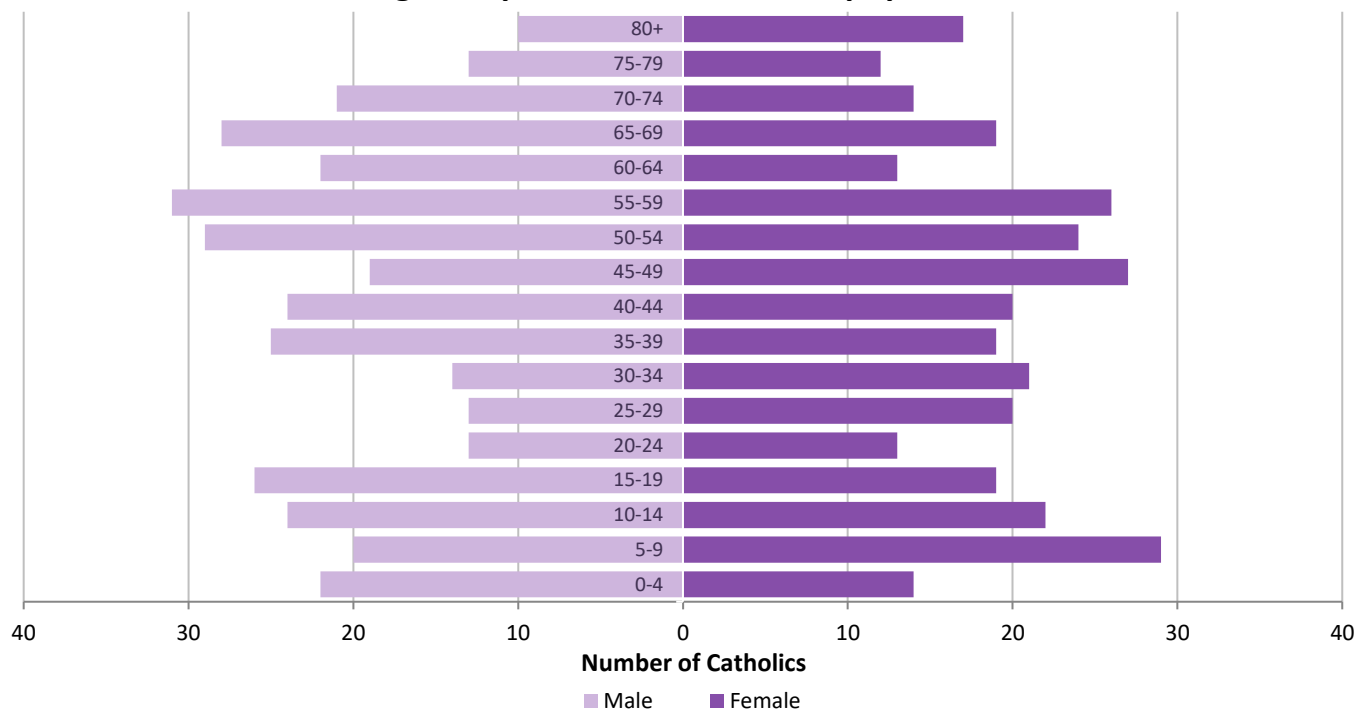


# Age and sex

**Age profile of the Catholic population, 2011 & 2016**



**Age-sex profile of the Catholic population, 2016**



# Disability

The 2006 Census was the first to include the variable Core Activity Need for Assistance. The variable was developed to measure the number of people with a profound or severe disability. ABS defines the profound or severe disability population as: “those people needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication, because of a long-term health condition (lasting six months or more), a disability (lasting six months or more), or old age”.<sup>1</sup> Most people who need assistance with core activities live either in a family or in a place such as a nursing home, where the care they need is provided. But many live alone. Often people with a disability have fewer opportunities for social interaction.<sup>2</sup>

*How many Catholics in your parish require assistance with core activities? How many of these live alone? How many are in the younger age groups? How many of your parishioners provide unpaid assistance to people with a disability?*

*How might the parish respond pastorally to this information?*

**Table 11a: Need for assistance with core activities by age**

0-14	15-44	45-64	65-74	75-84	85 and over	Total
------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------------	-------

**Catholics who have need for assistance with core activities**

**Family members:**

Males	-	-	8	6	-	-	14
Females	-	4	3	6	-	-	13

**Lone Persons:**

Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Other non-family members or persons not present in a household on Census night <sup>3</sup>**

Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Total**

Males	-	-	8	6	-	-	14
Females	-	4	3	6	-	-	13

**Table 11b: Provision of unpaid assistance by age**

15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Total
-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------------	-------

**Catholics who provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability <sup>4</sup>**

Males	-	-	6	7	7	3	23
Females	6	3	3	6	8	9	35

**Notes:**

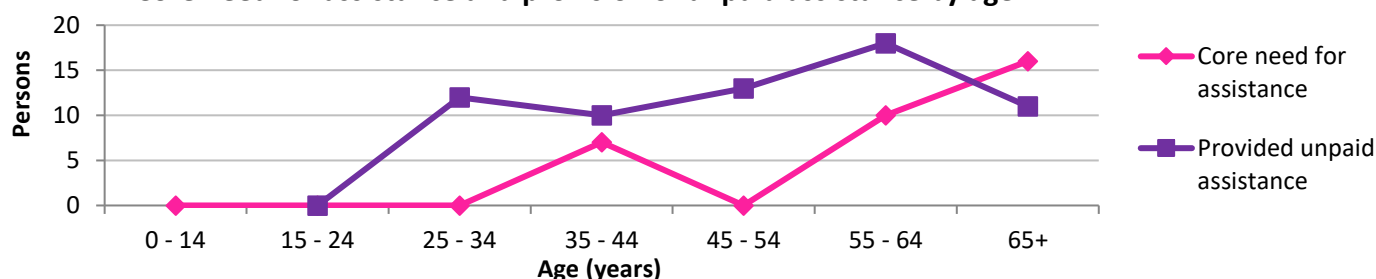
1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016. *Census Dictionary Australia 2016*. Catalogue No. 2901.0.

2. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2004. *Australian Social Trends 2004*. Catalogue No. 4102.0.

3. Among people aged 75 and over, being in hospital or a nursing home is a major reason for not being in a household on Census night.

4. The Census question asked whether the respondent had provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability in the two weeks prior to the Census. The question is not applicable to persons aged 0-14.

**Core need for assistance and provision of unpaid assistance by age**



# Marital Status

The marital status patterns of Australian Catholics have changed quite dramatically over the last two decades. At the time of the 1991 Census, 31.4 per cent of Australian Catholics aged 15 and over had never been married, 55.4 per cent were married, 7.4 per cent were separated or divorced and 5.8 per cent were widowed. By the 2016 Census, these figures were respectively 33.3 per cent, 49.7 per cent, 11.2 per cent and 5.8 per cent. Since 1991, there has been a substantial fall in the percentage of married Catholics and a rise in the percentage of the never married and separated and divorced.

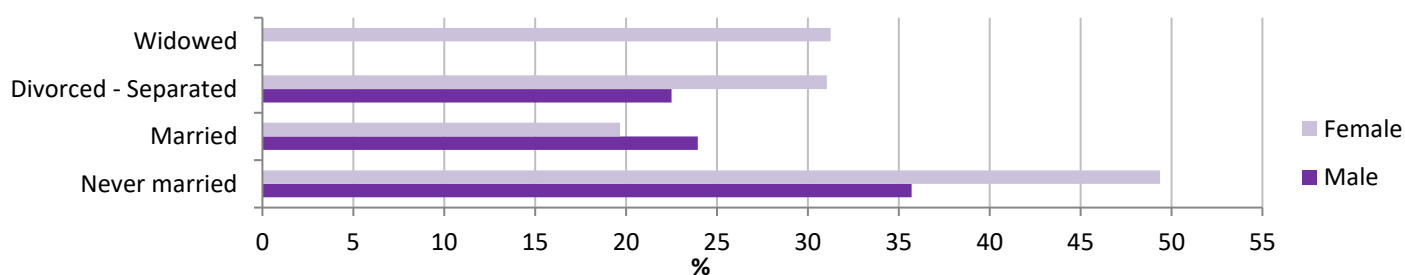
*How might changes in marital status patterns affect the life of the Church in this parish? Do they result in the need for new pastoral services and programs?*

The graph shows the percentage of Catholic men and women aged 15 years and older who lived in the parish at the time of the 2016 Census and who had changed address in the previous five years. Across Australia in 2016, 36.6 per cent of Catholics aged 15 and over had changed address since the previous Census.

**Table 12: Registered marital status by sex and age**

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	Total
<b>Catholics aged 15 and over</b>								
<b>Males</b>								
Never married	38	13	16	15	7	3	-	92
Married	-	12	23	24	32	23	16	130
Separated/Divorced	-	-	-	8	20	10	-	38
Widowed	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>264</b>
<b>Females</b>								
Never married	33	16	19	3	7	3	-	81
Married	-	20	21	35	27	16	16	135
Separated/Divorced	-	4	3	13	11	6	-	37
Widowed	-	-	-	-	3	7	11	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>274</b>

**Change of address since 2011 by marital status**  
(Catholics aged 15+)



**Table 13: Religious affiliation of couple by social marital status**

	In a registered marriage	In a de facto marriage	Total couples	% couples in de facto marriages
Both persons Catholic	67	20	87	23.0
One person Catholic, the other non-Catholic Christian	92	17	109	15.6
One Catholic, the other not Christian or Not stated	15	8	23	34.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>20.5</b>



# Families

The table on this page shows family composition by weekly family income, with the median weekly family income for each type of family shown in the last column. Couple families are divided into three categories: both partners Catholic, Catholics with non-Catholic Christian partners, and Catholics with partners identifying with other religious traditions or none. The table includes partners in registered and de facto marriages.

Couples without children include those who have never had children as well as those whose children no longer live at home.

*Take time to study the table. Does it suggest that Catholic families in the parish are mostly well off, OK or struggling financially?*

*How do the incomes of families with children living at home compare with those with no children living at home? How well does the parish connect with one-parent families? Note that the income of one-parent families is likely to be much lower than that of two-parent families.*

*Are families with both parents Catholic a majority or a minority of Catholic families in your parish? What implications might this have for the way the parish connects to families?*

**Table 14: Family composition<sup>1</sup> by weekly family income**

	Less than \$500	\$500 - \$799	\$800 - \$1,249	\$1,250 - \$1,999	\$2,000 - \$2,999	\$3,000 - \$3,999	\$4,000 or more	Income not fully stated	Total families	Median Weekly Family Income <sup>2</sup> (\$)
<b>Two-parent families with children at home:</b>										
Both parents Catholic	-	-	6	13	18	3	-	3	43	2,055
One parent Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	-	3	4	9	12	7	-	6	41	2,125
One parent Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	-	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	6	2,000
<b>Couple with no children living at home:</b>										
Both persons Catholic	5	13	3	9	4	5	-	3	42	1,025
One person Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	8	11	5	7	9	3	3	3	49	1,160
One person Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	-	3	-	-	5	-	-	-	8	2,200
<b>One-parent families:</b>	11	8	3	3	-	-	-	3	28	556
Parent is Catholic										
<b>Other families</b> where at least one person is Catholic	-	4	7	-	-	-	-	3	14	896
<b>Other:</b> Reference person Catholic but spouse temporarily absent <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>1,396</b>

## Notes:

1. A family is defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering, and who are usually resident in the same household. Family members who live elsewhere are not included in the Census definition. For Census purposes, a Catholic family is defined as a family in which at least one person is Catholic.
2. Median weekly family income: fifty percent of families have a higher income, fifty percent a lower income. Family income is the sum of the incomes of all family members aged 15 and over.
3. The religious affiliation of a temporarily absent spouse is not recorded, hence families in this category could belong to any one of the first six categories above.



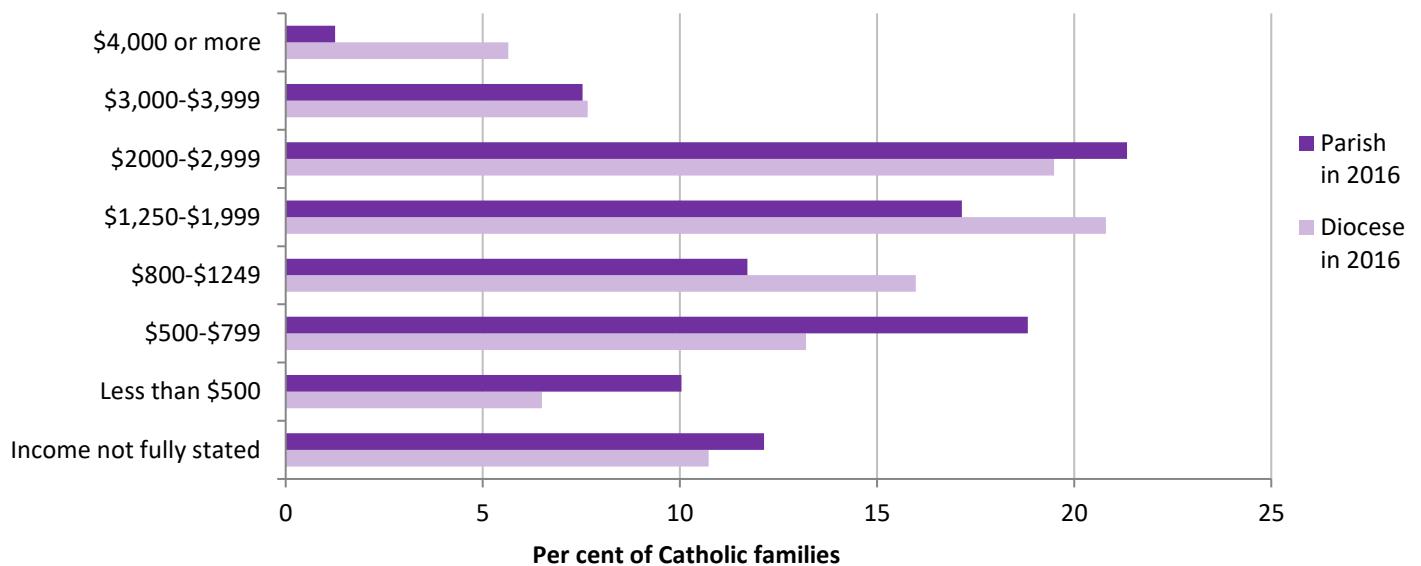
# Families

**Table 15: Weekly family income by number of dependent children**

	0 dependent children	1 dependent child	2 dependent children	3 dependent children	4 or more	Total
Less than \$500	13	4	3	-	-	20
\$500-\$799	27	7	-	-	-	34
\$800-\$1,249	15	-	3	-	-	18
\$1,250-\$1,999	19	9	14	5	-	47
\$2,000-\$2,999	18	8	12	8	3	49
\$3,000-\$3,999	8	4	10	-	-	22
\$4,000 or more	3	-	-	-	-	3
Income not fully stated	23	6	3	-	-	32
<b>Total Families</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>225</b>
<b>Median Weekly Family Income (\$)</b>	<b>1,145</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>2,083</b>	<b>2,187</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>1,640</b>

Note: Table population is Catholic families. Dependent children include all children aged 0-14 and dependent students aged 15-24. Some figures may differ from figures in other similar tables (i.e. Table 14) due to the randomisation process used by the ABS – see note at the bottom of page 10.

**Weekly Family Income  
(Catholic families)**



**Table 16: Social marital status by number of dependent children**

	0 dependent children	1 dependent child	2 dependent children	3 dependent children	4 or more	Total
<b>Family Composition:</b>						
Married couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	103	27	28	18	6	182
De facto couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	22	7	6	-	-	35
One parent family, parent Catholic	6	15	7	3	-	31
Other families where at least one person is Catholic	9	-	-	-	-	9
<b>Total families</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>257</b>



# Households

The Australian Bureau of Statistics defines a household as one or more persons, at least one of whom is at least 15 years of age, usually resident in the same private dwelling.<sup>1</sup> Non-private dwellings such as motels, guest houses, prisons, religious institutions and nursing homes are not included in household statistics. A household can consist of one or more families, non-family groups or persons living alone.

The figures on this page refer to households in which at least one person is Catholic.<sup>2</sup>

There were 8,861,600 households in Australia in 2016. At least one Catholic person lived in 2,548,400 households, or 29 per cent of all households. Seventy-eight per cent of these Catholic households were family households and, of the Catholic family households, 75 per cent were occupied dwellings that were owned or being purchased.

*What is the current housing situation in this parish? For example, is there a sufficient stock of rental properties available? Are there areas with large numbers of new houses? Are families under stress to pay rent or meet mortgage repayments? What aspects of the parish's pastoral strategies relate to housing issues?*

**Table 17: Household composition by tenure type**

	Fully owned or being purchased	Rented from State or Territory Housing Authority	Rented from other landlord, or landlord not stated	Other households	Total households	Per cent owned or being purchased
Family households	195	-	47	29	271	72.0
Lone person aged under 35 years	-	-	9	-	9	-
Lone person aged 35 years or over	43	-	12	12	67	64.2
Group households	-	-	4	-	4	-
<b>Total households</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>67.8</b>

**Table 18: Household composition by monthly housing loan repayment**

	\$1-\$599	\$600-\$999	\$1,000-1,599	\$1,600-\$2,199	\$2,200-\$2,799	\$2,800 or more	Median monthly household loan repayment (\$)
Family households	9	26	29	17	13	6	1,310
Lone person aged under 35 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lone person aged 35 years or over	-	5	7	-	-	-	1,085
Group households	-	-	3	-	-	-	1,300
<b>Total households</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,269</b>

**Notes:**

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016. *Census Dictionary Australia 2016. Catalogue No. 2901.0.*
2. For Census purposes, a Catholic household is any household in which at least one person is Catholic.





# Birthplace

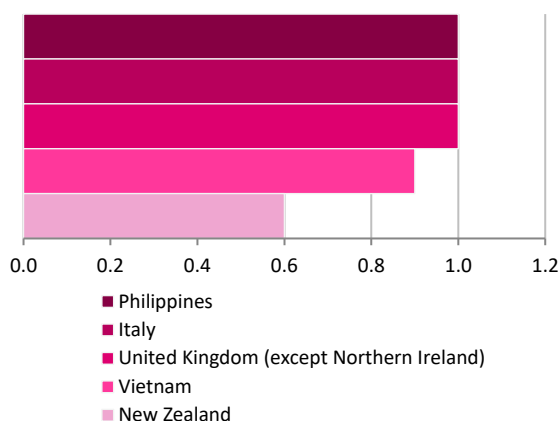
Catholics born overseas, especially those born in non-English-speaking countries, are likely to have different approaches to faith and spirituality, and different experiences and expectations of Church life, from those of Catholics born in Australia.

*What are the major groups of overseas-born Catholics in your parish?*

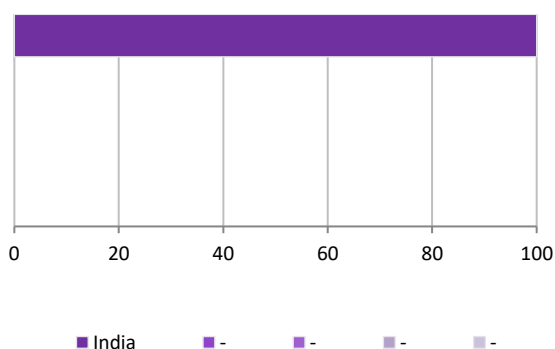
*What difference does their presence make to the parish?*

*How might the parish better connect with those who have only recently arrived?*

**Top 5 birthplaces of Catholics born overseas**  
(% of all Catholics)



**Top 5 birthplaces with highest proportions of recent arrivals**  
(% of all Catholics from that birthplace)



**Table 19: Birthplace**

	All Catholics	% of Catholics	% recent arrivals <sup>1</sup>
Australia	611	90.9	-
New Zealand	4	0.6	-
Other Oceania	-	-	-
United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland)	7	1.0	-
Ireland (including Northern Ireland)	-	-	-
Italy	7	1.0	-
Malta	3	0.4	-
Spain and Portugal	-	-	-
France	-	-	-
Netherlands	-	-	-
Germany	-	-	-
Austria	-	-	-
Croatia and other Former Yugoslavia	-	-	-
Poland	-	-	-
Hungary	3	0.4	-
Other Eastern Europe, Russian Federation and Baltic States	-	-	-
Other Europe NEC	-	-	-
Vietnam	6	0.9	-
Philippines	7	1.0	-
Indonesia	-	-	-
Malaysia	-	-	-
Singapore	-	-	-
South East Asia NEC	-	-	-
India	4	0.6	100.0
Sri Lanka	-	-	-
China (except Hong Kong and Taiwan)	-	-	-
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	-	-	-
Korea, Republic of (South)	-	-	-
Egypt	-	-	-
Lebanon	-	-	-
Iraq	-	-	-
Sudan (including South Sudan)	-	-	-
Middle East and North Africa NEC	-	-	-
South Africa	-	-	-
Mauritius	-	-	-
United States of America	-	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
Argentina	-	-	-
Brazil	-	-	-
Colombia	-	-	-
Chile	-	-	-
Central America and South America NEC	-	-	-
Other countries	-	-	-
Inadequately described/Not stated	20	3.0	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>

Notes:

1. % recent arrivals = the percentage of Catholics who were born in the named country and who arrived in Australia between 2013 and 2016 inclusive.

NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified



Merriwa Parish, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, Census ID: 061061

National Catholic Census Project 1991-2016 – a project of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

Principal source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics – 2016 Census of Population and Housing

# Language

In 2016, 20 per cent of Australia's Catholics spoke a language other than English at home, and three per cent were not proficient in English. People who do not speak English well can face practical problems in education, employment and access to services. On the other hand, it is important to many people from a non-English-speaking background to maintain and promote, for reasons of cultural continuity and identity, the use of their home language.<sup>1</sup>

*How many Catholics in this parish speak a language other than English at home? How many have difficulty with English? Difficulty in speaking English can affect how well a person can participate in parish life.*

*Does this parish need to review the pastoral support it offers to parishioners who do not speak English well in relation to, for example, prayer and liturgy, inclusiveness in parish events, translation of written material, and access to priests and other pastoral ministers who speak their language?*

**Table 20: Language spoken at home by religious affiliation**

	Catholic	Not Catholic (or not stated)	All persons	% Catholics among speakers <sup>2</sup>
English only	652	1,382	2,034	32.1
Italian	3	-	3	100.0
Maltese	-	-	-	-
Spanish	-	-	-	-
Croatian	-	-	-	-
Polish	-	-	-	-
Dutch	-	-	-	-
French	-	-	-	-
German	-	7	7	-
Portuguese	-	-	-	-
Hungarian	-	-	-	-
Ukrainian	-	-	-	-
Vietnamese	6	-	6	100.0
Filipino languages	3	-	3	100.0
Chinese languages	-	3	3	-
Malayalam	7	-	7	100.0
Sinhalese	-	-	-	-
Korean	-	-	-	-
Indonesian and Malay	-	-	-	-
Arabic	-	-	-	-
Assyrian and Chaldean	-	-	-	-
Oceanic and Papuan languages	-	-	-	-
Australian Indigenous languages	-	-	-	-
Other European languages NEC	-	-	-	-
Other Asian languages NEC	-	3	3	-
Other languages NEC	-	-	-	-
Inadequately described/Non-Verbal/Not stated	3	217	220	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>1,612</b>	<b>2,286</b>	<b>29.5</b>

**Notes:**

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 1999. *Australian Social Trends 1999. Catalogue No. 4102.0, p.11.*

2. *The percentage of Catholics among the speakers of these languages in Australia.*

NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified



# Language

Why does the proportion of people not speaking English well vary for different languages spoken at home? Part of the explanation lies in differences in average period of residence of the various language groups. Another factor is 'cultural distance': the more people from a particular culture share the customs, beliefs and lifestyles with the majority Australian culture, the easier it will be for them to overcome language barriers. A third factor is the size of the language group and the pattern of settlement. The concentration of large numbers of speakers in a region tends to reinforce the use of that language.<sup>1</sup>

*What are the most commonly spoken languages other than English among the Catholics of this parish? Are speakers of some languages more likely than others to have difficulty with English? Can you see the influence of the three factors outlined above reflected in the figures on this page?*

**Table 21: Language spoken at home by age**

	0-4	5-11	12-19	20-29	30-49	50-64	65 and over	Total	% who do not speak English well
English	36	64	70	56	163	143	117	649	-
Italian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maltese	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spanish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croatian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dutch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
French	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
German	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Portuguese	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hungarian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ukrainian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vietnamese	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Filipino languages	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chinese languages	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malayalam	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	8	-
Sinhalese	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Korean	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesian and Malay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arabic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assyrian and Chaldean	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oceanic and Papuan languages	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Australian Indigenous Languages	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other European languages NEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Asian languages NEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other languages NEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequately described/Non-Verbal/Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>-</b>

Notes:

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 1999. Australian Social Trends 1999. Catalogue No. 4102.0, p.12-13.

NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified



# Attendance at Educational Institutions

According to the 2016 Census, more than 719,000 Australians attended Catholic schools, accounting for almost 21 per cent of all school students in Australia.

In 2016, there were 915,100 Catholic students—almost one in six of all Catholics—attending Government, Catholic, and other non-Government schools. They constitute a very large sub-group of Australian Catholics, considerably larger than the 623,400 or so who attend Mass every Sunday. A further 317,600 Catholics were involved in some form of post-secondary education. The Church of today, not just of tomorrow, is being shaped by the attitudes, beliefs and lifestyles of these young people.

*How does the parish connect with Catholic students at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, especially those not attending Catholic schools?*

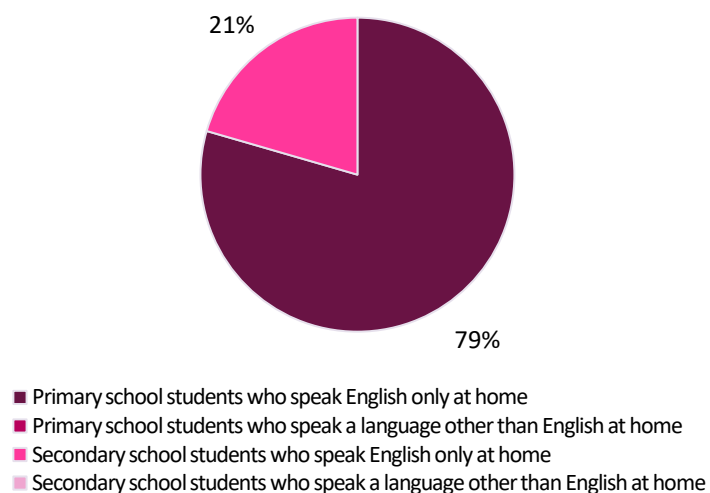
**Table 22: Type of educational institution attending by religious affiliation**

	Catholic	Not Catholic or not stated	All persons	% Catholic
Infants/Primary – Government	23	122	145	15.9
Infants/Primary – Catholic	38	30	68	55.9
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	7	12	19	36.8
Secondary – Government	31	65	96	32.3
Secondary – Catholic	9	7	16	56.3
Secondary – Other Non-Government	8	9	17	47.1
Technical or Further Educational Institution (including TAFE Colleges)	18	15	33	54.5
University or other Tertiary Institutions	8	17	25	32.0
Other (including pre-school)	15	42	57	26.3
Not stated/Not applicable <sup>1</sup>	526	1,295	1,821	28.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>1,614</b>	<b>2,297</b>	<b>29.7</b>

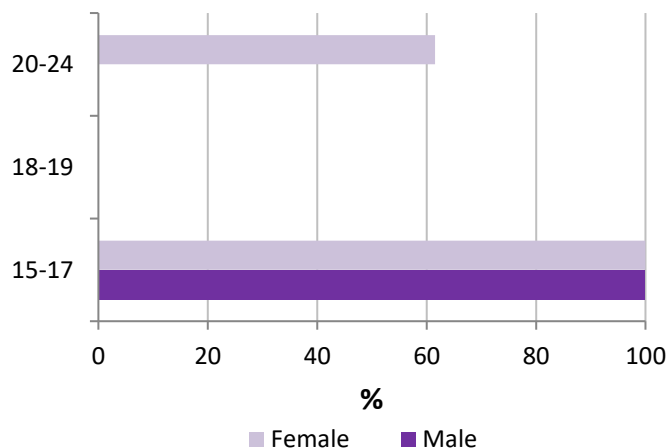
Note:

1. This table includes the total population of the parish and so there are high numbers for categories where the question about type of educational institutions being attended is not applicable.

**Language background of all students attending Catholic schools**



**Education participation rate (Catholics aged 15-24)**



# Attendance at Educational Institutions

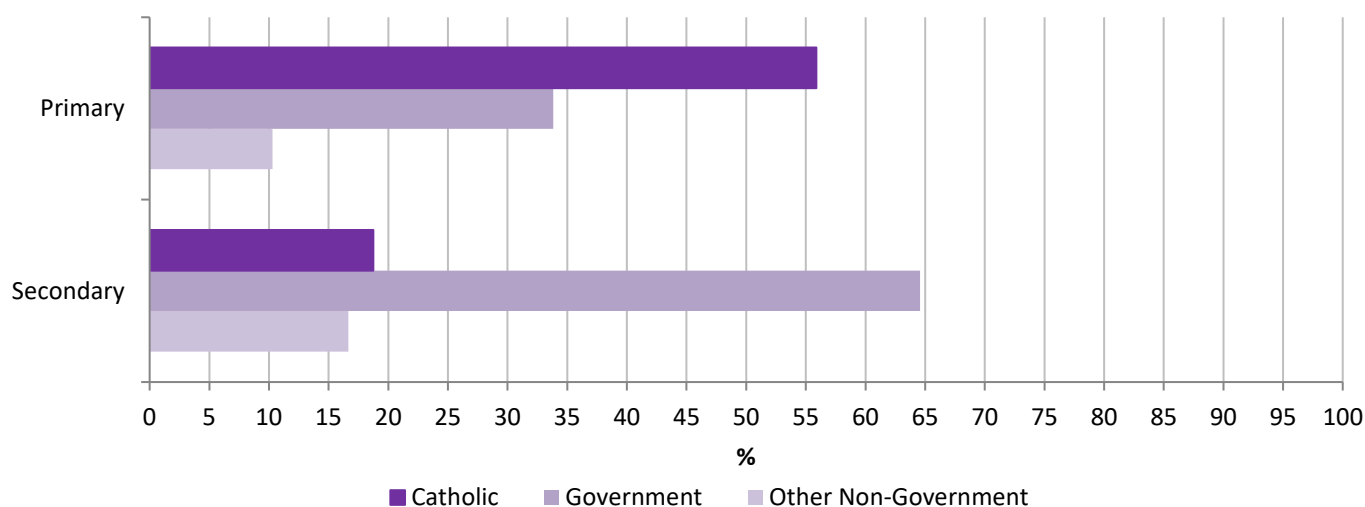
**Table 23: Type of educational institution attending by weekly income of student's family<sup>1</sup>**

	Less than \$500	\$500-\$799	\$800-\$1,249	\$1,250-\$1,999	\$2,000-\$2,999	\$3,000-\$3,999	\$4,000 or more	Total <sup>2</sup>	Median annual family income <sup>3</sup> (\$)
Infants/Primary - Government	7	-	3	-	4	3	-	17	53,420
Infants/Primary – Catholic	-	-	3	11	19	-	-	36	111,121
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3	130,331
Secondary – Government	4	3	3	3	9	3	-	32	97,742
Secondary – Catholic	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	84,706
Secondary – Other Non-Government	-	4	-	-	3	-	-	7	39,733
TAFE, University or other tertiary institution	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other (including pre-school)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not stated/Not applicable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>104,260</b>

**Notes:**

1. Because the population of this table is dependent children aged 5-14 and dependent students aged 15-24, the figures in the table refer to individuals, not families. The table shows, for example, the number of Catholic students attending Catholic primary schools whose families have a weekly income in the range \$1,250-\$1,999. A brother and sister at the same school would account for TWO of the cases in this category.
2. A column of figures for "Family income not fully stated, or not stated at all" has been omitted from the table, but the missing figures are included in the Total column.
3. Family income is the sum of the incomes of all family members aged 15 and over (refer to the definition of family on page 7).

## Type of school being attended by Catholic students



# Educational Qualifications

Both the percentage of Catholics with university degrees and the gender balance of Catholics with degrees have changed dramatically in recent decades due to the upsurge in young people, especially women, undertaking tertiary study and the upgrading of courses such as nursing to degree status. In 1991, less than seven per cent of Australian Catholics aged 15 or over had a degree; by 2016, that figure had reached 21 per cent. Among Catholics aged 15 to 34 years in 2016, 25.8 per cent of women had a degree compared to 15.6 per cent of men. In contrast, among Catholics aged 55 and over, 13.8 per cent of men and 13.6 per cent of women had degrees.

*To what extent has participation in higher education in theology and related fields kept pace in this parish with participation in higher education in general? What new challenges and opportunities are presented to the parish as a result of the increase in the number of Catholics with a university education?*

*The increased level of participation in higher education by women is a reflection of significant changes in women's roles and responsibilities in society.<sup>1</sup> How have women's roles and responsibilities in the parish changed in the last two decades?*

Note: 1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 1999. Australian Social Trends 1999. Catalogue No. 4102.0, p.83.

**Table 24: Highest qualification attained by age and sex**

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Total
<b>Catholics aged 15+</b>							
<b>Males</b>							
Postgraduate degree	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	-	4	-	-	3	4	11
Advanced diploma or diploma level	-	3	-	-	6	-	9
Certificate level	3	15	13	12	20	21	84
Inadequately described/Not stated/Not applicable	35	14	23	34	20	43	169
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>273</b>
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	-	11.1	-	-	6.1	5.9	4.0
<b>Females</b>							
Postgraduate degree	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	-	13	9	7	-	9	38
Advanced diploma or diploma level	-	5	9	-	4	6	24
Certificate level	4	12	3	16	8	3	46
Inadequately described/Not stated/Not applicable	21	9	25	25	26	41	147
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>255</b>
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	-	33.3	19.6	14.6	-	15.3	14.9
<b>All Catholics</b>							
Postgraduate degree	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	-	17	9	7	3	13	49
Advanced diploma or diploma level	-	8	9	-	10	6	33
Certificate level	7	27	16	28	28	24	130
Inadequately described/Not stated/Not applicable	56	23	48	59	46	84	316
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>528</b>
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	-	22.7	11.0	7.4	3.4	10.2	9.3





# Employment

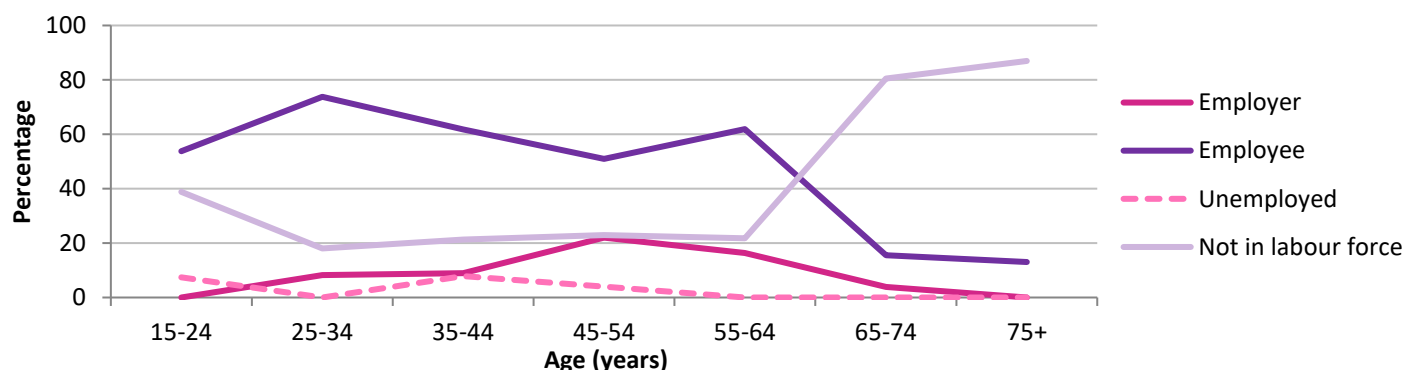
In recent years there have been many changes in society and the workplace that have affected Australian workers. One major change has been the increase in the percentages of workers, especially young people and women, in part-time jobs. Another has been the rise in participation in the labour force by women. A third major change has been the rise in participation in the labour force by older workers, following the removal of incentives to early retirement and resulting in the continuing availability of their skills, experience and maturity in the workplace.<sup>1</sup> Changes in labour force participation also influence the availability and size of the volunteer workforce, and can both reduce and change the pattern of workers' leisure time.

*Have any of the changes described above had a noticeable impact on Catholic life in this parish?*

**Table 25: Labour force status by age and sex**

	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Total
<b>Catholics aged 15+</b>					
<b>Males</b>					
Employer	-	10	25	7	42
Employee	20	57	56	11	144
Unemployed	6	4	3	-	13
Not in the labour force	12	9	18	48	87
Other/Not stated/Not applicable	-	-	-	5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>291</b>
<i>Per cent in labour force<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>68.4</i>	<i>88.8</i>	<i>82.4</i>	<i>25.4</i>	<i>68.4</i>
<i>Per cent unemployed<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>23.1</i>	<i>5.6</i>	<i>3.6</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>6.5</i>
<b>Females</b>					
Employer	-	3	15	-	18
Employee	17	49	52	5	123
Unemployed	3	3	3	-	9
Not in the labour force	14	19	24	47	104
Other/Not stated/Not applicable	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>248</b>
<i>Per cent in labour force<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>58.8</i>	<i>74.3</i>	<i>74.5</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>59.1</i>
<i>Per cent unemployed<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>15.0</i>	<i>5.5</i>	<i>4.3</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>6.0</i>

**Labour force status by age (percentage of all Catholics aged 15+)**



**Notes:**

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2004. Australian Social Trends 2004. Catalogue No. 4102.0, p.115.
2. The percentage of Catholics in each age group who are in the labour force (i.e. employed or seeking employment).
3. The percentage of Catholics in each age group who were in the labour force and were unemployed at the time of the Census.



# Occupation

Catholic women are more likely to be employed as managers or professionals; 35 per cent of Catholic women and 33 per cent of Catholic men who reported their occupation in the 2016 Census worked as managers or professionals. But men were much more likely than women—47 per cent compared to 12 per cent—to have a 'blue collar' occupation. The largest occupational category for Catholic men in Australia is Technicians and Trades Workers. For women, it is Professionals.

**Table 26: Occupation by age and sex**

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Total
<b>Catholics aged 15+</b>							
<b>Males</b>							
Managers	-	-	-	7	11	11	29
Professionals	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Technicians & Trade Workers	4	4	-	3	6	3	20
Community & Personal Service Workers	-	-	3	-	3	-	6
Clerical & Administrative Workers	-	-	-	4	3	-	7
Sales Workers	5	-	-	3	-	-	8
Machinery operators & Drivers	-	10	18	10	16	-	54
Labourers	7	4	3	4	9	-	27
ID / NS / NA <sup>1</sup>	18	4	3	13	4	54	96
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>250</b>
<i>Per cent Managers &amp; Professionals<sup>2</sup></i>	-	-	-	29.4	22.9	78.6	20.8
<i>Per cent 'blue collar workers'<sup>2</sup></i>	68.8	100.0	87.5	50.0	64.6	21.4	65.6
<b>Females</b>							
Managers	-	-	-	10	6	-	16
Professionals	-	12	4	7	-	-	23
Technicians & Trade Workers	-	-	-	5	5	-	10
Community & Personal Service Workers	-	3	7	8	7	-	25
Clerical & Administrative Workers	-	-	10	3	4	-	17
Sales Workers	6	5	-	6	3	-	20
Machinery operators & Drivers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Labourers	-	8	-	-	5	-	13
ID / NS / NA <sup>1</sup>	17	12	13	15	12	50	119
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>243</b>
<i>Per cent Managers &amp; Professionals<sup>2</sup></i>	-	42.9	19.0	43.6	20.0	-	31.5
<i>Per cent 'blue collar workers'<sup>2</sup></i>	-	28.6	-	12.8	33.3	-	18.5
<b>All Catholics</b>							
Managers	-	-	-	17	17	11	45
Professionals	-	12	4	10	-	-	26
Technicians & Trade Workers	4	4	-	8	11	3	30
Community & Personal Service Workers	-	3	10	8	10	-	31
Clerical & Administrative Workers	-	-	10	7	7	-	24
Sales Workers	11	5	-	9	3	-	28
Machinery operators & Drivers	-	10	18	10	16	-	54
Labourers	7	12	3	4	14	-	40
ID / NS / NA <sup>1</sup>	35	16	16	28	16	104	215
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>493</b>
<i>Per cent Managers &amp; Professionals<sup>2</sup></i>	-	26.1	8.9	37.0	21.8	78.6	25.5
<i>Per cent 'blue collar workers'<sup>2</sup></i>	50.0	56.5	46.7	30.1	52.6	21.4	44.6

**Notes:**

1. ID = Inadequately described; NS = Not stated; NA = Not applicable.

2. See Notes 1 and 2 on page 5 for the type of occupations covered by the terms 'Managers & Professionals' and 'blue collar'.



# Occupation

Occupation, like qualifications, is an indicator of socioeconomic status. It can also indicate the types of skills and interests that parishioners have.

*What are the major occupations for male and female Catholics in this parish? What do you think accounts for differences in occupation between the sexes?*

*What are the major occupations of younger people? Middle-aged people? Older people? What do you think accounts for differences in occupation between the different age groups?*

*Are there any figures that strike you as being unexpectedly large or small? How can this information help the parish connect more effectively with parishioners?*

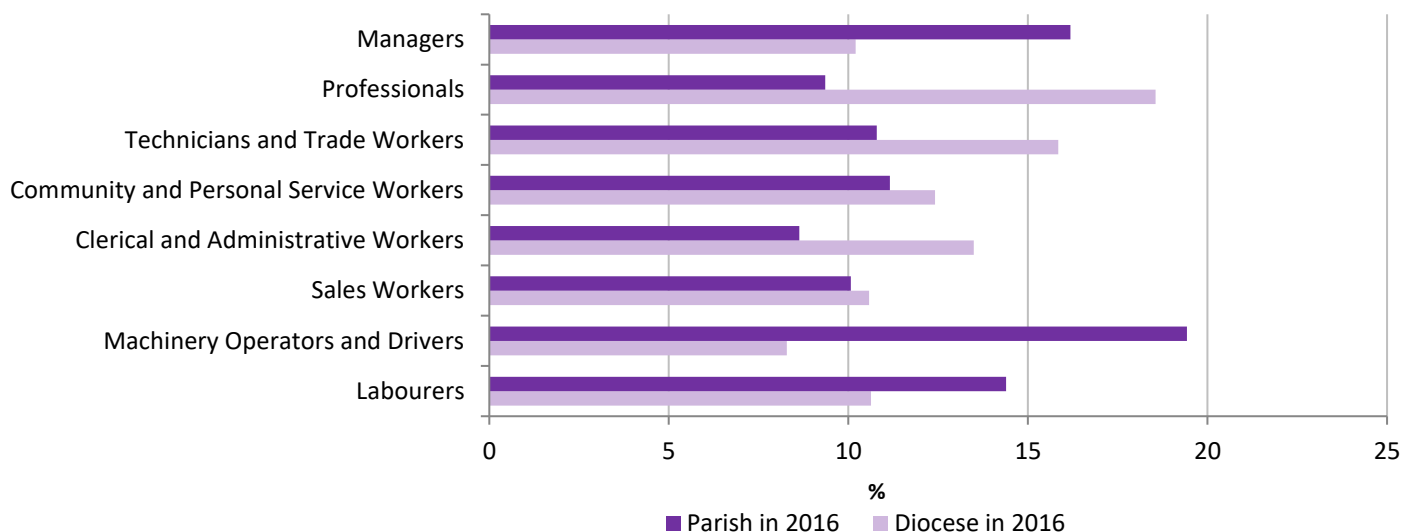
**Table 27: Occupation of parents of students attending Catholic schools**

	Primary School	Secondary School
Both parents in professional occupation	-	-
One parent or lone parent in professional occupation	6	3
Both parents in 'white collar' occupation <sup>1</sup>	18	5
One parent or lone parent in 'white collar' occupation	26	-
Both parents in 'blue collar' occupation	3	-
One parent or lone parent in 'blue collar' occupation	11	3
Not applicable and not stated	3	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>11</b>
% with professional parent(s)	9.0	27.3
% with blue collar parent(s)	20.9	27.3

Note:

1. 'White collar' includes occupations such as managers, community and personal service workers, clerical and administrative workers and sales workers.

**Occupation**  
(Catholics aged 15+ with an occupation)



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## The National Centre for Pastoral Research website allows you to view the Social Profiles online.

Visit the website to obtain:

- Social Profiles for any diocese or parish in Australia
- A Social Profile for the Catholic population of Australia
- Helpful hints on using the Census data
- Reports on the National Count of Attendance
- Results from the 2016 National Church Life Survey
- Results of other research projects conducted by the National Centre for Pastoral Research



This profile has been created by the staff of the ACBC National Centre for Pastoral Research as part of the National Catholic Census Project 1991-2016.

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Thank you to Mr Paul Murrin from the ABS Information Consultancy Office for his expertise.

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