



# PARISH SOCIAL PROFILE

Based on the 2021 Australian Census

**Edmonton Parish**

Diocese of Cairns

Census ID: 173309



Date of report: December 2023  
Report prepared by: National Centre for Pastoral Research  
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference  
GPO Box 368  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Australia

Telephone: +61 (02) 6201 9812  
Email: [ncpr@catholic.org.au](mailto:ncpr@catholic.org.au)  
Web: [www.ncpr.catholic.org.au](http://www.ncpr.catholic.org.au)

#### **IMPORTANT COPYRIGHT INFORMATION**

Most statistics in this profile have been derived by the National Centre for Pastoral Research of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference from customised Census tables purchased from the Australian Bureau of Statistics as part of the National Catholic Census Project 1991-2021.

All Census data is copyright © Commonwealth of Australia.

You are free to reproduce this document or any part of it. If any tables, graphs or individual items of data are extracted from this document for use in reports or presentations or in any other way, please attribute the source of the material as follows:

'This material was prepared by the National Centre for Pastoral Research of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference from Census data obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.'

A shorter form is also acceptable: 'Prepared by the ACBC National Centre for Pastoral Research from ABS data.'



# PARISH SOCIAL PROFILE

Based on the 2021 Australian Census

**Edmonton**

Diocese of Cairns

Census ID: 173309



# AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

## Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research

December 2023

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 2021 Census, but some comparisons are provided with 2016 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.

## 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 pastoral planning.

## 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.

### Page

Parish Snapshot .....	2
What has changed in your parish since 2016? .....	3

### Overview Tables

### Page

1. Population .....	4
2. Disability .....	4
3. Occupation and Employment.....	5
4. Birthplace, Indigenous Status and Language .....	5
5. Education.....	6
6. Marital Status .....	7
7. Families.....	7
8. Households.....	7

### Detailed Topics

### Page

Religious Affiliation.....	9
Age and Sex .....	10
Disability .....	12
Marital Status .....	13
Families.....	14
Households.....	16
Birthplace .....	17
Language .....	18
Attendance at Educational Institutions.....	20
Educational Qualifications.....	22
Employment .....	23
Occupation .....	24



# Your Parish Community

**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 parish 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

Pope Francis reminds that all renewal must be grounded in:

*"... a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation."* Evangelii Gaudium #27

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 (2021)

Total Population: 31,362

Catholic Population: 6,818

Catholics make up 21.7 per cent of the total population

Median age of Catholics is 37 years

Total Catholic families: 2,845

420 Catholics live alone

1,148 Catholics were born overseas

67 Catholics do not speak English well

406 Catholics need assistance with core activities

2,977 Catholics have changed address since 2016



# What has changed in your parish since 2016?

This chart will help you identify at a glance changes in some of the key indicators for Catholics in the parish between 2016 and 2021, and may alert you to possible trends that are occurring. The 2016 and 2021 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 2016	Parish in 2021
Catholic population	8,299	<b>6,818</b>
Catholics aged 0-14 (%)	26.8	<b>24.2</b>
Catholics aged 65+ (%)	10.4	<b>13.7</b>
Catholics born in NES <sup>1</sup> (%)	11.3	<b>13.4</b>
Catholics not proficient in English (%)	1.0	<b>0.9</b>
Catholic families	3,214	<b>2,845</b>
Catholics living alone	473	<b>420</b>
Catholic students attending Catholic schools <sup>2</sup> (%)	59.5	<b>65.7</b>
Catholics with university degree (%)	13.1	<b>15.2</b>
Catholic males in labour force (%)	76.5	<b>73.6</b>
Catholic females in labour force (%)	68.7	<b>69.6</b>
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling (%)	69.8	<b>74.9</b>

**Notes:**

1. NES = 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 2016 FIGURES:**

The boundaries of some parishes changed between 2016 and 2021. These boundary changes mean that, in these parishes, figures for 2016 and 2021 may not be comparable. Where parishes have been amalgamated between 2016 and 2021, the 2021 figures in this profile refer to the overall figures for the parishes involved. Prior to 2021, persons living on Australian Defence Force bases were excluded from the Parish Social Profiles figures and were counted within the Military Ordinariate of Australia figures. For 2021, such persons have been included in the geographical parish in which the military base is located. The overall result of inclusion in 2021 figures is negligible.



# 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 2021	Parish 2016	Diocese 2021	Australia 2021	Diocesan Group <sup>2</sup>	Australian Group <sup>2</sup>
Total population <sup>3</sup>	<b>31,362</b>	32,312	290,875	25,422,788	1	2
Catholic population	<b>6,818</b>	8,299	55,137	5,075,910	1	1
Per cent Catholic	<b>21.7</b>	25.7	19.0	20.0	2	2
At same address since previous Census (%)	<b>56.3</b>	53.4	57.3	59.4	4	4
Median age <sup>4</sup> (years)	<b>37</b>	33	44	43	5	5
Aged 0-14 (%)	<b>24.2</b>	26.8	18.8	17.9	1	1
Aged 65+ (%)	<b>13.7</b>	10.4	20.2	19.9	5	5
Males per 100 females	<b>88.1</b>	91.3	90.5	89.1	4	4

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

Table 2 shows the percentage of Catholics living with a disability 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 living with some form of disability.

*In what particular ways does the parish support people living with disabilities and their carers?*

Table 2: Disability	Parish 2021	Parish 2016	Diocese 2021	Australia 2021	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Need assistance with core activities (%)	<b>6.0</b>	4.3	6.2	6.7	3	3
Provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability <sup>5</sup> (% of Catholics aged 15+)	<b>12.3</b>	12.4	12.8	13.5	4	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 2021	Parish 2016	Diocese 2021	Australia 2021	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Managers and Professionals <sup>1</sup> (% of those recording an occupation)	<b>25.7</b>	25.0	32.3	37.1	5	5
Workers in 'blue collar' occupations <sup>2</sup> (% of those recording an occupation)	<b>33.0</b>	35.3	32.2	28.1	4	2
Men, employed or seeking work <sup>3</sup> (%)	<b>73.5</b>	76.5	67.8	66.5	1	1
Women, employed or seeking work <sup>3</sup> (%)	<b>69.7</b>	68.7	63.7	59.7	1	1
Unemployed at time of Census <sup>4</sup> (%)	<b>4.4</b>	5.8	4.0	4.2	2	2
Youth unemployed at time of Census <sup>5</sup> (%)	<b>10.3</b>	12.3	8.3	8.9	2	2

**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 may highlight greater needs related to communication and inclusiveness.

*Is there a need for the parish to review the way it addresses the needs of recently arrived Catholic migrants? 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 2021	Parish 2016	Diocese 2021	Australia 2021	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Born overseas in English-speaking country <sup>6</sup> (%)	<b>3.3</b>	3.4	4.7	5.5	4	4
Born overseas in non-English-speaking country (%)	<b>13.4</b>	11.3	14.8	21.4	3	3
Immigrants from non-English-speaking countries arriving in Census year or previous 3 years	<b>44</b>	56	866	97,457	3	3
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	<b>792</b>	706	4,782	135,686	1	1
Speak language other than English at home (%)	<b>11.2</b>	10.1	13.5	21.5	3	3
Not proficient in English <sup>7</sup> (%)	<b>0.9</b>	1.0	1.3	2.7	3	4

**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 2021	Parish 2016	Diocese 2021	Australia 2021	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Catholics aged 15+ with bachelor degree or higher qualification (%)	<b>15.2</b>	13.1	17.5	24.6	3	4
Catholics attending an educational institution (% of all Catholics in each age group)						
Aged 15-17	<b>94.0</b>	91.0	92.0	94.9	2	4
Aged 18-19	<b>36.1</b>	36.8	44.4	67.2	4	5
Aged 20-24	<b>28.6</b>	18.7	26.3	43.4	1	4
Catholic primary students attending Catholic schools (%)	<b>71.4</b>	62.5	60.5	55.5	1	1
Catholic primary students attending Government schools (%)	<b>26.3</b>	34.2	36.8	38.4	5	5
Catholic secondary students attending Catholic schools (%)	<b>60.0</b>	55.1	51.1	55.3	2	2
Catholic secondary students attending Government schools (%)	<b>36.2</b>	40.9	45.3	33.4	4	3
Primary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic <sup>2</sup> (%)	<b>49.4</b>	38.7	48.8	36.6	4	2
Secondary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic <sup>2</sup> (%)	<b>46.5</b>	42.8	49.8	41.3	5	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. '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 2021, 84 per cent of Australia's Catholics lived in a family setting, with a further ten per cent living alone. The most common type of Catholic family was a couple family with children (44 per cent of all families where at least one person was a Catholic), followed by couple families without children (38%) and one-parent families (parent Catholic, 11%).

*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?*

	Parish 2021	Parish 2016	Diocese 2021	Australia 2021	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Never married (%)	36.1	35.7	33.5	32.9	2	2
Married (%)	47.5	48.4	47.2	49.3	3	4
Divorced or Separated (%)	11.4	11.8	13.2	11.7	4	3
Widowed (%)	5.0	4.1	6.2	6.1	4	4

	Parish 2021	Parish 2016	Diocese 2021	Australia 2021	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Families	2,845	3,214	22,466	1,995,658	1	1
One-parent families	359	397	2,557	225,180	1	1
One-parent families (% of all families)	12.6	12.4	11.4	11.3	2	2
Couples of mixed religions <sup>2</sup> (%)	62.3	58.8	62.1	58.1	3	3
De facto couples <sup>3</sup> (%)	23.5	23.2	22.4	17.7	2	1
Median annual family income <sup>4</sup> (\$)	110,021	94,587	105,381	120,943	2	3

	Parish 2021	Parish 2016	Diocese 2021	Australia 2021	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Households	3,313	3,825	29,375	2,567,362	1	1
Persons living alone (aged under 35)	45	79	525	51,145	2	2
Persons living alone (aged 35+)	375	394	5,259	442,080	2	2
Persons living alone (total)	420	473	5,784	493,225	2	2
Persons living alone (% of all persons)	6.2	5.7	10.5	9.7	5	5
Dwellings owned or being purchased (%)	74.9	69.8	70.2	73.0	3	3
Median monthly housing loan repayment <sup>6</sup> (\$)	1,614	1,706	1,657	1,948	3	4

**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

## CONTENTS OF THE DETAILED PROFILE

<b>Tables</b>	<b>Page</b>
9: Religious affiliation by age.....	9
10: Age by sex.....	10
11a: Need for assistance with core activities by age .....	12
11b: Provision of unpaid assistance by age.....	12
12: Registered marital status by sex and age.....	13
13: Religious affiliation of couple by social marital status .....	13
14: Family composition by weekly family income.....	14
15: Weekly family income by number of dependent children.....	15
16: Social marital status by number of dependent children .....	15
17: Household composition by tenure type.....	16
18: Household composition by monthly housing loan repayment .....	16
19: Birthplace .....	17
20: Language spoken at home by religious affiliation.....	18
21: Language spoken at home by age .....	19
22: Type of educational institution attending by religious affiliation .....	20
23: Type of educational institution attending by weekly income of student's family .....	21
24: Highest qualification attained by age and sex .....	22
25: Labour force status by age and sex.....	23
26: Occupation by age and sex.....	24
27: Occupation of parents of students attending Catholic schools .....	25

<b>Graphs</b>	<b>Page</b>
Religious affiliation .....	9
Age profile of the Catholic population, 2016 & 2021.....	11
Age-sex profile of the Catholic population, 2021.....	11
Core need for assistance and provision of unpaid assistance by age .....	12
Change of address since 2016 by marital status .....	13
Weekly family income .....	15
Top 5 birthplaces of Catholics born overseas .....	17
Top 5 birthplaces with highest proportions of recent arrivals.....	17
Language background of all students attending Catholic schools .....	20
Education participation rate.....	20
Type of school being attended by Catholic students .....	21
Labour force status by age .....	23
Occupation .....	25



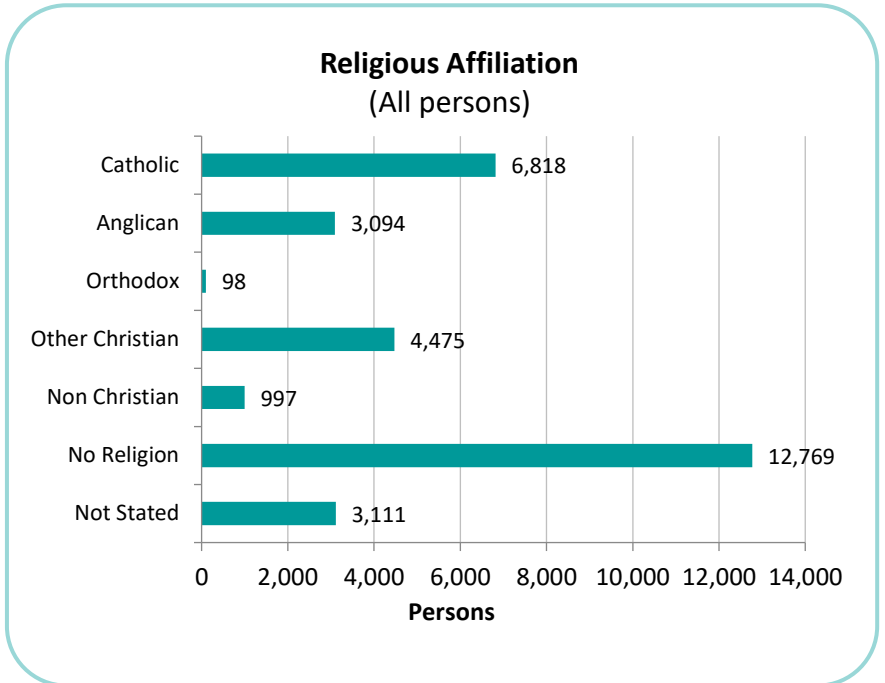
# Religious Affiliation

The Census question about religion is optional, and just under seven 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 2012-2021?*

*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?*



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	993	1,160	680	870	887	928	646	454	196	6,814
Maronite Catholic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Melkite Catholic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ukrainian Catholic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chaldean Catholic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syro-Malabar Catholic	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4
<b>Total Catholic</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>1,160</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>6,818</b>
<b>Per cent Catholic (of total population in age group)</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>21.7</b>
Anglican	271	368	202	328	432	541	449	373	130	3,094
Orthodox	10	7	14	16	21	15	5	5	5	98
Other Christian	639	700	404	505	615	600	546	353	113	4,475
Non-Christian	142	106	162	190	177	104	73	33	10	997
No Religion	2,298	1,966	2,103	2,102	1,659	1,285	828	410	118	12,769
Not Stated	517	491	415	488	417	306	213	137	127	3,111
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>4,870</b>	<b>4,798</b>	<b>3,980</b>	<b>4,499</b>	<b>4,208</b>	<b>3,783</b>	<b>2,760</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>31,362</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**

Age (years)	Males 2021	Females 2021	Total 2021	Total 2016
0	30	32	62	114
1	34	32	66	147
2	35	38	73	122
3	63	32	95	134
4	45	49	94	150
5	41	49	90	154
6	77	63	140	153
7	58	63	121	170
8	59	64	123	171
9	69	66	135	178
10	70	55	125	155
11	59	67	126	156
12	65	61	126	153
13	64	80	144	137
14	72	56	128	132
15	60	52	112	141
16	73	60	133	134
17	65	53	118	124
18	38	32	70	94
19	41	30	71	96
20-24	163	159	322	462
25-29	174	177	351	509
30-34	166	227	393	591
35-39	213	261	474	545
40-44	181	267	448	555
45-49	199	243	442	626
50-54	225	273	498	526
55-59	200	234	434	452
60-64	163	197	360	344
65-69	107	177	284	311
70-74	126	147	273	235
75-79	69	118	187	157
80+	89	103	192	147
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,193</b>	<b>3,617</b>	<b>6,810</b>	<b>8,275</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 randomisation 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 be taken in interpreting small counts in tables. Note that figures below three are not reported.

The table on this page shows the number of Catholics in this parish in 2021, by age and sex, and compares the total number of Catholics in each age group with the figure in 2016.

In 1996, the median age of Catholics in Australia was 33 years; by 2021, this had risen to 43 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.

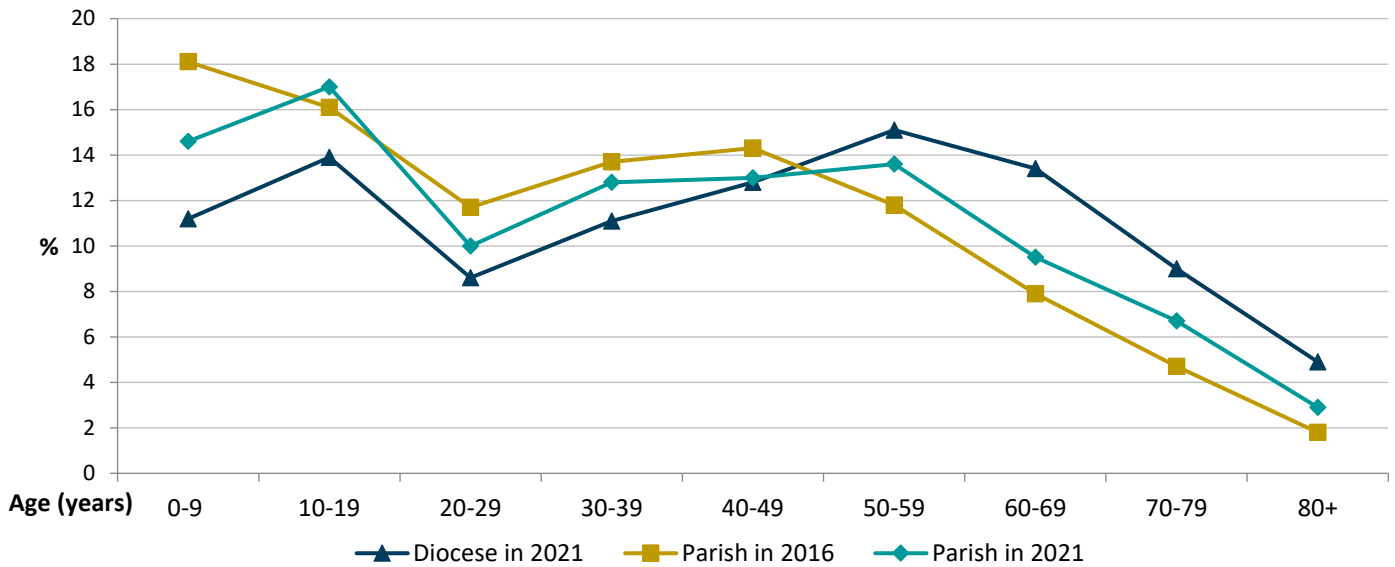
In 2021, among Australian Catholics as a whole, 53 per cent were female and 47 per cent were male. But it is not always like this. Among Catholics aged under 20, males slightly outnumbered females, whereas females accounted for 58 per cent of Catholics aged 75 or more. There are also local factors, such 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 2016? Can you get a sense from the table of what the parish age profile might look like in 2026, the year of the next Census?*

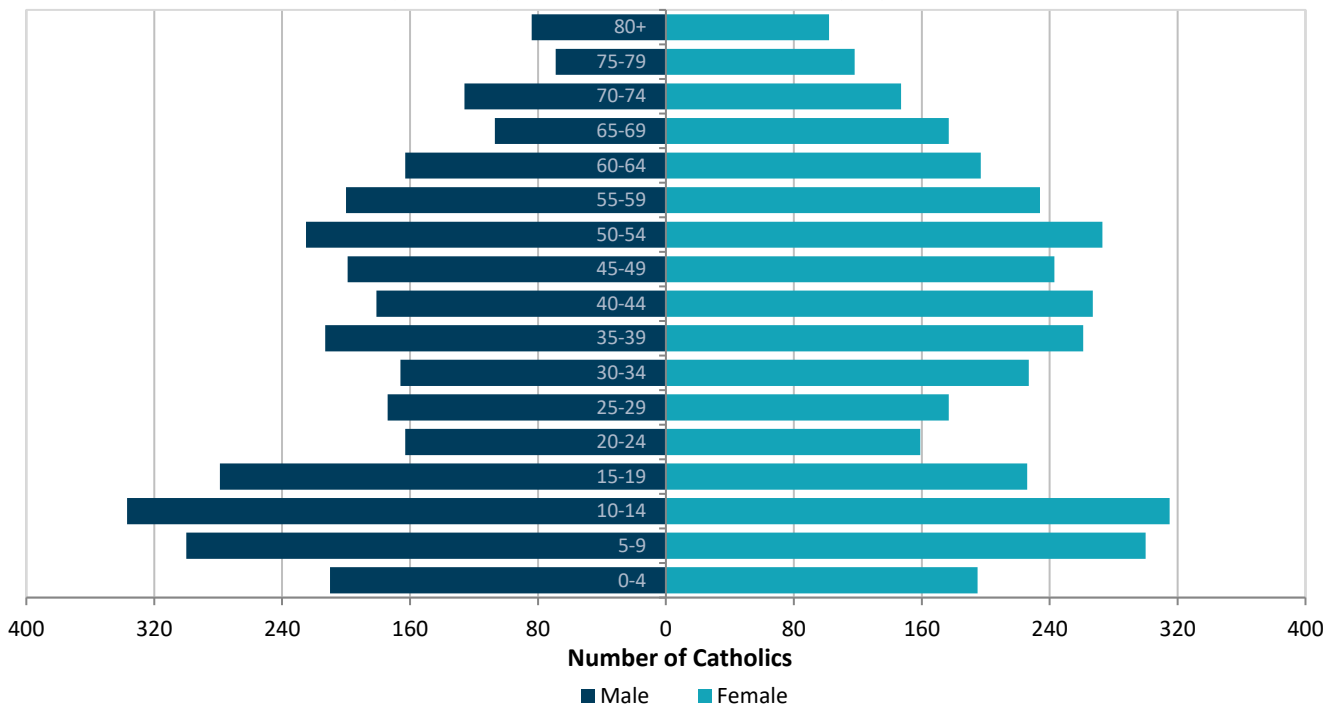


# Age and Sex

## Age profile of the Catholic population, 2016 & 2021



## Age-sex profile of the Catholic population, 2021



# 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 living with a profound or severe disability. The ABS defines this 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 report 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 living 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
<b>Catholics who have need for assistance with core activities</b>							
<b>Family members:</b>							
Males	45	30	21	27	17	4	144
Females	24	22	25	38	22	8	139
<b>Lone Persons:</b>							
Males	-	4	5	-	-	5	14
Females	-	-	3	4	15	6	28
<b>Other non-family members or persons not present in a household on Census night<sup>3</sup></b>							
Males	-	6	4	4	4	3	21
Females	-	-	11	9	17	18	55
<b>Total</b>							
Males	45	40	30	31	21	12	179
Females	24	22	39	51	54	32	222

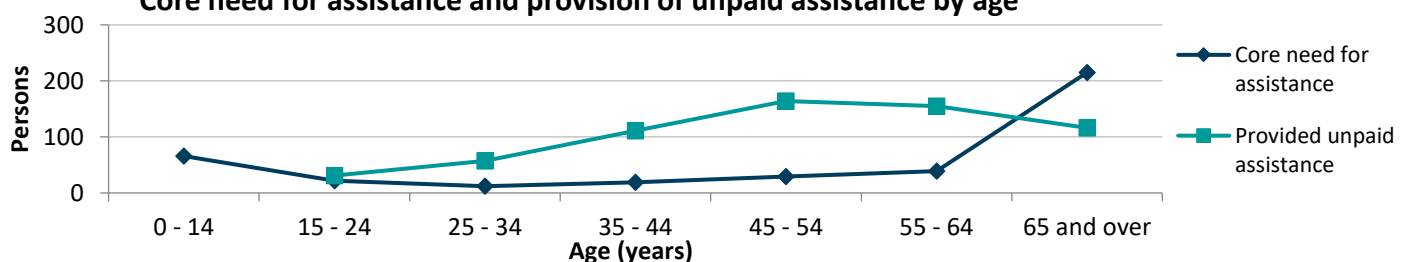
**Table 11b: Provision of unpaid assistance by age**

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Total
<b>Catholics who provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability<sup>4</sup></b>							
Males	16	20	48	65	50	42	241
Females	18	40	70	104	103	75	410

**Notes:**

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021. *Census of Population and Housing: Census Dictionary*.
2. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2022. *People with disability in Australia /Social Inclusion*. <https://www.aihw.gov.au>
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 noticeably over the last two decades. At the time of the 1991 Census, 31 per cent of Australian Catholics aged 15 and over had never been married, 55 per cent were married, seven per cent were separated or divorced and six per cent were widowed. By the 2021 Census, these figures were respectively 33 per cent, 49 per cent, 12 per cent and six per cent. Since 1991, there has been a decline in the percentage of married Catholics and a rise in the percentage of those never married and those separated or divorced.

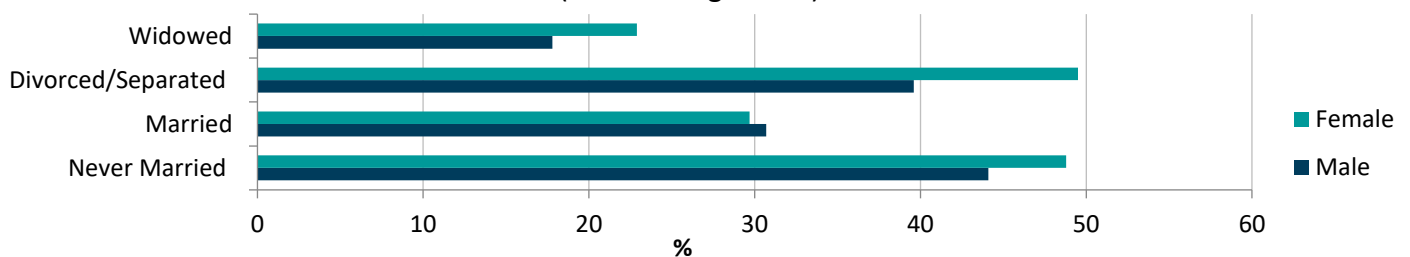
*How might changes in marital status patterns affect the life of the Church in this parish? Do they result in the need for new pastoral services and programs?*

The graph below shows, for each marital status, the percentage of Catholic men and women aged 15 years and older who lived in the parish at the time of the 2021 Census and who had changed address in the previous five years. Across Australia in 2021, 35 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	436	241	125	92	60	14	8	976
Married	6	87	242	266	225	173	110	1,109
Separated or Divorced	-	15	24	61	73	45	10	228
Widowed	-	-	4	-	-	12	28	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>2,357</b>
<b>Females</b>								
Never married	384	219	140	90	35	12	7	887
Married	4	159	323	295	283	193	80	1,337
Separated or Divorced	-	20	63	115	83	62	21	364
Widowed	-	4	-	19	29	49	114	215
<b>Total</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>2,803</b>

**Change of address since 2016 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	603	132	735	18.0
One person Catholic, the other non-Catholic Christian	574	131	705	18.6
One Catholic, the other not Christian, not stated or temporarily absent	559	270	829	32.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,736</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>2,269</b>	<b>23.5</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	-	5	15	98	153	89	61	26	447	2,604
One parent Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	-	6	18	57	121	78	60	19	359	2,735
One parent Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	-	-	24	93	131	77	32	21	378	2,469
<b>Couple with no children living at home:</b>										
Both partners Catholic	23	51	53	52	61	25	27	10	302	1,524
One partner Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	22	44	57	77	85	42	11	6	344	1,698
One partner Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	19	25	36	60	124	39	17	3	323	2,161
<b>One-parent families:</b>										
Parent is Catholic	23	42	93	98	64	9	7	23	359	1,326
<b>Other families where at least one person is Catholic</b>										
Other: Reference person Catholic but spouse temporarily absent <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	99	99	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>2,845</b>	<b>2,110</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.



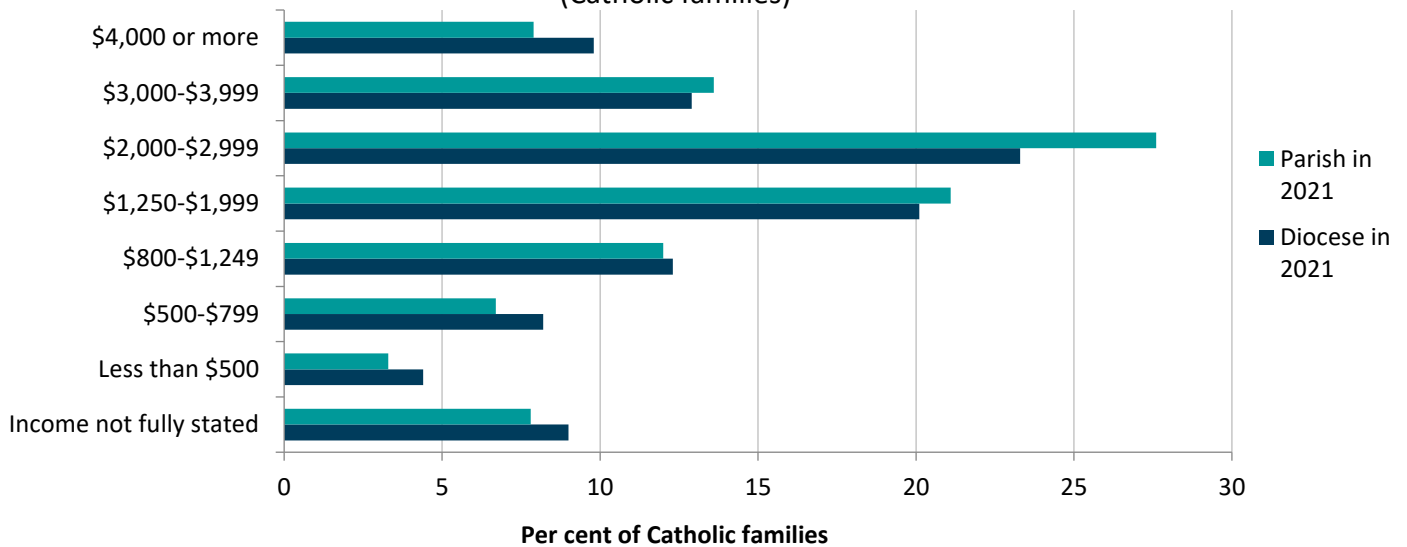
# Families

**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	71	13	5	-	3	92
\$500-\$799	133	28	17	6	3	187
\$800-\$1,249	191	59	56	20	10	336
\$1,250-\$1,999	276	118	134	37	25	590
\$2,000-\$2,999	366	148	171	76	12	773
\$3,000-\$3,999	157	60	116	45	3	381
\$4,000 or more	109	33	61	15	3	221
Income not fully stated	88	59	48	12	12	219
<b>Total Families</b>	<b>1,391</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>2,799</b>
<b>Median Weekly Family Income (\$)</b>	<b>1,947</b>	<b>2,077</b>	<b>2,397</b>	<b>2,480</b>	<b>1,655</b>	<b>2,110</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)	915	266	369	144	39	1,733
De facto couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	287	80	106	46	14	533
One parent family, parent Catholic	108	123	81	24	17	353
Other families where at least one person is Catholic	84	52	67	27	3	233
<b>Total families</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>2,852</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 9,808,428 households in Australia in 2021. At least one Catholic person lived in 2,567,352 households, or 26 per cent of all households. Seventy-seven per cent of these Catholic households were family households and, of the Catholic family households, 77 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?*

	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	2,122	58	588	30	2,798	75.8
Lone person aged under 35 years	27	-	18	-	45	60.0
Lone person aged 35 years or over	275	9	73	18	375	73.3
Group households	59	4	32	-	95	62.1
<b>Total households</b>	<b>2,483</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>3,313</b>	<b>74.9</b>

	\$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	63	103	459	484	120	103	1,650
Lone person aged under 35 years	-	-	14	8	-	-	1,471
Lone person aged 35 years or over	8	13	44	19	3	-	1,306
Group households	-	-	18	10	-	-	1,466
<b>Total households</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>1,614</b>

**Notes:**

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021. *Census of Population and Housing: Census Dictionary*.
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?*

**Table 19: Birthplace**

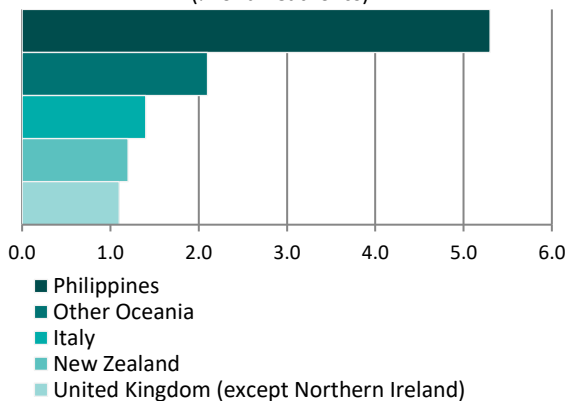
	All Catholics	% of Catholics	% recent arrivals <sup>1</sup>
Australia	5,611	82.4	-
New Zealand	85	1.2	-
Other Oceania	143	2.1	7.1
United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland)	78	1.1	-
Ireland (including Northern Ireland)	33	0.5	-
Italy	94	1.4	3.4
Malta	7	0.1	-
Spain and Portugal	13	0.2	-
France	12	0.2	-
Netherlands	12	0.2	-
Germany	21	0.3	-
Austria	6	0.1	-
Croatia and other Former Yugoslavia	17	0.2	-
Poland	3	0.0	-
Hungary	6	0.1	-
Other Eastern Europe, Russian Federation and Baltic States	13	0.2	-
Other Europe NEC	7	0.1	-
Vietnam	10	0.1	-
Philippines	364	5.3	4.4
Indonesia	12	0.2	35.7
Malaysia	12	0.2	-
Singapore	-	-	-
South East Asia NEC	24	0.4	-
India	33	0.5	-
Sri Lanka	32	0.5	-
China (except Hong Kong and Taiwan)	4	0.1	-
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	3	0.0	50.0
Korea, Republic of (South)	3	0.0	-
Egypt	-	-	-
Lebanon	-	-	-
Iraq	-	-	-
Sudan (including South Sudan)	-	-	-
Middle East and North Africa NEC	3	0.0	-
South Africa	13	0.2	-
Mauritius	5	0.1	-
United States of America	5	0.1	-
Canada	9	0.1	-
Argentina	-	-	-
Brazil	3	0.0	-
Colombia	5	0.1	50.0
Chile	7	0.1	-
Central America and South America NEC	21	0.3	-
Other countries	30	0.4	-
Inadequately described/Not stated	47	0.7	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,806</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>

Notes:

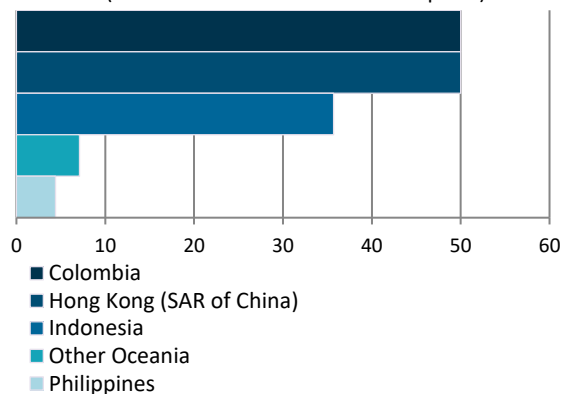
1. % recent arrivals = the percentage of Catholics who were born in the named country and who arrived in Australia between 2018 and 2021 inclusive.

NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified

**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)



# Language

In 2021, around 22 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	5,914	18,780	24,694	23.9
Italian	132	22	154	85.7
Maltese	6	-	6	100.0
Spanish	23	17	40	57.5
Croatian	3	-	3	100.0
Polish	6	-	6	100.0
Dutch	10	33	43	23.3
French	20	24	44	45.5
German	12	62	74	16.2
Portuguese	37	10	47	78.7
Hungarian	6	10	16	37.5
Ukrainian	-	5	5	-
Vietnamese	8	31	39	20.5
Filipino languages	276	96	372	74.2
Chinese languages	7	115	122	5.7
Malayalam	22	14	36	61.1
Sinhalese	18	36	54	33.3
Korean	5	38	43	11.6
Indonesian and Malay	6	24	30	20.0
Arabic	-	5	5	-
Assyrian and Chaldean	-	-	-	-
Oceanic and Papuan languages	43	435	478	9.0
Australian Indigenous languages	61	330	391	15.6
Other European languages NEC	7	114	121	5.8
Other Asian languages NEC	38	1,318	1,356	2.8
Other languages NEC	17	91	108	15.7
Inadequately described/Non-Verbal/Not stated	127	2,939	3,066	4.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,804</b>	<b>24,549</b>	<b>31,353</b>	<b>21.7</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	352	778	820	592	1,489	1,112	766	5,909	-
Italian	4	8	6	5	23	30	58	134	8.7
Maltese	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-
Spanish	-	-	-	5	5	4	5	19	-
Croatian	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-
Polish	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8	-
Dutch	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	-
French	5	-	-	-	5	3	3	16	16.7
German	6	-	-	-	-	4	3	13	-
Portuguese	3	-	4	8	7	7	8	37	10.0
Hungarian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ukrainian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vietnamese	-	-	-	6	-	-	5	11	55.6
Filipino languages	10	6	30	22	111	65	27	271	4.1
Chinese languages	-	-	-	3	-	-	4	7	-
Malayalam	-	3	4	-	8	3	-	18	10.7
Sinhalese	-	3	-	-	6	-	7	16	21.1
Korean	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	27.3
Indonesian and Malay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arabic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assyrian and Chaldean	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oceanic and Papuan languages	-	-	7	10	14	12	5	48	-
Australian Indigenous Languages	9	8	18	14	11	4	4	68	7.0
Other European languages NEC	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	9	-
Other Asian languages NEC	-	11	10	-	13	9	4	47	10.3
Other languages NEC	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	9	42.9
Inadequately described/Non-Verbal/Not stated	12	20	17	19	32	10	20	130	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>1,733</b>	<b>1,268</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>6,788</b>	<b>0.9</b>

Notes:

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

NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified



Edmonton Parish, Diocese of Cairns, Census ID: 173309

National Catholic Census Project 1991-2021 – a project of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

Principal source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics – 2021 Census of Population and Housing

# Attendance at Educational Institutions

According to the 2021 Census, more than 767,800 Australians attended Catholic schools, accounting for almost 21 per cent of all school students in Australia. In 2021, there were 847,500 Catholic students—almost one in six of all Catholics—attending Government, Catholic, and other non-Government schools. A further 326,700 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.

The pie-chart below shows the language background of all primary and secondary school students in your parish, both Catholic and non-Catholic, attending Catholic schools. Nationally, around 17 per cent of all students in Catholic schools speak a language other than English at home. The adjacent bar-chart shows the educational participation rate of Catholic males and females in each of the three age groups.

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

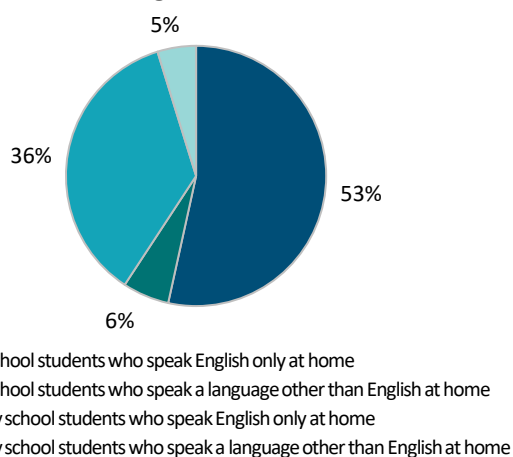
**Table 22: Type of educational institution attending by religious affiliation**

	Catholic	Not Catholic or not stated	All persons	% Catholic
Infants/Primary – Government	216	1,622	1,838	11.8
Infants/Primary – Catholic	586	573	1,159	50.6
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	19	145	164	11.6
Secondary – Government	258	1,347	1,605	16.1
Secondary – Catholic	428	372	800	53.5
Secondary – Other Non-Government	27	117	144	18.8
Technical or Further Educational Institution (including TAFE Colleges)	146	558	704	20.7
University or other Tertiary Institutions	203	617	820	24.8
Other (including pre-school)	214	740	954	22.4
Not stated/Not applicable <sup>1</sup>	4,707	18,476	23,183	20.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,804</b>	<b>24,567</b>	<b>31,371</b>	<b>21.7</b>

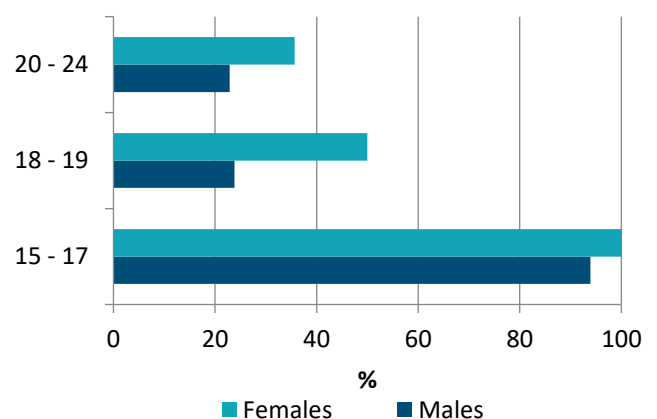
Note:

- 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

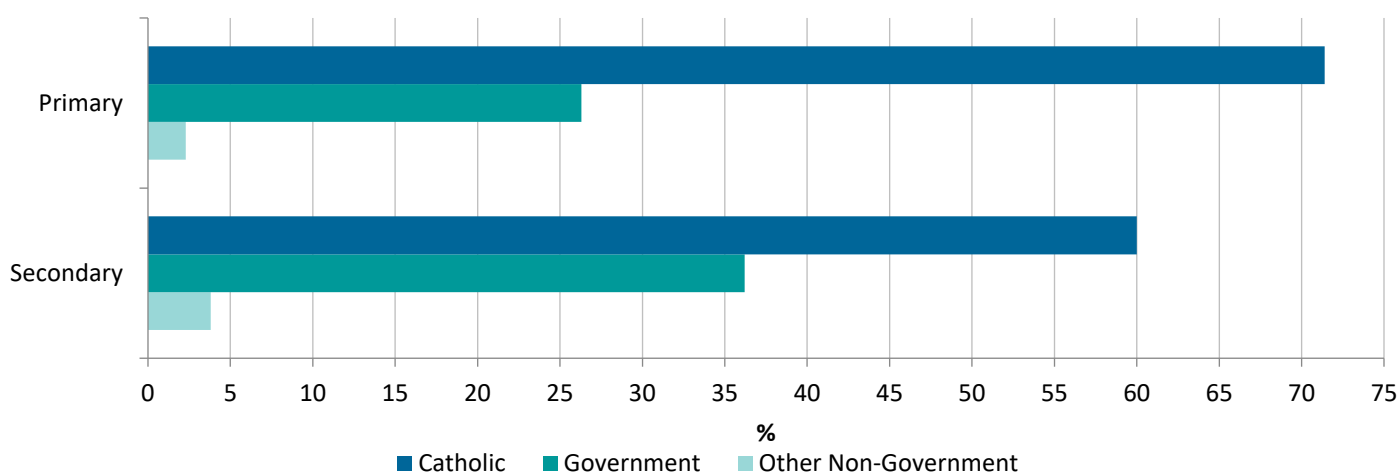
**Table 23: Type of educational institution attending by weekly income of student's family<sup>1</sup>**

	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	5	18	31	66	54	15	7	220	91,250
Infants/Primary – Catholic	9	14	51	88	166	125	63	573	134,424
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	-	3	4	-	-	7	5	23	175,044
Secondary – Government	8	-	39	70	60	20	14	243	97,820
Secondary – Catholic	4	16	23	80	114	92	48	428	134,216
Secondary – Other Non-Government	-	4	3	3	-	-	9	19	97,768
TAFE, University or other tertiary institution	4	-	4	12	14	15	9	69	137,761
Other (including pre-school)	-	-	4	5	9	7	-	25	124,517
Not stated/Not applicable	-	6	3	-	4	5	-	21	104,286
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>1,621</b>	<b>121,910</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 2021, that figure had reached 25 per cent. Among Catholics aged 15 to 34 years in 2021, 30 per cent of women had a degree compared to 19 per cent of men. In contrast, among Catholics aged 55 and over, just under 17 per cent of both men and 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?*

**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	-	5	7	10	12	-	34
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	12	46	48	41	25	32	204
Advanced diploma or diploma level	-	27	48	48	38	15	176
Certificate level	86	160	180	192	143	129	890
Inadequately described/Not stated/Not applicable	337	102	103	131	133	219	1,025
<b>Total</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>2,329</b>
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>2.8</i>	<i>15.0</i>	<i>14.2</i>	<i>12.1</i>	<i>10.5</i>	<i>8.1</i>	<i>10.2</i>
<b>Females</b>							
Postgraduate degree	-	9	16	17	15	9	66
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	14	117	145	98	60	46	480
Advanced diploma or diploma level	15	50	88	96	59	40	348
Certificate level	79	122	148	111	87	38	585
Inadequately described/Not stated/Not applicable	281	105	135	195	208	409	1,333
<b>Total</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>2,812</b>
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>3.6</i>	<i>31.3</i>	<i>30.3</i>	<i>22.2</i>	<i>17.5</i>	<i>10.1</i>	<i>19.4</i>
<b>All Catholics</b>							
Postgraduate degree	-	14	23	27	27	9	100
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	26	163	193	139	85	78	684
Advanced diploma or diploma level	15	77	136	144	97	55	524
Certificate level	165	282	328	303	230	167	1,475
Inadequately described/Not stated/Not applicable	618	207	238	326	341	628	2,358
<b>Total</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>5,141</b>
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>3.2</i>	<i>23.8</i>	<i>23.5</i>	<i>17.7</i>	<i>14.4</i>	<i>9.3</i>	<i>15.2</i>

Note:

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



# Employment

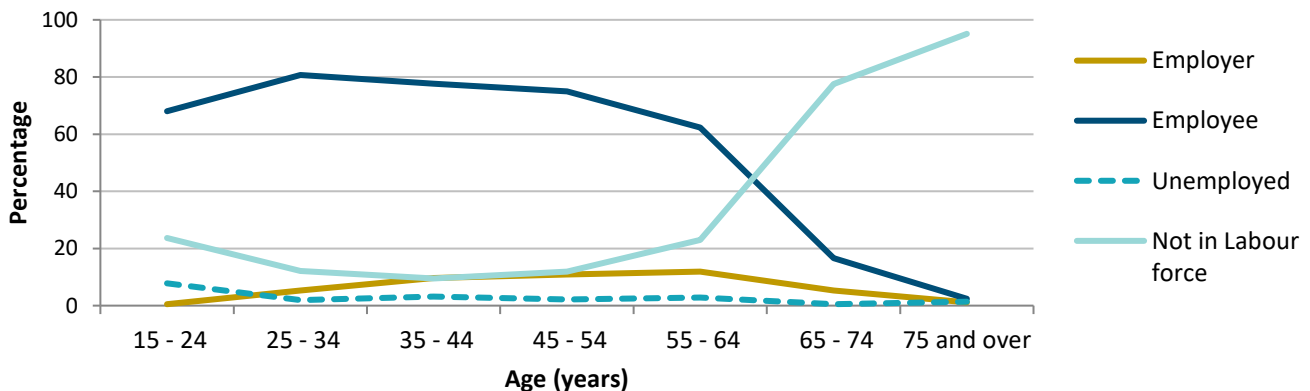
In recent years there have been many changes in society and the workplace that have affected Australian workers. One major change has been the increase in the percentages of workers, especially young people and women, in part-time jobs. Another has been the rise in participation in the labour force by 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	-	79	142	20	241
Employee	279	568	506	40	1,393
Unemployed	46	17	16	3	82
Not in the labour force	114	63	107	322	606
Other/Not stated/Not applicable	-	4	4	4	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>2,334</b>
<i>Per cent in labour force<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>74.0</i>	<i>90.8</i>	<i>85.7</i>	<i>16.2</i>	<i>73.5</i>
<i>Per cent unemployed<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>14.2</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>4.8</i>	<i>4.8</i>
<b>Females</b>					
Employer	4	52	55	19	130
Employee	280	738	680	61	1,759
Unemployed	18	27	27	6	78
Not in the labour force	88	113	182	453	836
Other/Not stated/Not applicable	-	5	5	10	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>2,823</b>
<i>Per cent in labour force<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>77.4</i>	<i>87.4</i>	<i>80.3</i>	<i>15.7</i>	<i>69.7</i>
<i>Per cent unemployed<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>3.5</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>4.0</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; 39 per cent of Catholic women and 35 per cent of Catholic men aged 15 and over who reported their occupation in the 2021 Census worked as managers or professionals. But men were much more likely than women—45 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	4	26	51	59	46	21	207
Professionals	11	33	40	40	26	5	155
Technicians & Trade Workers	73	120	115	100	58	12	478
Community & Personal Service Workers	35	25	29	28	18	6	141
Clerical & Administrative Workers	7	11	17	22	16	6	79
Sales Workers	62	16	15	25	11	4	133
Machinery operators & Drivers	16	20	40	54	55	8	193
Labourers	66	38	34	37	46	5	226
ID / NS / NA <sup>1</sup>	164	48	47	57	82	329	727
<b>Total</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>2,339</b>
<i>Per cent Managers &amp; Professionals<sup>2</sup></i>	5.5	20.4	26.7	27.1	26.1	38.8	22.5
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’<sup>2</sup></i>	56.6	61.6	55.4	52.3	57.6	37.3	55.6
<b>Females</b>							
Managers	-	25	37	51	21	7	141
Professionals	15	108	120	75	57	13	388
Technicians & Trade Workers	20	19	18	14	4	3	78
Community & Personal Service Workers	69	67	93	75	64	3	371
Clerical & Administrative Workers	33	68	108	125	82	16	432
Sales Workers	109	36	39	44	34	12	274
Machinery operators & Drivers	-	-	4	9	4	4	21
Labourers	26	11	22	43	37	9	148
ID / NS / NA <sup>1</sup>	106	73	81	86	134	472	952
<b>Total</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>2,805</b>
<i>Per cent Managers &amp; Professionals<sup>2</sup></i>	5.5	39.8	35.6	28.9	25.7	29.9	28.5
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’<sup>2</sup></i>	16.9	9.0	10.0	15.1	14.9	23.9	13.3
<b>All Catholics</b>							
Managers	4	51	88	110	67	28	348
Professionals	26	141	160	115	83	18	543
Technicians & Trade Workers	93	139	133	114	62	15	556
Community & Personal Service Workers	104	92	122	103	82	9	512
Clerical & Administrative Workers	40	79	125	147	98	22	511
Sales Workers	171	52	54	69	45	16	407
Machinery operators & Drivers	16	20	44	63	59	12	214
Labourers	92	49	56	80	83	14	374
ID / NS / NA <sup>1</sup>	270	121	128	143	216	801	1,679
<b>Total</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>5,144</b>
<i>Per cent Managers &amp; Professionals<sup>2</sup></i>	5.5	30.8	31.7	28.1	25.9	34.3	25.7
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’<sup>2</sup></i>	36.8	33.4	29.8	32.1	35.2	30.6	33.0

**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?*

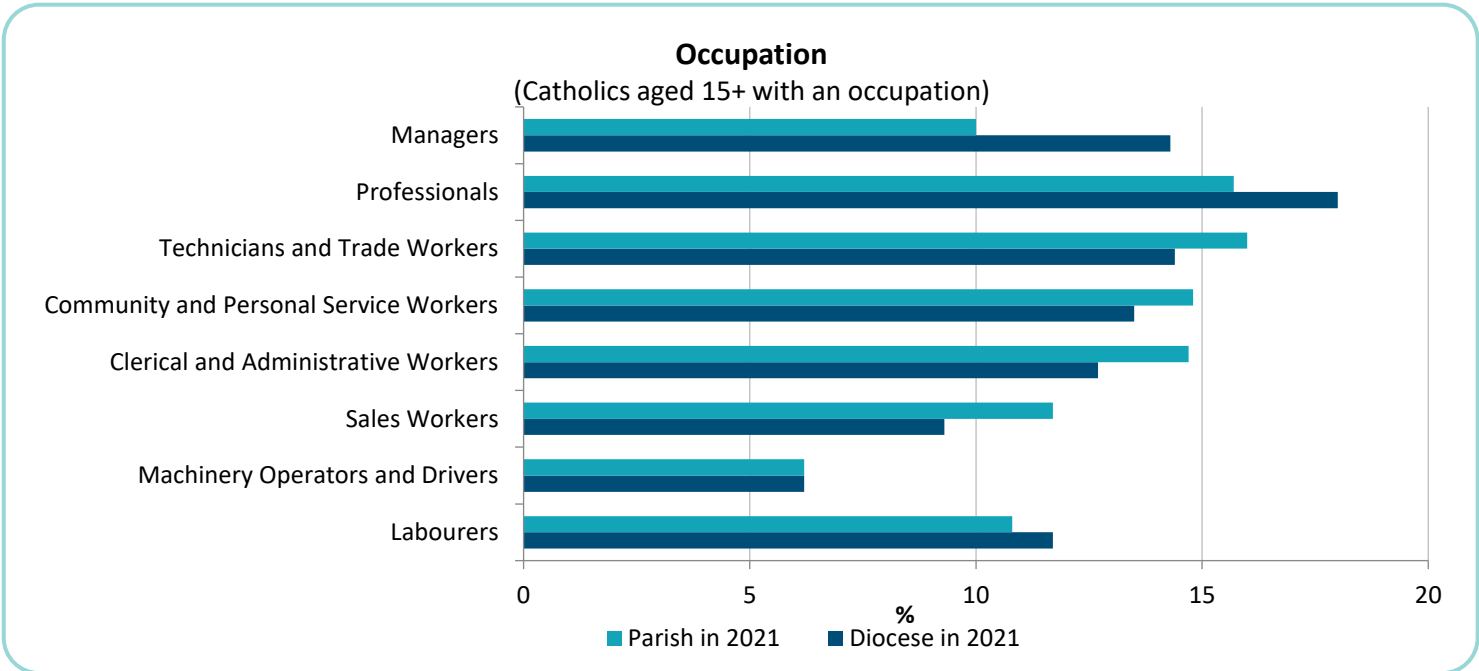
*What are the major occupations of younger people? Middle-aged people? Older people? What do you think accounts for differences in occupation between the different age groups?*

*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	52	24
One parent or lone parent in professional occupation	258	180
Both parents in 'white collar' occupation <sup>1</sup>	167	113
One parent or lone parent in 'white collar' occupation	402	294
Both parents in 'blue collar' occupation <sup>2</sup>	26	26
One parent or lone parent in 'blue collar' occupation	72	43
Not applicable and not stated	172	123
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>803</b>
% with professional parent(s)	27.0	25.4
% with blue collar parent(s)	8.5	8.6

- Note:
1. 'White collar' includes occupations such as managers, community and personal service workers, clerical and administrative workers and sales workers.
  2. See Note 2 on page 5 for the type of occupations covered by the term 'blue collar'.



*This page is intentionally left blank*

*This page is intentionally left blank*

[www.ncpr.catholic.org.au](http://www.ncpr.catholic.org.au)

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
- Research reports from the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia
- 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 1991-2021.

National Centre for Pastoral Research staff:

Trudy Dantis (Director), Stephen Reid, Katherine Jelavic, Leith Dudfield and Marilyn Chee.

Assistants: Dragan Lancuski and Raifiel Cyril.

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

**Australian Catholic Bishops Conference  
National Centre for Pastoral Research  
GPO Box 368 Canberra ACT 2601**

**Phone: +61 2 6201 9812**

**Email: [ncpr@catholic.org.au](mailto:ncpr@catholic.org.au)**

**NCP**  
National Centre for Pastoral Research