



PARISH SOCIAL PROFILE

Based on the 2021 Australian Census

Varroville Parish

Diocese of Wollongong

Census ID: 101634



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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,

Gabrielle Mi Mallen

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

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.

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	Population Disability Occupation and Employment Birthplace, Indigenous Status and Language Education Marital Status Families Households

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

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: 20,988

Catholic Population: 5,859

Catholics make up 27.9 per cent of the total population

Median age of Catholics is 36 years

Total Catholic families: 2,217

323 Catholics live alone

1,948 Catholics were born overseas

178 Catholics do not speak English well

326 Catholics need assistance with core activities

2,935 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	4,380	5,859
Catholics aged 0-14 (%)	20.4	21.0
Catholics aged 65+ (%)	11.0	14.2
Catholics born in NESC ¹ (%)	23.6	29.3
Catholics not proficient in English (%)	2.3	3.0
Catholic families	1,714	2,217
Catholics living alone	179	323
Catholic students attending Catholic schools ² (%)	46.9	55.7
Catholics with university degree (%)	14.5	21.1
Catholic males in labour force (%)	75.2	67.6
Catholic females in labour force (%)	65.3	62.2
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling (%)	80.6	80.7

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 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.



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 ¹	Parish 2021	Parish 2016	Diocese 2021	Australia 2021	Diocesan Group ²	Australian Group ²
Total population ³	20,988	13,834	834,977	25,422,788	3	2
Catholic population	5,859	4,380	197,844	5,075,910	3	2
Per cent Catholic	27.9	31.7	23.7	20.0	1	1
At same address since previous Census (%)	49.9	66.7	58.0	59.4	5	5
Median age ⁴ (years)	36	36	41	43	5	5
Aged 0-14 (%)	21.0	20.4	19.4	17.9	2	1
Aged 65+ (%)	14.2	11.0	19.3	19.9	5	5
Males per 100 females	91.3	96.0	90.1	89.1	2	2

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 (%)	5.6	5.4	7.0	6.7	4	4
Provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability ⁵ (% of Catholics aged 15+)	10.7	13.3	13.2	13.5	5	5

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.



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 ¹ (% of those recording an occupation)	31.9	22.4	32.2	37.1	3	4
Workers in 'blue collar' occupations ² (% of those recording an occupation)	31.0	38.3	31.6	28.1	4	3
Men, employed or seeking work ³ (%)	67.1	75.2	64.3	66.5	2	3
Women, employed or seeking work ³ (%)	61.8	65.3	57.4	59.7	2	3
Unemployed at time of Census ⁴ (%)	3.6	5.3	3.8	4.2	3	3
Youth unemployed at time of Census ⁵ (%)	9.1	10.9	8.3	8.9	3	3

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 ⁶ (%)	3.9	4.7	4.3	5.5	4	3
Born overseas in non-English-speaking country (%)	29.3	23.6	17.6	21.4	1	1
Immigrants from non-English-speaking countries arriving in Census year or previous 3 years	34	49	1,696	97,457	3	3
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	157	163	6,657	135,686	3	2
Speak language other than English at home (%)	31.8	25.1	17.5	21.5	1	1
Not proficient in English ⁷ (%)	3.0	2.3	1.9	2.7	1	2

Notes:

 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.



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

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?

Catholics aged 15+ with bachelor degree or higher qualification (%)21.114.519.024.62Catholics attending an educational institution (% of all Catholics in each age group)95.190.092.194.91Aged 15-1795.190.092.194.91Aged 18-1970.366.964.767.22Aged 20-2437.636.538.843.43Catholic primary students attending Catholic schools (%)49.534.949.355.53Catholic secondary students attending Catholic schools (%)63.661.856.355.32Catholic secondary students attending Catholic schools (%)34.036.135.433.43Primary students attending Catholic schools (%)27.915.725.136.63	Table 5: Education ¹	Parish 2021	Parish 2016	Diocese 2021	Australia 2021	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Aged 15-17 95.1 90.0 92.1 94.9 1 Aged 18-19 70.3 66.9 64.7 67.2 2 Aged 20-24 37.6 36.5 38.8 43.4 3 Catholic primary students attending Catholic schools (%) 49.5 34.9 49.3 55.5 3 Catholic primary students attending Government schools (%) 48.6 64.4 45.1 38.4 2 Catholic secondary students attending Catholic schools (%) 63.6 61.8 56.3 55.3 2 Catholic secondary students attending Government schools (%) 63.6 61.8 56.3 33.4 3 Primary students attending Catholic schools (%) 34.0 36.1 35.4 33.4 3 Primary students attending Catholic schools (%) 27.9 15.7 25.1 36.6 3	higher qualification (%) Catholics attending an educational institution	21.1	14.5	19.0	24.6	2	3
Aged 20-2437.636.538.843.43Catholic primary students attending Catholic schools (%)49.534.949.355.53Catholic primary students attending Government schools (%)48.664.445.138.42Catholic secondary students attending Catholic schools (%)63.661.856.355.32Catholic secondary students attending Catholic schools (%)34.036.135.433.43Primary students attending Catholic schools (%)27.915.725.136.63	Aged 15-17	95.1	90.0	92.1	94.9	1	3
Catholic primary students attending Catholic schools (%)49.534.949.355.53Catholic primary students attending Government schools (%)48.664.445.138.42Catholic secondary students attending Catholic schools (%)63.661.856.355.32Catholic secondary students attending Government schools (%)34.036.135.433.43Primary students attending Catholic schools (%)27.915.725.136.63	Aged 18-19	70.3	66.9	64.7	67.2	2	3
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attending Government schools (%)48.664.445.138.42Catholic secondary students attending Catholic schools (%)63.661.856.355.32Catholic secondary students attending Government schools (%)34.036.135.433.43Primary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic ² (%)27.915.725.136.63		49.5	34.9	49.3	55.5	3	4
attending Catholic schools (%)63.661.856.355.32Catholic secondary students attending Government schools (%)34.036.135.433.43Primary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic ² (%)27.915.725.136.63		48.6	64.4	45.1	38.4	2	2
attending Government schools (%)34.036.135.433.43Primary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic2 (%)27.915.725.136.63	•	63.6	61.8	56.3	55.3	2	2
who are not Catholic ² (%) 27.9 15.7 25.1 36.6 3	•	34.0	36.1	35.4	33.4	3	3
		27.9	15.7	25.1	36.6	3	4
Secondary students attending Catholic schools 36.7 34.1 38.0 41.3 4 who are not Catholic ² (%)	Secondary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic ² (%)	36.7	34.1	38.0	41.3	4	4

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.



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?

Table 6: Marital Status of Catholics aged 15+	Parish 2021	Parish 2016	Diocese 2021	Australia 2021	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Never married (%)	32.5	35.1	31.3	32.9	2	3
Married (%)	51.1	49.7	50.8	49.3	3	3
Divorced or Separated (%)	12.5	11.7	12.0	11.7	3	2
Widowed (%)	3.9	3.5	5.9	6.1	5	5

Table 7: Families ¹ in which at least one person is Catholic	Parish 2021	Parish 2016	Diocese 2021	Australia 2021	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Families	2,217	1,714	79,500	1,995,658	3	2
One-parent families	294	255	9,559	225,180	3	1
One-parent families (% of all families)	13.3	14.9	12.0	11.3	3	1
Couples of mixed religions ² (%)	48.1	53.7	58.4	58.1	5	5
De facto couples ³ (%)	16.3	17.2	16.6	17.7	3	4
Median annual family income ⁴ (\$)	121,806	98,446	116,748	120,943	2	3

Table 8: Households ⁵ in which at least one person is Catholic	Parish 2021	Parish 2016	Diocese 2021	Australia 2021	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Households	2,539	1,874	97,018	2,567,362	3	2
Persons living alone (aged under 35)	42	16	1,298	51,145	3	2
Persons living alone (aged 35+)	281	163	14,850	442,080	4	3
Persons living alone (total)	323	179	16,148	493,225	4	3
Persons living alone (% of all persons)	5.5	4.1	8.2	9.7	5	5
Dwellings owned or being purchased (%)	80.7	80.6	75.6	73.0	2	2
Median monthly housing loan repayment ⁶ (\$)	2,255	1,847	2,193	1,948	2	2

Notes:

 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.



Varroville Parish, Diocese of Wollongong, Census ID: 101634

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

Parish Details

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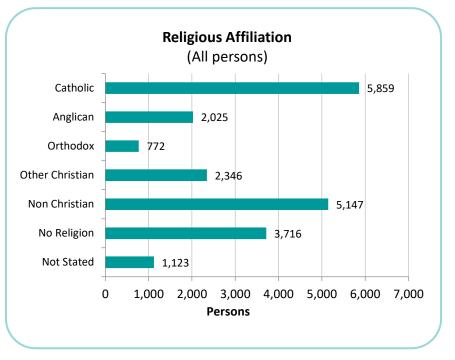
Religious Affiliation

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	812	704	716	929	631	691	707	362	132	5,684
Maronite Catholic	13	9	10	13	10	10	-	-	-	65
Melkite Catholic	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Ukrainian Catholic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chaldean Catholic	15	12	10	15	11	6	11	4	5	89
Syro-Malabar Catholic	3	8	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	16
Total Catholic	848	733	736	957	657	707	718	366	137	5,859
Per cent Catholic										
(of total population	24.1	27.4	28.3	24.2	25.0	32.3	34.9	35.1	40.4	27.9
in age group)										
Anglican	171	191	162	240	239	314	397	236	75	2,025
Orthodox	169	72	82	182	88	98	51	23	7	772
Other Christian	345	262	277	409	289	277	294	139	54	2,346
Non-Christian	1,141	757	539	1,239	776	357	220	99	19	5,147
No Religion	613	489	670	728	438	336	294	112	36	3,716
Not Stated	225	167	137	197	136	100	83	67	11	1,123
Total Population	3,512	2,671	2,603	3,952	2,623	2,189	2,057	1,042	339	20,988

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:	Males	Females	Total	Total
Age by sex	2021	2021	2021	2016
Age (years)				
	27	12		22
0	37	43	80	32
1	39	52	91	51
2	40	36	76	69
3	55	44	99	51
4	51	33	84	59
5	36	37	73	56
6	42	42	84	73
7	43	55	98	65
8	44	33	77	61
9	47	40	87	72
10	39	34	73	62
11	38	34	72	43
12	36	47	83	71
13	41	35	76	61
14	40	34	74	66
15	35	36	71	58
16	29	34	63	64
17	42	30	72	53
18	33	38	71	71
19	39	26	65	49
20-24	191	166	357	302
25-29	172	214	386	323
30-34	210	274	484	301
35-39	233	238	471	260
40-44	178	174	352	245
45-49	145	160	305	259
50-54	128	181	309	340
55-59	183	220	403	358
60-64	167	213	380	320
65-69	150	185	335	238
70-74	125	135	260	105
75-79	45	54	99	74
80+	54	82	136	65
Total	2,787	3,059	5,846	4,377

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.

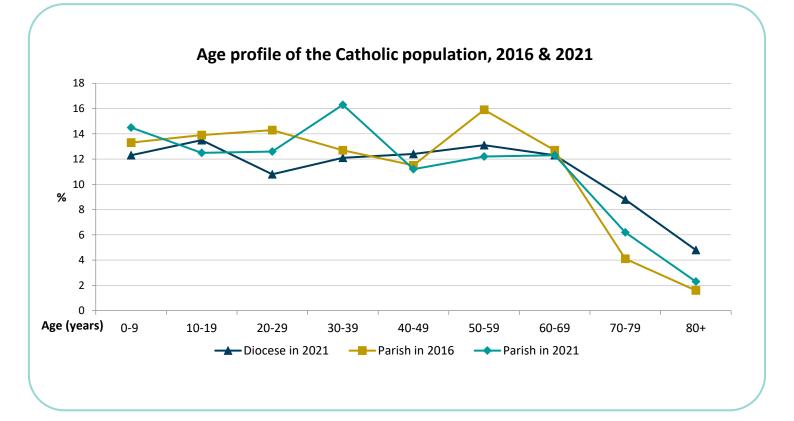
The age profile of parishioners is important information for parishes to take into account as it plans its activities. It is also important to keep an eye on how the age profile is changing over time—is the parish becoming older, younger or staying about the same? Each of these possibilities may require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

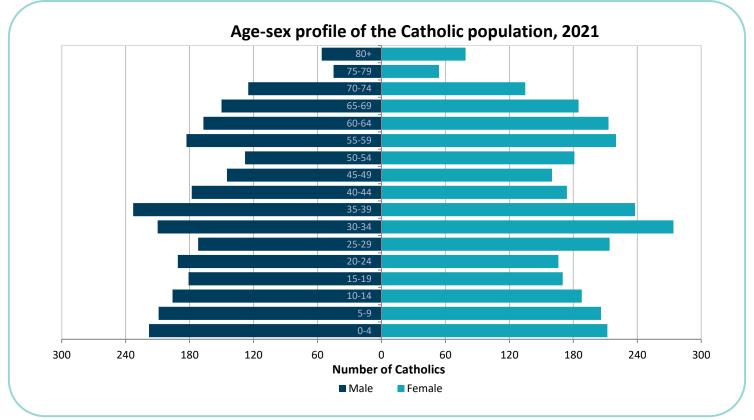
In 2021, among Australian Catholics as a whole, 53 per cent were female and 47 per cent were male. But it is not always like this. Among Catholics aged under 20, males slightly outnumbered females, whereas females accounted for 58 per cent of Catholics aged 75 or more. There are also local factors, such 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





Varroville Parish, Diocese of Wollongong, Census ID: 101634

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



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".¹ 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.²

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			
Catholics who have need for assistance	Catholics who have need for assistance with core activities									
Family members:										
Males	35	27	28	25	25	9	149			
Females	13	22	41	27	26	15	144			
Lone Persons:										
Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Females	-	-	10	4	11	5	30			
Other non-family members or pers	ons not prese	nt in a housel	hold on Censu	ıs night ³						
Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Females	-	3	-	7	-	-	10			
Total										
Males	35	27	28	25	25	9	149			
Females	13	25	51	38	37	20	184			
Table 11b: Provision of unpaid	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and	Total			
assistance by age						over				
Catholics who provide unpaid assi	stance to a pe	rson with a d	isability ⁴							
Males	10	30	27	27	44	39	177			
Females	24	37	45	71	79	53	309			

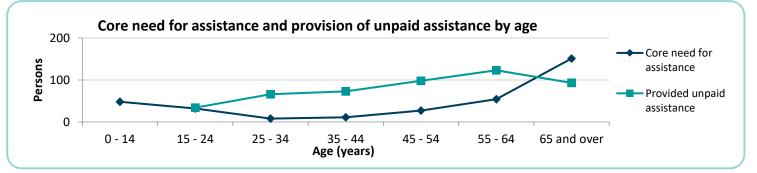
Notes:

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.



Varroville Parish, Diocese of Wollongong, Census ID: 101634 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

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
Catholics aged 15 and over								
Males								
Never married	371	214	104	43	39	5	7	783
Married	-	158	260	180	242	215	69	1,124
Separated or Divorced	-	4	44	42	63	45	17	215
Widowed	-	-	-	-	8	12	15	35
Total	371	376	408	265	352	277	108	2,157
Females								
Never married	326	222	84	43	18	13	4	710
Married	3	244	269	207	271	188	48	1,230
Separated or Divorced	-	20	55	83	111	84	19	372
Widowed	-	3	-	3	31	46	66	149
Total	329	489	408	336	431	331	137	2,461

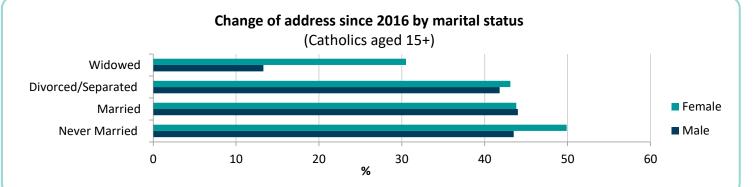


Table 13: Religious affiliation of couple by social marital status	In a registered marriage	In a de facto marriage	Total couples	% couples in de facto marriages
Both persons Catholic	806	104	910	11.4
One person Catholic, the other non-Catholic Christian	434	83	517	16.1
One Catholic, the other not Christian, not stated or temporarily absent	290	110	400	27.5
Total	1,530	297	1,827	16.3

Varroville Parish, Diocese of Wollongong, Census ID: 101634

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



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 ¹ 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 ² (\$)
Two-parent families with children at home:										
Both parents Catholic	6	12	27	89	173	127	127	17	578	2,846
One parent Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	-	10	9	37	86	63	51	23	279	2,837
One parent Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	3	-	13	33	69	49	30	10	207	2,717
Couple with no children living at ho	me:									
Both partners Catholic	34	47	48	60	70	37	32	-	328	1,687
One partner Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	12	37	35	55	60	28	14	-	241	1,747
One partner Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	6	9	10	20	49	29	19	-	142	2,530
One-parent families: Parent is Catholic	21	53	56	64	44	29	4	23	294	1,314
Other families where at least one person is Catholic	4	9	14	24	37	14	12	4	118	2,162
Other: Reference person Catholic but spouse temporarily absent ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	30	-
Total	86	177	212	382	588	376	289	107	2,217	2,336

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	61	9	10	4	-	84
\$500-\$799	114	17	24	13	4	172
\$800-\$1,249	136	37	32	-	7	212
\$1,250-\$1,999	209	65	57	41	9	381
\$2,000-\$2,999	304	118	121	27	4	574
\$3,000-\$3,999	184	98	78	27	3	390
\$4,000 or more	135	64	58	19	5	281
Income not fully stated	43	25	25	10	-	103
Total Families	1,186	433	405	141	32	2,197
Median Weekly Family Income (\$)	2,169	2,644	2,553	2,277	1,666	2,336

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.

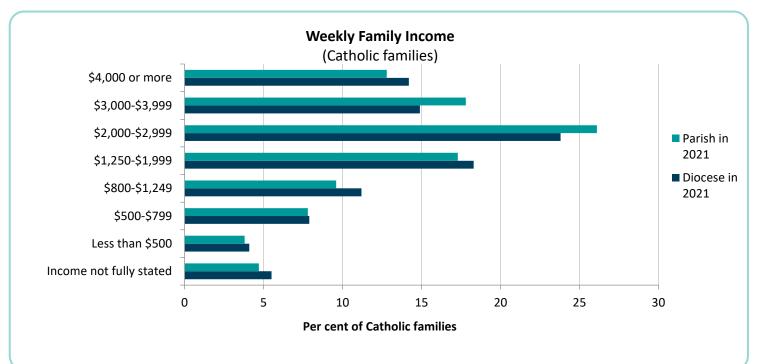


Table 16: Social marital status by number of dependent children	0 dependent children	1 dependent child	2 dependent children	3 dependent children	4 or more	Total
Family Composition:						
Married couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	837	259	299	102	29	1,526
De facto couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	164	61	38	16	12	291
One parent family, parent Catholic	113	85	73	29	6	306
Other families where at least one person is Catholic	59	21	26	13	4	123
Total families	1,173	426	436	160	51	2,246

Varroville Parish, Diocese of Wollongong, Census ID: 101634

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

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.¹ 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.²

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?

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	1,772	24	357	29	2,182	81.2
Lone person aged under 35 years	29	-	13	-	42	69.0
Lone person aged 35 years or ove	er 226	5	39	11	281	80.4
Group households	21	-	13	-	34	61.8
Total households	2,048	29	422	40	2,539	80.7

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	49	46	149	273	248	331	2,275
Lone person aged under 35 years	-	-	-	5	7	12	2,800
Lone person aged 35 years or over	4	5	10	28	9	11	1,910
Group households	-	-	-	4	5	-	2,260
Total households	53	51	159	310	269	354	2,255

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.



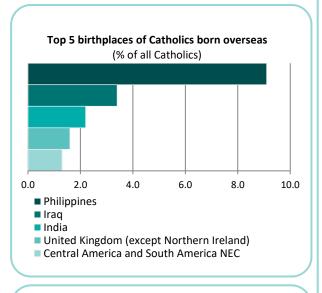
Birthplace

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?



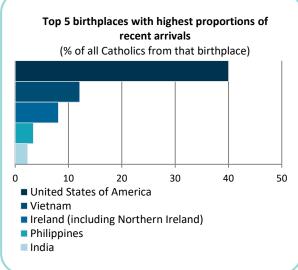


Table 19: Birthplace	All Catholics	% of Catholics	% recent arrivals ¹
Australia	2.000	(()	
Australia New Zealand	3,868	66.2 1.1	-
New Zealand	63		-
Other Oceania	61	1.0	-
United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland)	91 39	1.6 0.7	- 8.1
Ireland (including Northern Ireland) Italy	39 76	0.7	8.1
•	-		-
Malta	31 31	0.5 0.5	-
Spain and Portugal France	51 6	0.5	-
	4	-	-
Netherlands	4 22	0.1	-
Germany	22	0.4	-
Austria	-	0.1 1.3	-
Croatia and other Former Yugoslavia	75	-	-
Poland	37	0.6	-
Hungary Other Fostern Funder Duction Fosterstien	8	0.1	-
Other Eastern Europe, Russian Federation and Baltic States	18	0.3	-
Other Europe NEC	-	-	-
Vietnam	34	0.6	12.1
Philippines	533	9.1	3.4
Indonesia	20	0.3	-
Malaysia	17	0.3	-
Singapore	4	0.1	-
South East Asia NEC	23	0.4	-
India	126	2.2	2.3
Sri Lanka	12	0.2	-
China (except Hong Kong and Taiwan)	-	-	-
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	8	0.1	-
Korea, Republic of (South)	-	-	-
Egypt	5	0.1	-
Lebanon	32	0.5	-
Iraq	196	3.4	2.1
Sudan (including South Sudan)	-	-	-
Middle East and North Africa NEC	42	0.7	-
South Africa	23	0.4	-
Mauritius	51	0.9	-
United States of America	10	0.2	40.0
Canada	-	-	-
Argentina	13	0.2	-
Brazil	10	0.2	-
Colombia	15	0.3	-
Chile	76	1.3	-
Central America and South America NEC	78	1.3	-
Other countries	51	0.9	-
Inadequately described/Not stated	29	0.5	-
Total	5,845	100.0	0.7

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



Varroville Parish, Diocese of Wollongong, Census ID: 101634

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



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.¹

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 ²
English only	3,929	7,843	11,772	33.4
Italian	106	9	115	92.2
Maltese	25	-	25	100.0
Spanish	240	140	380	63.2
Croatian	117	5	122	95.9
Polish	35	9	44	79.5
Dutch	5	7	12	41.7
French	40	11	51	78.4
German	11	18	29	37.9
Portuguese	50	11	61	82.0
Hungarian	13	12	25	52.0
Ukrainian	5	3	8	62.5
Vietnamese	63	152	215	29.3
Filipino languages	458	105	563	81.3
Chinese languages	20	294	314	6.4
Malayalam	81	121	202	40.1
Sinhalese	3	33	36	8.3
Korean	-	25	25	-
Indonesian and Malay	23	77	100	23.0
Arabic	188	1,264	1,452	12.9
Assyrian and Chaldean	200	205	405	49.4
Oceanic and Papuan languages	80	274	354	22.6
Australian Indigenous languages	-	4	4	-
Other European languages NEC	17	538	555	3.1
Other Asian languages NEC	49	2,773	2,822	1.7
Other languages NEC	33	281	314	10.5
Inadequately described/Non-Verbal/Not stated	70	918	988	7.1
Total	5,861	15,132	20,993	27.9

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



Varroville Parish, Diocese of Wollongong, Census ID: 101634 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

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.¹

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	316	437	450	554	962	703	506	3,928	-
Italian	-	-	-	8	24	35	41	108	8.9
Maltese	-	-	-	-	8	9	8	25	-
Spanish	16	13	15	17	80	44	52	237	10.0
Croatian	12	7	3	6	51	10	27	116	10.8
Polish	-	-	-	3	7	19	12	41	-
Dutch	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	-
French	-	-	5	3	4	11	18	41	-
German	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	8	27.3
Portuguese	3	-	7	-	10	14	10	44	8.5
Hungarian	-	-	-	-	3	-	5	8	-
Ukrainian	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-
Vietnamese	-	7	14	7	31	10	6	75	11.6
Filipino languages	14	13	24	38	178	113	87	467	4.5
Chinese languages	6	-	-	3	7	-	-	16	-
Malayalam	10	17	5	4	38	9	5	88	3.7
Sinhalese	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	6	-
Korean	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesian and Malay	-	7	-	-	11	4	-	22	-
Arabic	5	7	23	34	64	35	18	186	12.8
Assyrian and Chaldean	16	23	22	37	67	33	11	209	18.1
Oceanic and Papuan languages	7	8	11	15	28	12	8	89	6.9
Australian Indigenous Languages	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other European languages NEC	3	-	-	3	4	8	-	18	16.7
Other Asian languages NEC	3	3	6	8	22	7	5	54	9.3
Other languages NEC	3	3	-	-	12	4	-	22	25.8
Inadequately described/Non-Verbal/ Not stated	13	9	5	8	15	3	9	62	15.1
Total	427	554	594	748	1,626	1,092	836	5,877	3.0

Notes:

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

NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified



Varroville Parish, Diocese of Wollongong, Census ID: 101634

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 postsecondary education. The Church of today, not just of tomorrow, is being shaped by the attitudes, beliefs and lifestyles of these young people.

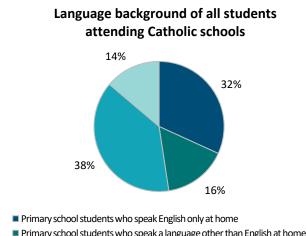
The pie-chart below shows the language background of all primary and secondary school students in your parish, both Catholic and non-Catholic, attending Catholic schools. Nationally, around 17 per cent of all students in Catholic schools speak a language other than English at home. The adjacent bar-chart 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	269	1,127	1,396	19.3
Infants/Primary – Catholic	274	106	380	72.1
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	10	327	337	3.0
Secondary – Government	143	657	800	17.9
Secondary – Catholic	267	155	422	63.3
Secondary – Other Non-Government	10	202	212	4.7
Technical or Further Educational Institution (including TAFE Colleges)	150	347	497	30.2
University or other Tertiary Institutions	207	588	795	26.0
Other (including pre-school)	200	523	723	27.7
Not stated/Not applicable ¹	4,326	11,083	15,409	28.1
Total	5,856	15,115	20,971	27.9

Note:

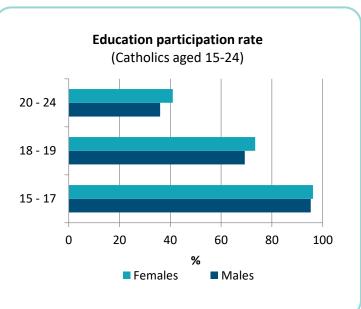
1. This table includes the total population of the parish and so there are high numbers for categories where the question about type of educational institutions being attended is not applicable.



Primary school students who speak a language other than English at home

Secondary school students who speak English only at home

Secondary school students who speak a language other than English at home



Varroville Parish, Diocese of Wollongong, Census ID: 101634

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

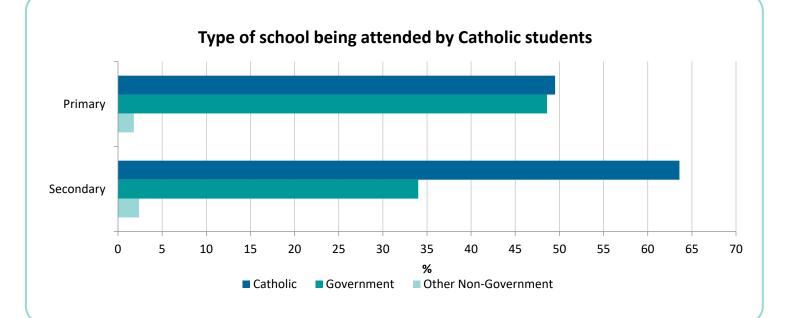
Table 23: Type of educationalinstitution attending by weeklyincome of student's family1	Less than \$500	\$500 - \$799	\$800 - \$1,249	\$1,250 - \$1,999	\$2,000 - \$2,999	\$3,000 - \$3,999	\$4,000 or more	Total ²	Median annual family income ³ (\$)
Infants/Primary - Government	15	18	37	45	83	38	17	264	111,481
Infants/Primary – Catholic	8	15	18	51	68	63	39	266	134,164
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	6	208,571
Secondary – Government	4	16	25	33	25	22	4	141	88,278
Secondary – Catholic	4	17	21	37	70	54	43	263	137,031
Secondary – Other Non-Government	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	234,643
TAFE, University or other tertiary institution	4	6	4	14	21	30	33	121	168,578
Other (including pre-school)	-	-	-	3	4	9	7	23	182,500
Not stated/Not applicable	-	-	-	-	4	-	3	7	149,911
Total	35	72	105	183	278	216	153	1,095	127,906

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).



Varroville Parish, Diocese of Wollongong, Census ID: 101634

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

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.

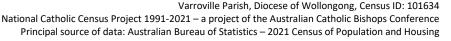
To what extent has participation in higher education in theology and related fields kept pace in this parish with participation in higher education in general? What new challenges and opportunities are presented to the parish as a result of the increase in the number of Catholics with a university education?

The increased level of participation in higher education by women is a reflection of significant changes in women's roles and responsibilities in society.¹ 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
Catholics aged 15+							
Males							
Postgraduate degree	-	14	29	11	6	4	64
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	27	86	76	44	42	31	306
Advanced diploma or diploma level	10	38	62	31	29	28	198
Certificate level	53	133	130	93	138	111	658
Inadequately described/Not stated/Not applicable	283	115	117	99	142	193	949
Total	373	386	414	278	357	367	2,175
Per cent with degree or higher	7.2	25.9	25.4	19.8	13.4	9.5	17.0
Females							
Postgraduate degree	4	53	32	11	4	5	109
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	39	180	123	61	53	45	501
Advanced diploma or diploma level	17	75	60	61	59	31	303
Certificate level	34	84	92	65	86	60	421
Inadequately described/Not stated/Not applicable	232	96	108	136	235	319	1,126
Total	326	488	415	334	437	460	2,460
Per cent with degree or higher	13.2	47.7	37.3	21.6	13.0	10.9	24.8
All Catholics							
Postgraduate degree	4	67	61	22	10	9	173
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	66	266	199	105	95	76	807
Advanced diploma or diploma level	27	113	122	92	88	59	501
Certificate level	87	217	222	158	224	171	1,079
Inadequately described/Not stated/Not applicable	515	211	225	235	377	512	2,075
Total	699	874	829	612	794	827	4,635
Per cent with degree or higher	10.0	38.1	31.4	20.8	13.2	10.3	21.1

Note:

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



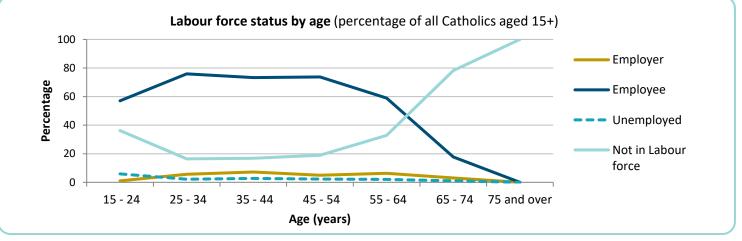


Employment

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 women. A third major change 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.¹ 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?

able 25: Labour force status by age and sex	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Total
Catholics aged 15+					
Males					
Employer	4	82	62	15	163
Employee	191	573	416	51	1,231
Unemployed	30	17	12	4	63
Not in the labour force	142	108	136	300	686
Other/Not stated/Not applicable	4	10	6	10	30
Total	371	790	632	380	2,173
Per cent in labour force ²	60.6	85.1	77.5	18.4	67.1
Per cent unemployed ³	13.3	2.5	2.4	5.7	4.3
Females					
Employer	-	19	18	-	37
Employee	210	682	486	52	1,430
Unemployed	10	19	18	-	47
Not in the labour force	107	175	239	399	920
Other/Not stated/Not applicable	4	5	4	3	16
Total	331	900	765	454	2,450
Per cent in labour force ²	66.5	80.0	68.2	11.5	61.8
Per cent unemployed ³	4.5	2.6	3.4	-	3.1



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.



Varroville Parish, Diocese of Wollongong, Census ID: 101634

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



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
Catholics aged 15+							
Males							
Managers	7	45	57	29	45	9	192
Professionals	13	65	71	24	12	6	191
Technicians & Trade Workers	66	83	74	41	62	19	345
Community & Personal Service Workers	10	15	12	15	14	-	66
Clerical & Administrative Workers	8	17	29	20	16	14	104
Sales Workers	24	24	19	9	14	4	94
Machinery operators & Drivers	15	28	45	60	67	13	228
Labourers	39	26	32	16	22	5	140
ID / NS / NA ¹	182	78	77	51	111	308	807
Total	364	381	416	265	363	378	2,167
Per cent Managers & Professionals ²	11.0	36.3	37.8	24.8	22.6	21.4	28.2
Per cent 'blue collar workers' ²	65.9	45.2	44.5	54.7	59.9	52.9	52.4
Females							
Managers	14	45	47	25	22	-	153
Professionals	30	143	87	51	28	12	351
Technicians & Trade Workers	5	5	4	6	8	-	28
Community & Personal Service Workers	40	37	34	32	43	5	191
Clerical & Administrative Workers	31	104	91	85	92	22	425
Sales Workers	58	18	29	24	19	4	152
Machinery operators & Drivers	4	11	-	5	15	-	35
Labourers	23	12	6	15	26	3	85
ID / NS / NA ¹	126	110	102	93	176	404	1,011
Total	331	485	400	336	429	450	2,431
Per cent Managers & Professionals ²	21.5	50.1	45.0	31.3	19.8	26.1	35.5
Per cent 'blue collar workers' ²	15.6	7.5	3.4	10.7	19.4	6.5	10.4
All Catholics							
Managers	21	90	104	54	67	9	345
Professionals	43	208	158	75	40	18	542
Technicians & Trade Workers	71	88	78	47	70	19	373
Community & Personal Service Workers	50	52	46	47	57	5	257
Clerical & Administrative Workers	39	121	120	105	108	36	529
Sales Workers	82	42	48	33	33	8	246
Machinery operators & Drivers	19	39	45	65	82	13	263
Labourers	62	38	38	31	48	8	225
ID / NS / NA ¹	308	188	179	144	287	712	1,818
Total	695	866	816	601	792	828	4,598
Per cent Managers & Professionals ²	16.5	44.0	41.1	28.2	21.2	23.3	31.9
Per cent 'blue collar workers' ²	39.3	24.3	25.3	31.3	39.6	34.5	31.0

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'.



Varroville Parish, Diocese of Wollongong, Census ID: 101634 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

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?

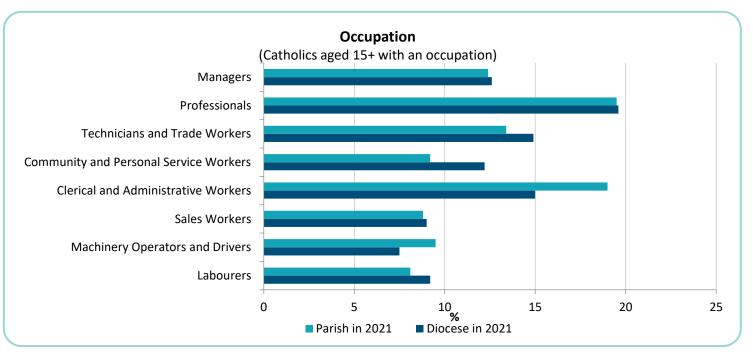
Are there any figures that strike you as being unexpectedly large or small? How can this information help the parish connect more effectively with parishioners?

Table 27: Occupation of parents of students attending Catholic schools	Primary School (%)	Secondary School (%)
Both parents in professional occupation	25	18
One parent or lone parent in professional occupation	92	85
Both parents in 'white collar' occupation ¹	62	64
One parent or lone parent in 'white collar' occupation	105	148
Both parents in 'blue collar' occupation ²	5	14
One parent or lone parent in 'blue collar' occupation	26	32
Not applicable and not stated	78	63
Total	393	424
% with professional parent(s)	29.8	24.3
% with blue collar parent(s)	7.9	10.8

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'.





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Visit the website to obtain:

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- 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
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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.

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