

Pastoral Research Online

Issue 44

April 2019

NCPR Staff in Plenary Council Video



Above L-R: Leith Dudfield, Trudy Dantis, Stephen Reid and Paul Bowell.

Right: Trudy and Paul share a joke during filming.



NCPR staff are starring in a series of videos on the work of the NCPR for the Plenary Council Project.

The videos explain the NCPR's contribution to the Plenary Council Project and address common misconceptions of the analysis process being used.

The first video is available on the Plenary Council website at:

<http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/watch/>

Dear Readers,

As the first stage of Plenary Council Listening and Dialogue comes to an end, the NCPR staff find ourselves immersed in data analysis. We have received a ton of information and it will take us a few months to analyse everything. You can learn more about this process via a recently shot video on the Plenary Council website.

Meanwhile, this newsletter features many new research findings from our ongoing projects. We have completed work on national figures from the 2016 Census and are pleased to announce that the '2016 Social Profile of the Catholic Church in Australia' will be available shortly on our website. This month, we also report on important findings from the 2016 National Count of Attendance. We have included both national and diocesan figures here and will produce a more detailed report later in the year. Please contact our office for any further information you may need.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



**Special Mass Attendance
report featuring
national and diocesan
results from the 2016 ACBC
National Count of Attendance**

2016 National Count of Attendance—National Summary

	Average weekly total attendance ¹	Catholic Population	Total Population	Per cent Catholic	Attendance Rate
2016	623,356	5,291,817	23,401,882	22.6	11.8
2011	662,376	5,439,268	21,507,719	25.3	12.2
Change 2011-2016	-39,020	-147,451	1,894,163		
Percentage change 2011-2016	-5.9	-2.7	8.8		

Reporting on the 2016 ACBC National Count of Attendance

The National Count of Attendance involves counting attendances at all Masses (and also at Sunday Assemblies in the Absence of a Priest) across Australia during the same period. It includes attendances from Masses celebrated in all parishes, migrant Mass centres, hospitals and nursing homes, prisons, religious houses, university and other chaplaincies, boarding schools, and wherever Mass is held. The National Count is conducted once every five years, with the first Count held in 2001. Many dioceses also conduct annual counts. The Count provides us with information such as average weekly attendance figures, attendance rates, change over time, and attendances at Masses celebrated in languages other than English.

The 2016 National Count was conducted over four Sundays during the month of May, ensuring that attendances at fortnightly or monthly Masses, quite common in rural areas and in non-parish settings, were included. It revealed that, in 2016, the number of people at Mass on a typical weekend was about 623,000, or 11.8 per cent of the Catholic population. This was a decline of 5.9 per cent, or around 39,000 people, from the 2011 Count.

Attendance rates are strongly influenced by demographic factors in a diocese, including the number of Catholics in an area, the percentage of Catholics, the percentage of Catholics living at the same address at the time of the previous Census, percentage of Catholics with a university degree, and the percentage of Catholics born in non-English speaking countries (see: Dixon, Reid & Chee, 2013, *Mass Attendance in Australia: A critical moment*, available on the NCPR website).

The table on the opposite page shows the average weekly attendances for 2016 and 2011 for every diocese, eparchy and ordinariate⁵, as well as population figures and attendance rates for 2016. Care should be taken when commenting on individual diocesan results.

Notes:

1. 'Average weekly total attendance' is the average attendance for the four weeks of the Count and does not take into account special circumstances.
2. Population figures for the Military Ordinariate refer to persons living on military bases. They do not include all Armed Services personnel and their families, most of whom do not live on military bases.
3. The Chaldean, Maronite, Melkite, Syro-Malabar and Ukrainian Catholic population figures are included within individual Diocesan Catholic Population totals, but are also shown here to allow calculation of attendance rates.
4. Comprises people on off-shore oil rigs, drilling platforms and the like, people on an overnight journey by train or bus, and people whose usual address could not be determined from the Census form. They have been added to this table to preserve national totals.
5. Attendances at Masses of the Prelature of the Holy Cross and Opus Dei have been included in the individual dioceses.

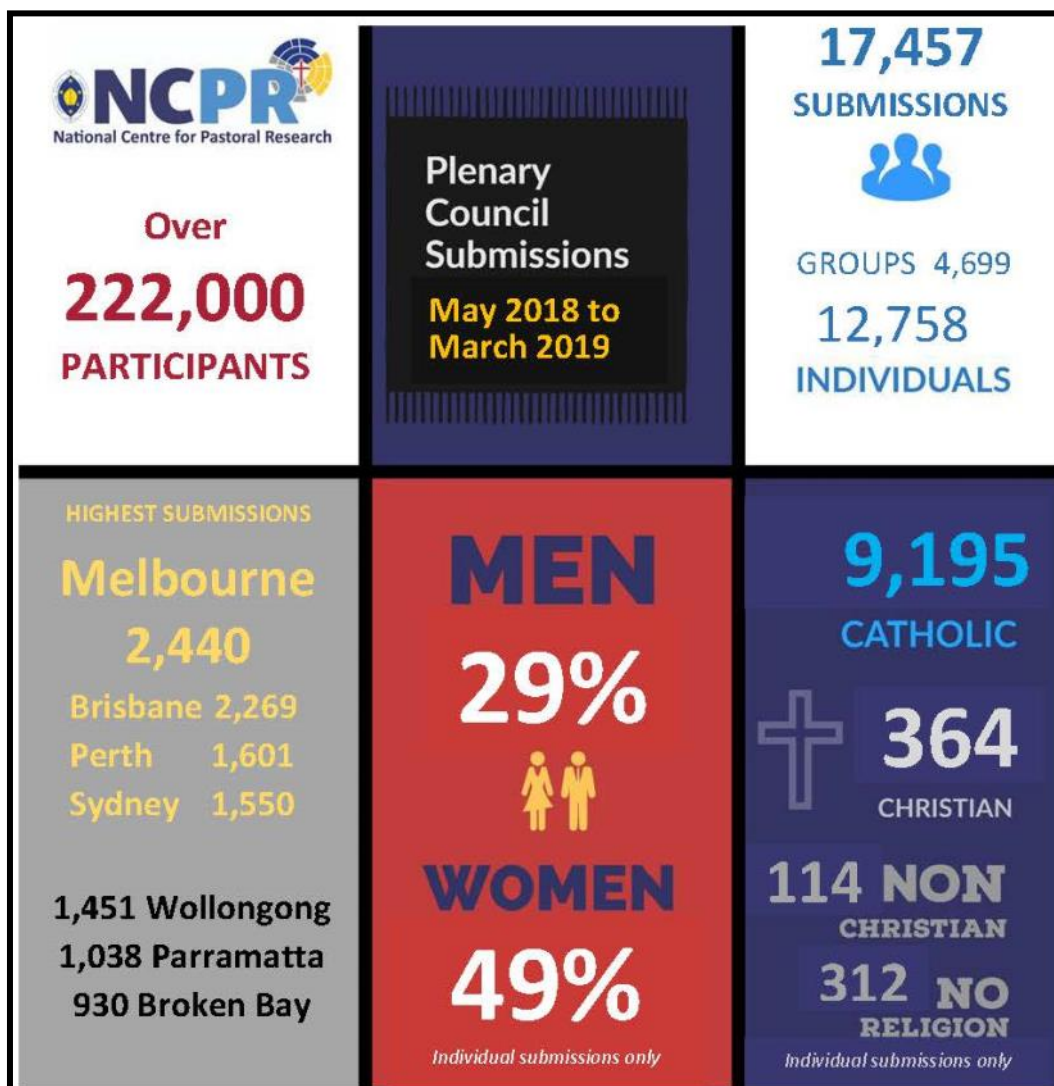
Diocese	2016 Average weekly total attendance ¹	2011 Average weekly total attendance ¹	2016 Catholic Population	2016 Total Population	2016 Per cent Catholic	2016 Attendance Rate
Adelaide	28,340	31,984	274,135	1,511,572	18.1	10.3
Armidale	3,875	4,389	42,490	184,223	23.1	9.1
Ballarat	10,024	11,896	95,696	422,854	22.6	10.5
Bathurst	5,562	7,094	65,677	232,692	28.2	8.5
Brisbane	57,539	65,952	708,701	3,418,905	20.7	8.1
Broken Bay	22,586	25,532	215,449	942,450	22.9	10.5
Broome	694	724	8,480	35,478	23.9	8.2
Bunbury	5,573	5,246	64,296	363,109	17.7	8.7
Cairns	4,266	4,196	60,977	277,414	22.0	7.0
Canberra & Goulburn	16,156	17,327	155,088	655,897	23.6	10.4
Darwin	5,994	4,313	45,151	224,604	20.1	13.3
Geraldton	1,962	2,248	27,596	126,104	21.9	7.1
Hobart	5,352	6,208	79,454	509,965	15.6	6.7
Lismore	8,699	10,103	104,580	504,442	20.7	8.3
Maitland-Newcastle	10,465	12,774	154,475	706,928	21.9	6.8
Melbourne	138,724	148,759	1,067,030	4,554,453	23.4	13.0
Parramatta	47,005	50,613	322,677	1,155,461	27.9	14.6
Perth	56,119	56,616	429,715	1,948,731	22.1	13.1
Port Pirie	2,857	2,861	27,069	166,871	16.2	10.6
Rockhampton	8,119	8,855	108,566	445,772	24.4	7.5
Sale	11,960	11,503	123,594	566,075	21.8	9.7
Sandhurst	8,572	9,388	90,189	380,584	23.7	9.5
Sydney	93,365	98,308	594,145	2,455,169	24.2	15.7
Toowoomba	5,510	7,084	65,212	272,118	24.0	8.4
Townsville	5,544	5,895	79,008	288,740	27.4	7.0
Wagga Wagga	7,274	7,817	60,674	205,325	29.6	12.0
Wilcannia-Forbes	2,275	2,747	29,264	107,511	27.2	7.8
Wollongong	18,108	19,598	189,834	724,240	26.2	9.5
Military Ordinariate of Australia ²	583	539	2,193	10,006	21.9	26.6
Chaldean ³	3,779	3,200	[10,029]	-	-	37.7
Maronite ³	18,081	15,243	[36,434]	-	-	49.6
Melkite ³	1,884	1,609	[2,579]	-	-	73.1
Syro-Malabar ³	4,390	0	[8,353]	-	-	52.6
Ukrainian ³	1,930	1,756	[2,906]	-	-	66.4
Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross	130	0	-	-	-	-
...Other Territories ⁴	-	-	402	4,189	-	-
TOTAL	623,356	662,376	5,291,817	23,401,882	22.6	11.8

Journey to Plenary Council 2018-2020 Update

What's been happening with the Plenary Council submissions?

Submissions to the Plenary Council closed on 13 March 2019, and National Centre for Pastoral Research staff have begun the process of analysis. We received over 10,000 submissions in February and March alone, with the final total number of submissions being 17,457 which represented over 222,000 individuals. The final report providing a summary of submissions will be released soon and a media release about the report is available at <https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/plenary-council-is-listening-to-222000-voices/>. The final themes that have emerged from the Listening and Dialogue process will be released on 9 June.

The themes will be determined through an analysis of the qualitative data, undertaken by NCPR staff. The process will be aided by the use of a software research tool called NVivo. For more information on how NVivo is used to assist the research process, please see www.qsrinternational.com/nvivo/home.



NCPR Staff would especially like to thank Justine and Josh, two casual staff members, who typed over 800 handwritten postcards, letters and other documents. They also undertook the scanning of images, paintings and photographs that were included with those submissions.

We also thank all those who took the time to share their stories with us through the process.



The 2016 National Catholic Census Profile to be released in April

The *Social Profile of the Catholic Community in Australia* will be released on 4 April 2019. A printed copy of the profile has been sent to all the bishops. Once released, the document can be accessed online and will be available for download from our website:

www.ncpr.catholic.org.au

Diocesan and Parish profiles will be released later in the year. Thank you for your patience as we complete work on these profiles.



STIRRING THE WATERS:
*Catholic Women
Responding to the Spirit*
22 - 24 FEBRUARY 2019
SAGE HOTEL ADELAIDE



Women in the Catholic Church

Trudy Dantis presented a workshop at the recent conference: *Stirring the Waters, Catholic Women Responding to the Spirit*, on 22-24 February 2019 in Adelaide, South Australia.

Her presentation explored the real situation of women and leadership in Church and society. Using data from the Census, National Church Life Survey and 2017 Bishops Youth Survey, the workshop examined the current scenario of women in leadership roles in Australia. It tracked some changes that had taken place over time for women who desired to be more active in leadership in the Church and highlighted the challenges for women and leadership in the Church and beyond.

A paper based on the workshop will be published soon.



Attendees at the Stirring the Waters Conference

From left to right: Dr Trudy Dantis, Director of the National Centre for Pastoral Research, Louise Wellington of Jesuit Pastoral Ministry, and Mary Murphy, Pastoral Associate of Euroa Parish, Victoria.

New Report on Mass Attenders

Mass attenders' attitudes to the English translation of the Mass

Available on the website is a new report looking at Mass attenders' attitudes to the English translation of the Mass.

In late 2016, the National Church Life Survey was undertaken among church-going Australians. A national random sample of 193 Catholic parishes participated in the survey, and is statistically representative of all Catholic Church attenders in Australia.

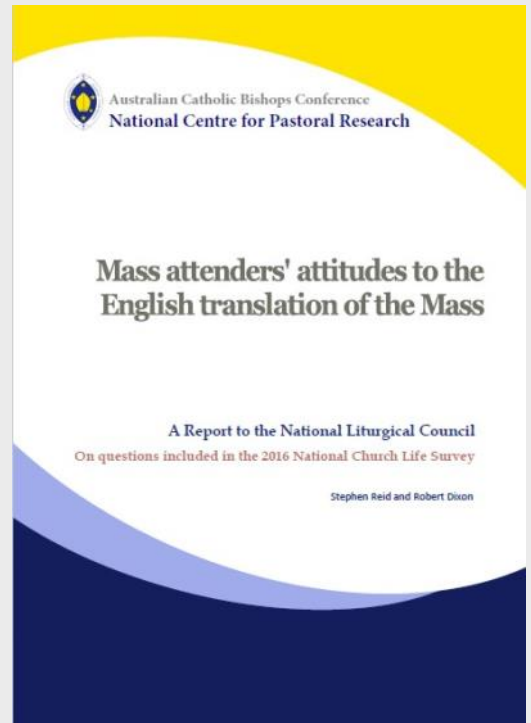
The National Liturgical Council commissioned two questions that appeared in questionnaires to the sample of Catholic Church attenders. These two questions were:

- Do you agree or disagree: I like the new translation better than the old one.
- Do you agree or disagree: Some of the language in the new translation is awkward and distracting.

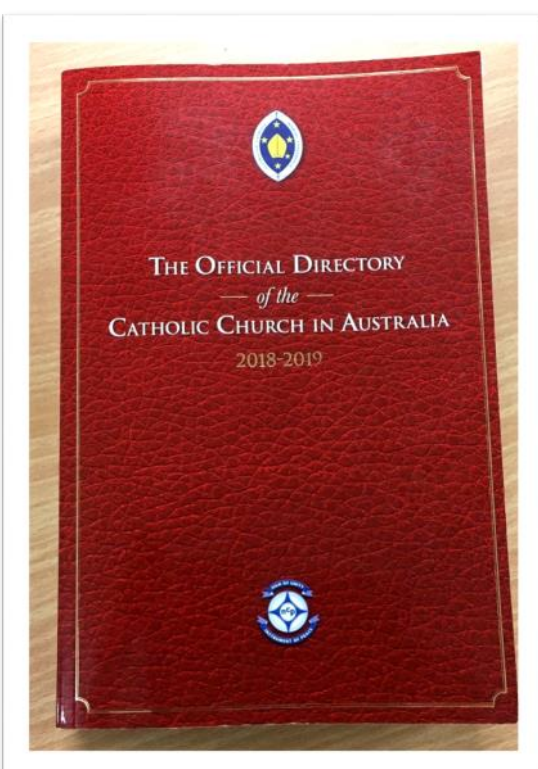
The report includes details of the demographic profile of Mass attenders who answered the questions, frequencies of other questions used in cross-tabulations and the number and percentages of responses to the two questions.

To read the report, go to:

<https://ncpr.catholic.org.au/national-church-life-survey-ncls/>



Call for Diocesan Statistics



Diocesan statistics for the Official Directory of the Catholic Church in Australia are due by 24 April 2019.

Diocesan contacts will have received a request to provide the annual statistics for the Official Directory of the Catholic Church in Australia. The directory provides a valuable reference for the Catholic Church and presents a picture of the current population, clergy and significant ministries of the various dioceses.

The request includes a copy of last year's figures to assist with the process. Responses should be returned to NCPR staff by no later than **Wednesday 24 April 2019**.

Any questions about the process, or the information required, can be directed to Stephen Reid at stephen.reid@catholic.org.au or by calling (03) 9953 3457.

Pew Research Center

How do European countries differ in religious commitment?

While Europeans are generally less religious than other parts of the world, the level of religious commitment can vary widely among European countries.

A recent analysis by the Pew Research Center of 34 European countries showed great variation based on four measures of religious observance: religious service attendance, prayer frequency, belief in God and self-described importance of religion in one's life. "Highly religious" was defined in the analysis to mean either an adult who reports that they were highly observant on at least two of the four measures, while not reporting a low level of religious observance in any of the four, or who reported highly observant behaviours on at least three of the measures. Using the combined measure shows that, overall, Central and Eastern Europeans were more likely than Western Europeans to be highly religious. For example, in Armenia and Greece, roughly half of adults are highly religious. Meanwhile, only about one in 10 people in Denmark, Sweden and the United Kingdom qualify as highly religious by these criteria.

However, not all Western European countries had low levels of religious commitment, and similarly, not all countries in Central and Eastern Europe were at the higher end of the index. For example, 37% of Portuguese adults were highly religious, significantly more than other Western European countries and in line with Poland. And the Czech Republic and Estonia have religiosity levels similar to Denmark, noticeably lower than those in most other Central and Eastern European countries.

Overall, Romania was found to be the most religious out of the 34 countries, with Greece, Poland, Moldova and Armenia topping each of the respective scales for importance of religion, worship attendance, frequency of prayer and belief in God. More information on the project, including an interactive map, can be found at the Pew Research Center website: <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/12/05/how-do-european-countries-differ-in-religious-commitment/>



Designed by Freepik

Visit the National Centre for Pastoral Research website at our new web address:

www.ncpr.catholic.org.au



As part of the refresh that led to the establishment of the National Centre for Pastoral Research last year, we have now moved our website to a new domain. All the information, reports and newsletters are still available, only the web address has changed.

In addition, some of our contact email addresses have changed:

Contact	Old email	New email
Trudy Dantis	t.dantis@pro.catholic.org.au	trudy.dantis@catholic.org.au
Stephen Reid	s.reid@pro.catholic.org.au	stephen.reid@catholic.org.au
NCPR office	office@pro.catholic.org.au	ncpr@catholic.org.au

The old addresses will continue to be monitored for some time while we transition to the new system. However, we do encourage you to update your address book to ensure your messages reach us.

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