

Pastoral Research Online

Issue 47

December 2019



Christmas Lunch with NCPR staff and members of the Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research: From L–R - Ms Marilyn Chee, Fr Stephen Hackett, Em Prof Gabrielle McMullen, Mr Daniel Ang, Fr Brian Lucas, Mr Stephen Reid, Ms Sophy Morley and Dr Trudy Dantis. Not present - Archbishop Peter Comensoli, Ms Danielle Cronin, Prof James McLaren, Ms Leith Dudfield, and Mr Paul Bowell.

Dear Readers,

As we come to the close of this year, we are thankful for the many blessings we have received throughout the year. It has been a wonderful and productive year as we worked on a number of interesting projects and have grown in our expertise as a research team. Without a doubt, the Plenary Council continues to be one of our most engaging projects that will continue to keep us busy in the new year.

We congratulate Leith Dudfield and Paul Bowell on their excellent academic achievements this year. Both staff completed their bachelor's degrees with First Class Honours—Leith, in Psychology, and Paul, in Sociology.

Following a review of the Bishops Conference, a number of changes will come into effect from January 1, 2020. The current roles within the NCPR and the work that we carry out will continue, but some of our colleagues in other parts of the Conference are moving on. We wish them well and thank those especially who have helped us in our mission.

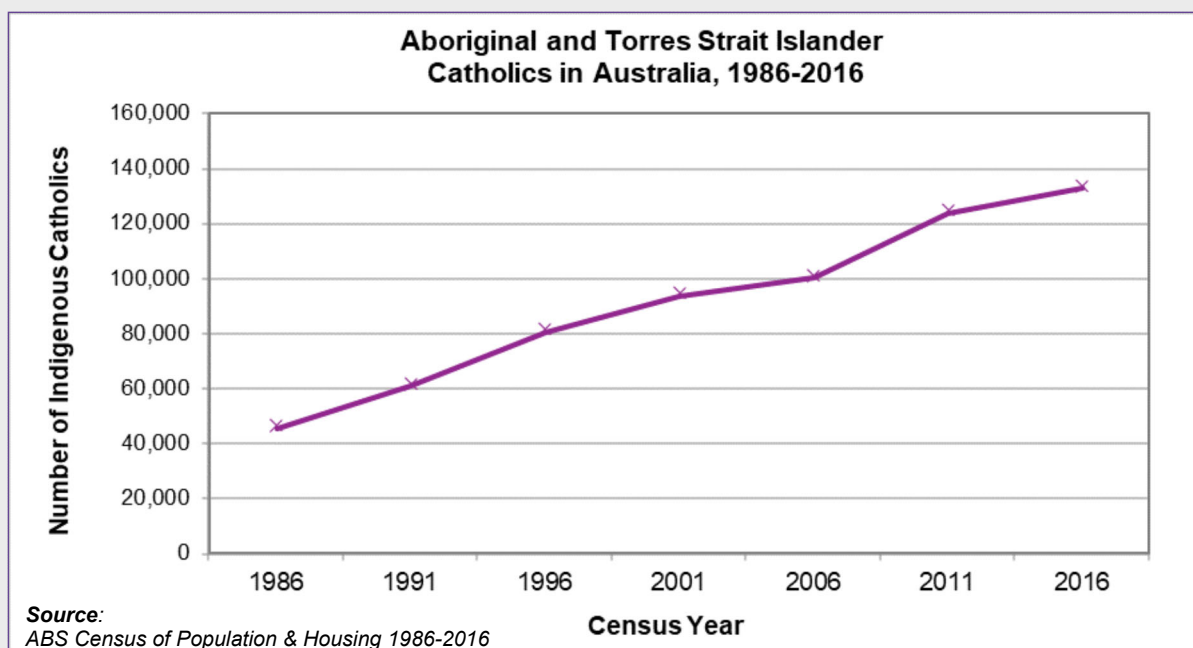
And as we end 2019, we thank you for your continued support of our office and look forward to bringing you the best in pastoral research in 2020.

Have a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year!

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics in the 2016 Census



According to the most recent Census, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic community in Australia continues to grow. Between the three-decade period 1986 to 2016, the number of Indigenous Catholics increased from around 46,400 to 133,528, an increase of 87,128 people, or an overall percentage increase of 188 per cent.

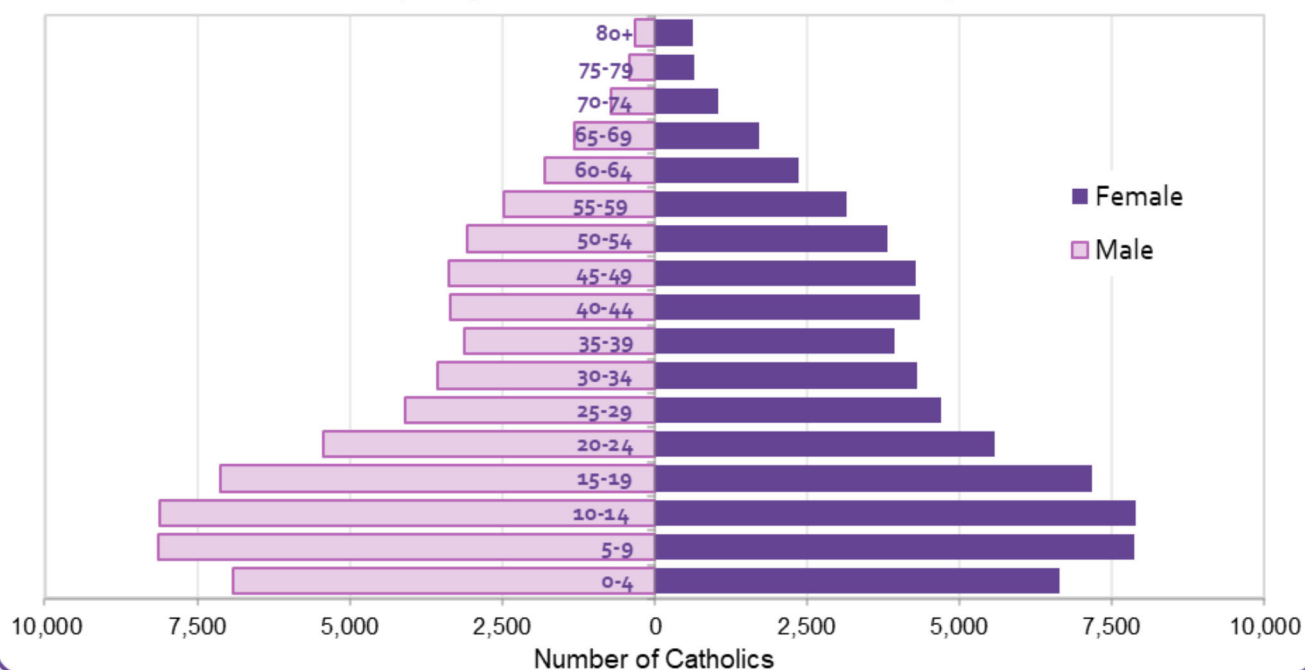
The Archdiocese of Brisbane had numerically the most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics in 2016, with 15,400, followed by the Diocese of Darwin, with around 11,300. However, the Diocese of Broome had the highest proportion, with 59 per cent of the Catholic population identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

The 2016 Census also showed a very young age profile for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics compared with the overall Catholic population. Forty-five per cent of Indigenous Catholics were aged under 20 years (compared with 26 per cent of Catholics overall), while just under three per cent were aged 70 or more (compared with 11 per cent of all Catholics).

The chart on the following page shows the age-sex profile of Indigenous Catholics in 2016. While the number of males and females in the bottom four age groups (under 20) is fairly even, the number of females in every other age group is higher (or wider on the bar) than the number of males.

Diocese	Number	% of Cath. population
Sydney	5,996	1.0
Armidale	4,307	10.1
Bathurst	5,202	7.9
Broken Bay	3,556	1.7
Lismore	5,497	5.3
Maitland-Newcastle	7,235	4.7
Parramatta	6,718	2.1
Wagga Wagga	2,338	3.9
Wilcannia-Forbes	4,087	14.0
Wollongong	5,770	3.0
Canberra & Goulburn	4,080	2.6
Melbourne	4,963	0.5
Ballarat	1,301	1.4
Sandhurst	1,353	1.5
Sale	884	0.7
Brisbane	15,403	2.2
Cairns	4,738	7.8
Rockhampton	5,359	4.9
Toowoomba	3,206	4.9
Townsville	6,449	8.2
Adelaide	2,720	1.0
Port Pirie	890	3.3
Perth	6,838	1.6
Broome	5,007	59.1
Bunbury	1,248	1.9
Geraldton	3,341	12.1
Hobart	3,705	4.7
Darwin	11,271	25.0
Military Ordinariate	59	2.7
Other Territory	7	1.7
Total Australia	133,528	2.5

Age-sex profile 2016 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics)



CENSUS WORKSHOPS



The National Centre for Pastoral Research has Census data based on Catholic parishes and dioceses from the 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016 National Censuses. This data is available for use by Catholic parishes, schools and agencies. The NCPR conducts Census training workshops to familiarise you with using and understanding this data.

Our most recent workshop was conducted by Stephen Reid for Bishop Randazzo and the clergy of the Diocese of Broken Bay at their November Clergy Twilight Conference, titled “Putting the Australian Census to work for your diocese and parishes”.

To find out how you could host a workshop, email us at ncpr@catholic.org.au.

Journey to Plenary Council 2018-2020 Update

New diocesan reports available

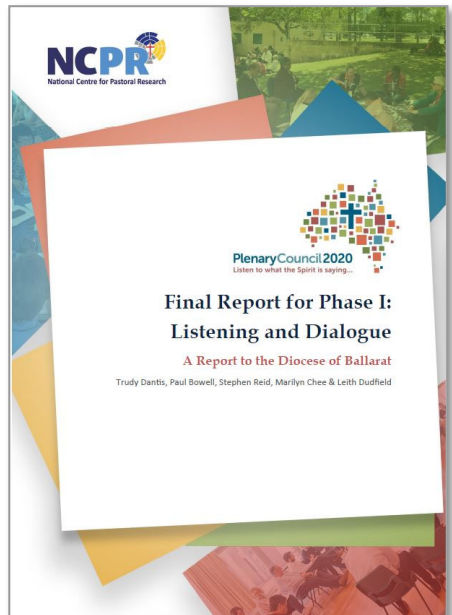
Since the publication of the national report on the first stage of the Plenary Council process, *Listen to What the Spirit is Saying*, the NCPR team have been hard at work preparing customised reports for each geographical diocese. Each report includes the quantitative information for each diocese (e.g. how many submissions, age ranges, countries of birth) as well as an analysis of the most prominent themes discussed by the participants from that diocese. In addition, all de-identified submissions received for that diocese, which had received consent to publish the submission and share it with the diocese, have been included in each report. De-identification is the process used to prevent a person's identity from being revealed. In this survey, this meant that all names, locations and other identifying information were removed prior to the response being used.

At present, the following dioceses' reports have been completed and we expect they will soon be made available on the Plenary Council website:

- Geraldton
- Port Pirie
- Bunbury
- Wilcannia-Forbes
- Broome
- Rockhampton
- Armidale
- Darwin
- Bathurst
- Cairns
- Townsville
- Hobart
- Lismore
- Toowoomba
- Sandhurst
- Ballarat
- Wagga Wagga
- Canberra & Goulburn

The remaining dioceses' reports are due to be published early in 2020.

Several participants made their submission through uploaded documents, while others uploaded additional material (in the form of documents, images and videos) as part of their submission. These files from each diocese were provided to each bishop in electronic format.



We also now have hard copies available of the report *Listen to What the Spirit is Saying: Final Report for the Plenary Council Phase I: Listening and Dialogue*. Please contact Olivia Lee at olivia.lee@catholic.org.au to purchase copies at \$30 each (*Limited stock available*).



New NCPR Research Projects

Survey of Religious Congregations in Australia 2018

Last year, our office began a project for Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) to update the numbers of Catholic religious after the last survey conducted by the NCPR (then Pastoral Projects Office) in 2009. Due to our efforts to follow up congregations over the last one year, we received a final response rate of over 91%, with around 156 congregations responding to the survey. We are currently in the process of analysing the data and writing a final report for Catholic Religious Australia (CRA). We hope to be able to share these findings more widely next year.

Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) Governance Survey

Earlier this year, the IAG Governance Review Project Team (GRPT) commissioned the NCPR to assist with conducting a governance survey of dioceses as the first stage of their national review. The aim of the project was an attempt to build a profile of diocesan pastoral, financial and safeguarding councils and to learn about diocesan executives such as financial administrators, directors and chancellors that serve in diocesan offices. The research also endeavoured to capture data on existing parish pastoral councils within each diocese. This project received ethics approval from the Christian Research Association.

Order of Virgins Survey

May 31, 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of the *Ordo Consecrationis virginum*. To solemnize this important anniversary, the Dicastery in Rome is convening an international meeting, remembering and sharing the journey made by the *Ordo virginum* in these fifty years. In preparation for the meeting, each country has been sent a 'Questionnaire Concerning the Order of Virgins in A Country'. The NCPR will be assisting in collating this data to prepare the report to be sent to Rome next year.

BUILDING STRONGER PARISHES REPORTS ON SALE

<https://www.catholic.org.au/shop/acbc-shop>

All prices include shipping costs and GST

◆ Building Stronger Parishes Main Report

Hard copy: Was \$22 **Now \$10.99**

E-copy downloaded from ACBC site: Was \$11 **Now \$4.95**

- ◆ **Supplementary Reports** (*Report 1: Community building, Welcoming, Report 2: Mission Outreach and Evangelisation, Report 3: Spirituality and Faith Formation, Report 4: Liturgy, Report 5 Leadership, Report 6: Planning*)
Hard copies: Was \$11 each **Now \$4.95 each**

◆ Building Stronger Parishes Main Report & Supplementary Reports Set

Hard copies: Was \$66 **Now \$29.70**

E-copies downloaded from ACBC site: Was \$33 **Now \$11.00**



Overseas Research News

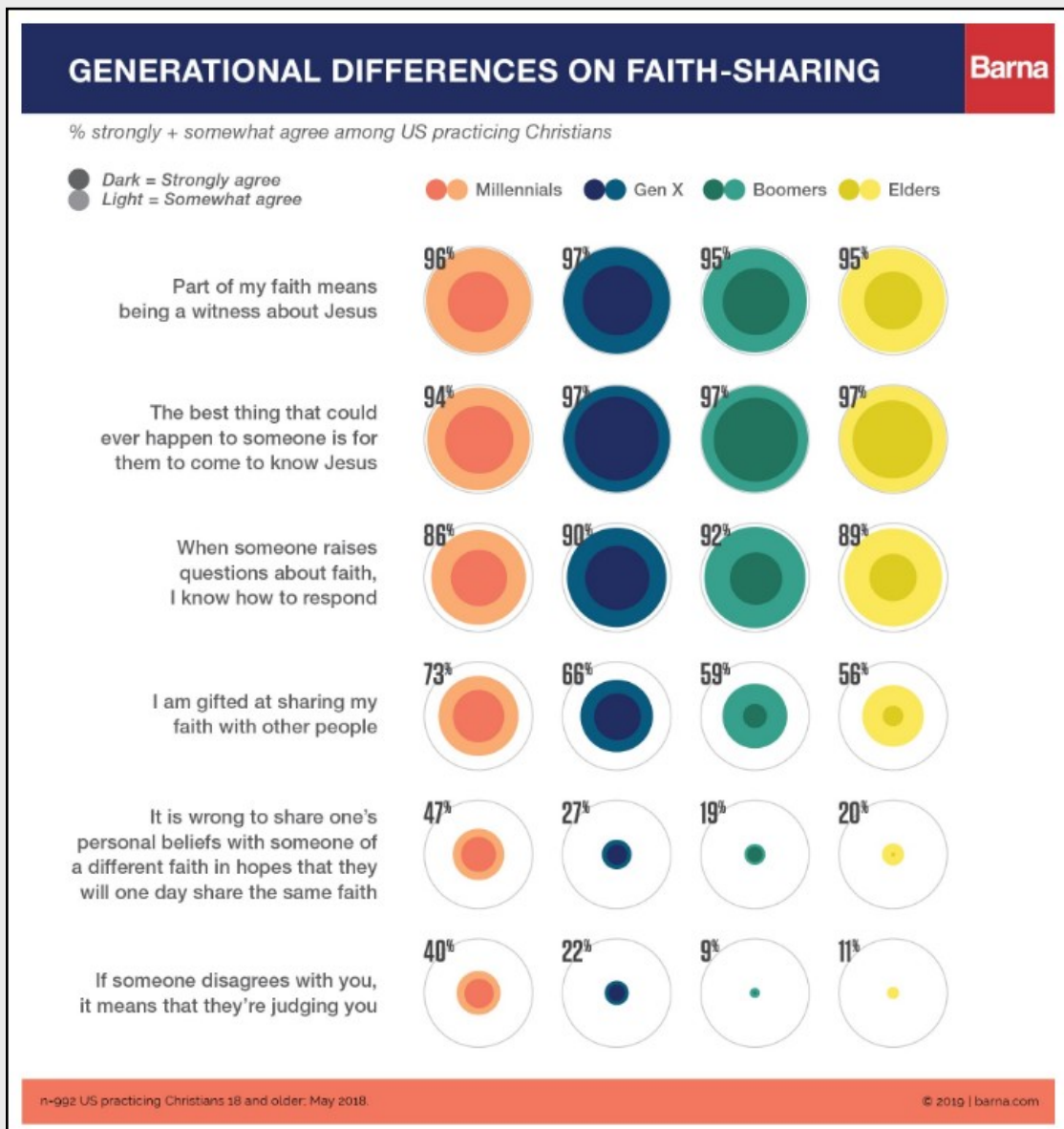
Almost Half of Practicing Christian Millennials Say Evangelism is Wrong

Barna

A study published by the Barna Group in February 2019 examines the different attitudes to evangelism among the generations. They found that almost all of those surveyed responded similarly to their agreement with the statement “Part of my faith means being a witness about Jesus” (Millennials 96%, Gen X 97%, Boomers 95% and Elders 95%). However, in response to the statement “It is wrong to share one’s personal beliefs with someone of a different faith in hopes that they will one day share the same faith”, more than twice as many Millennials agreed (47%) , compared to Boomers (19%).

Barna’s report “Reviving Evangelism”, based on research commissioned by Alpha USA, goes on to explain that many Millennials are acutely aware of the current cultural climate in which proselytization is viewed in a negative light. Millennials were significantly more likely to believe that people would take offence if they were to share their faith (65%) compared with Boomers (28%). They were also much more likely to believe that disagreement means judgement (Millennials 40%, Gen X 22%, Boomers 9% and Elders 11%).

To read more on this topic, go to: <https://www.barna.com/research/millennials-oppose-evangelism/>



Mass For You At Home

MASS FOR YOU AT HOME is broadcast every Sunday on Channel 10 at 6.00am and is especially directed to those who cannot attend Mass due to age or disability. It is signed for the hearing impaired. Many people only come to hear about it through “word of mouth” so if you know someone who is unable to leave home to attend Mass you might bring this opportunity to their attention.

For more information go to www.mfyah.com



STAFF NEWS

- ◆ **Leith Dudfield** has been awarded a PhD scholarship for a Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology course at the University of Canberra. Her research will explore vicarious trauma in people affected by institutional child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church.
- ◆ **Paul Bowell** has been awarded a PhD scholarship for a Doctor of Philosophy at Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne. His research project is titled, “The triple pivot of the embodiment process of digital self-tracking among AFLW/W-League footballers”. The triple pivot of his investigation will include gendering of sports technology, precarious working conditions and data sense-making.
- ◆ NCPR Director, **Dr Trudy Dantis** has been appointed Honorary Research Associate by the University of Divinity for a term concluding December 2021.

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Christmas Greetings From the National Centre for Pastoral Research

*May the blessings of Christmas
be yours all through the year*



From the staff at the NCPR: Trudy, Stephen, Paul, Leith and Marilyn.



The NCPR office will have only limited staff from Monday 16 December 2019 until Friday 10 January 2020, and the office will be closed from 25 December 2019 until 1 January 2020. During this entire time we will be unable to process any urgent data requests.

We thank you for your cooperation.