

Mass attenders' views of Parish Pastoral Councils

**A Report to the
Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life (Laity)**
On questions included in the 2016 National Church Life Survey

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NCLS 2016: Questionnaire S3

Background to the National Church Life Survey

In late 2016, more than a quarter of a million church-going Australians took part in the National Church Life Survey (NCLS) by completing a questionnaire on their faith, their involvement in church life, and a variety of other topics. These people came from over 3,000 parishes and congregations representing more than 20 denominations and independent churches across the country.

Catholic parishes have participated in the last four National Church Life Surveys, in 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016. A parallel project, the Catholic Church Life Survey (CCLS), was conducted in 1996.

The national random sample

This report is based on questionnaires completed by Mass attenders in a national random sample of parishes. The sample was designed with the intention of ensuring that a representative sample of parishes from every diocese took part. A representative sample was achieved in almost all dioceses. The final sample size was 195 parishes.

Once the national sample had been finalised, all other parishes were invited to take part in the survey, and 162 did so, meaning that a total of 355 Catholic parishes participated in the 2016 survey. These additional parishes received a report on their results, but as they are not part of the statistical sample, their results are not included here.

Because of the statistically representative nature of the national random sample, the findings of the survey can confidently be regarded as applying, with a high level of probability, to all Mass attenders in Australia.

Weighting

For the sake of ensuring representativeness within each diocese, the sample was constructed so that at least seven parishes were selected from every diocese, resulting in a variation in the percentage of parishes sampled in each diocese. For example, 78 per cent of the nine parishes in the Diocese of Broome were selected in the sample, compared to just 7.4 per cent of the 216 parishes in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. In analysing the data for this report, each diocese has been assigned a numerical weight designed to correct the situation where some dioceses are overrepresented compared to others.

How the survey was conducted

All people aged 15 and over at Mass (or, in some places, services in the absence of a priest) on the day of the survey were invited to complete a questionnaire. The total number of completed questionnaires received from the parishes in the national sample was around 37,350.

In addition to the adult questionnaire, parishes could order optional questionnaires for children aged 8 to 14 years, a modified and shorter version of the adult survey. In total, 2,164 children completed the children's survey. However, results from the children's survey are not included in this report.

Questionnaire versions

The extremely large sample meant that the project could investigate a wide variety of topics without making questionnaires unduly long. This was done by using a number of different versions of the questionnaire, distributed at random to the people at Mass on the Sunday of the survey. Questionnaire AC, which formed the basis of the report prepared for each parish, was completed by 67 per cent of respondents in each parish, while the remaining 33 per cent of respondents completed one of 20 other versions, each dealing with a different topic. Most of these versions were distributed to attenders of all denominations, but two, Questionnaires S3 and X, were designed for use only in Catholic parishes.

The questions commissioned by the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life were included in Questionnaire S3, which was completed by 2,591 attenders in parishes in the national random sample.

Contents of this report

The following elements make up this report:

- This introduction, containing background information about the survey.
- A demographic profile of the Mass attenders who answered the questions.
- Results for parish involvement questions used in the report.
- The percentages of attenders (the 'frequencies') who selected each response in the commissioned question, that is, Question 10 in Questionnaire S3, together with comparable data from the 2011 National Church Life Survey.
- Cross-tabulations of the commissioned question with demographic and parish involvement variables.
- A copy of Questionnaire S3.

A note on statistical significance

Each cross-tabulation in this report is marked as significant or not significant and the level of significance is also indicated.

To say that a result is statistically significant is to say that it is highly probable that the result shows an actual difference, not one that has arisen by chance. For example, if in a sample we find that 60 per cent of men and 40 per cent of women believe Statement A is true, this can either be due to chance factors which determined the make-up of our sample, or to an actual difference between what men and women believe. A statistically significant result is one where the likelihood of the result arising by chance is below a specified level of probability.

Statistical significance is usually reported at 0.05, 0.01 or 0.001 level, meaning that there is a less than five in one hundred chance, one in a hundred chance, or one in a thousand chance, respectively, that the result under discussion has arisen by chance. In the example above, a 0.001 level of statistical significance means that there is less than one chance in a

thousand that the observed difference between men and women has arisen by chance. In other words, the observed difference is highly likely to reflect a real difference in what men and women believe.

However, it is important to note that saying a result is statistically significant is not the same as saying it is important. It may be that the difference between men and women in their belief about Statement A is not at all important or that it is not substantial. The importance of a result cannot be determined statistically. Rather, it is a matter for the judgement of those interpreting the results.

Non-Catholic attenders

Not all Mass attenders in Catholic parishes are Catholics. About 2.6 per cent of Questionnaire S3 respondents were not Catholic.

Analysis of the data

People are complex, and the data set used in this report is complex, too. Neither univariate analysis (e.g., the frequencies) nor bivariate analysis (e.g., cross-tabulations) tells the full story. One reason for this is that most, if not all, of the variables included in bivariate analyses with the questions commissioned by the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life are correlated with other variables such as age and sex. Marital status provides a good example. Are differences in the opinions of those who have never married and those who have been widowed a result of their marital status or their age, given that most of the former are young and most of the latter are much older? The best way to sort out such relationships is to use some form of multivariate analysis. This type of analysis is beyond the scope of this basic report, but can be carried out if required.

Demographic profile of respondents to Questionnaire S3

Unweighted (actual) figures - All responses

Questionnaire S3 completed by 2,591 respondents in national random sample parishes.

NOTE: Not all respondents to Questionnaire S3 answered every question. Older people (those aged 60 and over) were over-represented among non-respondents. Statistical tests show the effect of this non-response on the results reported here to be negligible.

Age	Number	Per cent
15-34yrs	323	13
35-59yrs	812	33
60+yrs	1,337	54
Total	2,472	100
Sex	Number	Per cent
Female	1,551	63
Male	915	37
Total	2,466	100
State or Territory	Number	Per cent
NSW & ACT	1,308	50
Vic & Tas	490	19
Qld	510	20
SA & NT	141	5
WA	142	5
Total	2,591	100
Marital status	Number	Per cent
Never married	368	15
In first marriage	1516	61
Remarried after divorce	90	4
Remarried after death of spouse	28	1
In a defacto relationship	55	2
Separated but not divorced	37	1
Divorced and not remarried	106	4
Widowed	292	12
Total	2,492	100
Type of primary school attended	Number	Per cent
Catholic	1,413	66
Government	657	31
Other	73	3
Total	2,143	100
Type of secondary school attended	Number	Per cent
Catholic	1,500	69
Government	552	25
Other	128	6
Total	2,180	100
Level of education	Number	Per cent
Primary school	117	5
Some secondary school	387	16
Completed secondary school	531	21
Trade certificate	203	8
Diploma or associate diploma	363	15
Bachelor degree	546	22
Post graduate degree or diploma	331	13
Total	2,478	100
Language spoken at home	Number	Per cent
English only	1,711	69
English plus other language(s)	733	29
Non-English language(s) only	45	2
Total	2,489	100

Birthplace	Number	Per cent
Australia	1,488	59
NZ & Pacific Islands	46	2
Great Britain	83	3
Ireland (incl Northern Ireland)	32	1
Italy	69	3
Malta	42	2
Other Europe	86	3
Vietnam	34	1
Philippines	279	11
India/Sri Lanka	142	6
Other Asia	100	4
Other	103	4
Total	2,504	100
Father's birthplace	Number	Per cent
Australia	1,169	48
Other English speaking country	228	9
Non-English speaking country	1,017	42
Total	2,414	100
Mother's birthplace	Number	Per cent
Australia	1,224	50
Other English speaking country	212	9
Non-English speaking country	996	41
Total	2,432	100
Birthplace of both parents	Number	Per cent
Both parents born in Australia	1,114	46
One parent born in Australia	151	6
Both born in Non-English speaking country	964	40
Other combination of parental birthplaces	182	8
Total	2,411	100
Religious affiliation	Number	Per cent
Catholic	2,411	97
Anglican	20	1
Uniting Church	6	0
Other Christian	25	1
Non-Christian religion	2	0
No religion	12	0
Total	2,476	100
Religious affiliation of spouse or partner	Number	Per cent
Catholic	1,440	71
Anglican	103	5
Uniting	49	2
Other Christian	74	4
Non-Christian religion	25	1
No religion	90	4
No partner / Don't know	245	12
Total	2026	100

Other questions from Questionnaire S3 used in this report

Percentages have been weighted so that they better reflect the distribution of Mass attenders across Australia.

For each question, the actual (unweighted) number of respondents is shown as 'N = '

Totals for Questions 3, 4 and 5 exceed 100% because respondents could choose more than one response.

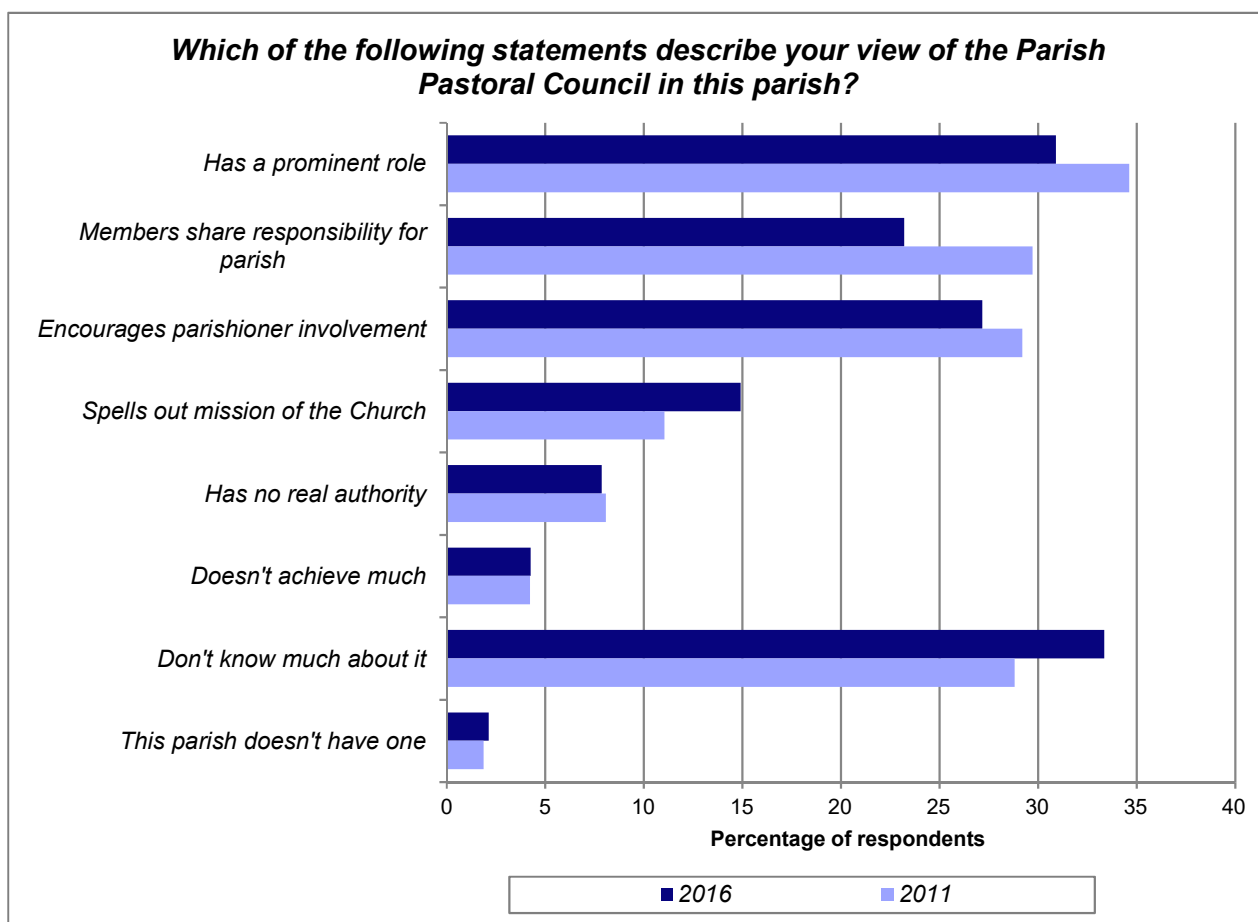
No. Question		No. Question	
1 Frequency of attendance at Mass in this parish	Per cent	5 Leadership role in parish	Per cent
First time	1	Reader or special minister of the Eucharist	20
Hardly ever / Special occasions	2	Music ministry	7
Less than once a month	1	Member of liturgy planning group	2
Once a month	2	Preparing adults for sacraments (eg, RCIA, marriage preparation)	1
Two or three times a month	7	Children's liturgy or sacrament preparation	4
Usually every week	73	Religious education teacher in a Government school	2
More than once a week	15	Visitor to sick, elderly, others in need	7
Total	100	Leader of a group in the parish	3
N = 2,085		Member of parish council or similar leadership group	4
		Member of a committee	5
2 Length of attendance at this parish	Per cent	Teacher in the parish school	2
Less than 1 year	7	Active involvement in parish school, but not as teacher	2
1 - 2 years	9	Other role not mentioned above	10
3 - 5 years	11	No leadership or ministry role	61
6 - 10 years	12	Total	129
11 - 20 years	17	N = 2,308	
More than 20 years	40		
I am visiting from another church	4	7 Sense of belonging	Per cent
I am visiting and do not regularly attend elsewhere	1	Strong and growing	38
Total	100	Stable	31
N = 2,539		Weakening	10
		Not a strong sense of belonging	18
3 Involvement in parish groups	Per cent	Don't know or not applicable	3
Yes, in small prayer, discussion or Bible study groups	11	Total	100
Yes, in clubs, social groups or other groups	22	N = 2,489	
No, we have no such groups	10		
No, I am not regularly involved	62	8 In this parish, how many people do you know well enough to speak to?	Per cent
Total	105	Everyone or nearly everyone	11
N = 2,450		A fair number of people	67
		Hardly anyone / no-one	21
4 Involvement in parish outreach activities	Per cent	Total	100
Yes, in outreach or evangelisation activities	8	N = 2,514	
Yes, in community service, social justice or welfare activities of this parish	19		
No, we don't have such activities	9	9 About how much do you or your family give each week, in total, to the support of the parish and the priest(s) in this parish?	Per cent
No, I am not regularly involved	68	Less than \$5	11
Total	104	\$5 to less than \$10	31
N = 2,471		\$10 to less than \$20	26
		\$20 to less than \$40	18
6 Importance of parish community	Per cent	\$40 or more	7
Very / extremely important	60	My family and I don't contribute financially here	3
Quite important	27	Don't know	4
A little / not important	12	Total	100
Total	100	N = 2,485	
N = 2,498			

Question 10:

Which of the following statements describe your view of the Parish Pastoral Council in this parish?
(Mark ALL that apply)

	2016 %	2011 %
The Parish Council has a prominent role in parish leadership	31	35
Parish Council members share responsibility for parish life	23	30
The Parish Council encourages all parishioners to get involved in parish life	27	29
The Parish Council spells out how the mission of the Church is to be realised in this parish	15	11
The Parish Council is a good thing, but it doesn't have any real authority	8	8
The Parish Council doesn't achieve much as far as I can tell	4	4
I don't know much about what the Parish Council does	33	29
This parish doesn't have a Parish Council	2	2
<i>Number of respondents</i>	2,382	2,366

Percentages add to more than 100% because respondents could choose more than one option.



Question 10:

Which of the following statements describe your view of the Parish Pastoral Council in this parish?

(Mark ALL that apply)

Question number	Question	Has a prominent role (%)	Members share responsibility for parish life (%)	Encourages parishioners to get involved (%)	Spells out the mission of the Church (%)	Has no real authority (%)	Doesn't achieve much (%)	Don't know much about it (%)	This parish doesn't have one (%)
Demographic characteristics									
12	Age of respondent								
	15-34 yrs	28	25	29	13	3	3	46	2
	35-59 yrs	31	25	30	17	5	4	37	1
	60+ yrs	32	22	26	14	11	5	28	3
	Statistical significance					***		***	*
	N = 2,310								
13	Sex of respondent								
	Female	32	25	28	14	7	4	33	3
	Male	30	21	26	17	10	5	34	1
	Statistical significance		*		*	*			
	N = 2,303								
	State / Territory								
	New South Wales & ACT	32	23	28	15	7	4	34	2
	Victoria & Tasmania	26	19	20	14	7	5	40	3
	Queensland	35	28	31	15	10	3	28	1
	South Australia & Northern Territory	41	33	41	16	16	5	18	0
	Western Australia	34	25	37	14	8	6	18	2
	Statistical significance	**	***	***		**		***	
	N = 2,382								
14	Marital Status of respondent								
	Never Married	26	23	29	13	6	3	40	3
	Married *	32	24	28	16	8	4	33	2
	Separated / Divorced	34	23	27	17	8	8	26	3
	Widowed	31	19	20	9	11	6	31	3
	Statistical significance				*			*	
	N = 2,331								
	* Includes 44 people who identified themselves as being in a de facto relationship								

Question number	Question	Has a prominent role (%)	Members share responsibility for parish life (%)	Encourages parishioners to get involved (%)	Spells out the mission of the Church (%)	Has no real authority (%)	Doesn't achieve much (%)	Don't know much about it (%)	This parish doesn't have one (%)
19	Type of primary school attended by respondent								
	Catholic	31	24	27	14	9	5	33	2
	Government	33	23	29	15	5	4	36	3
	Other	29	37	31	21	2	7	30	2
	<i>Statistical significance</i>		*			**			
	<i>N = 2,028</i>								
20	Type of secondary school attended by respondent								
	Catholic	31	24	27	15	8	5	33	2
	Government	33	24	30	17	7	4	35	1
	Other	31	29	29	22	7	6	34	1
	<i>Statistical significance</i>								
	<i>N = 2,069</i>								
15	Level of education of respondent								
	No Post Secondary	31	21	26	13	9	4	32	2
	Diploma / Trade Certificate	30	24	31	15	6	4	31	4
	Degree or Higher	32	26	27	17	7	5	37	1
	<i>Statistical significance</i>		*					*	*
	<i>N = 2,321</i>								
16a	Birthplace of respondent								
	Australia	29	22	24	14	10	6	33	2
	Other English speaking country	31	19	20	11	8	6	38	6
	Non-English speaking country	35	27	35	17	4	2	34	1
	<i>Statistical significance</i>	*	**	***		***	***		***
	<i>N = 2,335</i>								
16b	Birthplace of respondent's mother								
	Australia	28	21	23	15	10	5	32	2
	Other English speaking country	31	17	22	11	12	7	34	4
	Non-English speaking country	34	27	34	16	4	2	35	1
	<i>Statistical significance</i>	*	**	***		***	**		*
	<i>N = 2,267</i>								
16c	Birthplace of respondent's father								
	Australia	29	22	23	14	11	6	31	2
	Other English speaking country	31	19	23	14	8	6	35	4
	Non-English speaking country	33	26	33	16	5	2	36	1
	<i>Statistical significance</i>		*	***		***	**		**
	<i>N = 2,253</i>								

Question number	Question	Has a prominent role (%)	Members share responsibility for parish life (%)	Encourages parishioners to get involved (%)	Spells out the mission of the Church (%)	Has no real authority (%)	Doesn't achieve much (%)	Don't know much about it (%)	This parish doesn't have one (%)
	Birthplace of both parents of respondent								
	Both parents born in Australia	29	22	23	14	10	5	31	3
	One parent born in Australia	26	17	21	18	14	7	37	1
	Both parents born in Non-English speaking coun	34	27	34	16	4	2	35	1
	Other		*	***		***	**		*
	<i>Statistical significance</i>								
	<i>N = 2,251</i>								
17	Language spoken at home by respondent								
	English only	30	21	24	15	10	5	33	3
	English plus other language(s)	34	29	36	16	4	4	33	1
	Non-English language(s) only	21	3	12	3	3	4	57	6
	<i>Statistical significance</i>		***	***		***		**	**
	<i>N = 2,321</i>								
21	When respondent became Catholic: *								
	As a baby or a child	31	23	27	14	8	4	33	2
	As a teenager or an adult	31	29	32	21	11	5	30	2
	<i>Statistical significance</i>		*		*				
	<i>N = 2,258</i>								
	<i>* Includes Catholic respondents only.</i>								
18b	Spouse or partner of respondent Catholic?								
	Yes, Catholic	32	24	28	16	9	4	32	2
	No, other Christian or other religion	33	23	30	17	6	7	34	1
	No, no religion	21	21	30	17	2	1	44	3
	<i>Statistical significance</i>					*			
	<i>N = 1,664</i>								
	Participation in the parish								
1a	Frequency of respondent's attendance at Mass								
	Less than weekly	22	17	21	13	7	4	52	2
	At least once a week	31	24	28	15	8	5	32	2
	<i>Statistical significance</i>	**	*	*				***	
	<i>N = 1,941</i>								

Question number	Question	Has a prominent role (%)	Members share responsibility for parish life (%)	Encourages parishioners to get involved (%)	Spells out the mission of the Church (%)	Has no real authority (%)	Doesn't achieve much (%)	Don't know much about it (%)	This parish doesn't have one (%)
2	Length of respondent's attendance at parish								
	Less than 5 years	27	20	25	14	3	3	45	2
	6 to 20 years	33	26	32	17	7	5	29	2
	More than 20 years	34	25	28	15	12	5	25	3
	Visitor	8	8	9	3	2	0	79	2
	<i>Statistical significance</i>	***	***	***	**	***	*	***	
	<i>N = 2,354</i>								
3	Involvement of respondent in parish groups, ministries or activities								
	Is not involved	27	20	24	14	7	3	41	1
	Is involved	39	30	33	17	10	8	18	4
	<i>Statistical significance</i>	***	***	***	*	*	***	***	**
	<i>N = 2,294</i>								
4	Involvement of respondent in parish outreach activities								
	Is not involved	28	20	25	14	7	3	39	2
	Is involved	40	31	34	18	10	7	18	2
	<i>Statistical significance</i>	***	***	***			***	***	
	<i>N = 2,318</i>								
5	Leadership role of respondent in parish								
	No	27	18	24	13	6	3	42	1
	Yes	38	33	34	17	11	8	17	4
	<i>Statistical significance</i>	***	***	***	*	***	***	***	***
	<i>N = 2,195</i>								
7	Respondent's sense of belonging to the parish *								
	Not a strong sense of belonging	15	12	16	13	4	3	58	1
	Weakening sense compared to the past	22	17	23	14	11	10	35	1
	Stable	26	22	29	15	12	4	30	3
	Strong and growing sense of belonging	46	32	34	17	6	4	21	2
	<i>Statistical significance</i>	***	***	***		***	***	***	
	<i>N = 2,291</i>								
	* Excludes respondents who answered 'Don't know' / Not applicable								
6	Importance of parish community for respondent								
	Not at all, or only a little, important	10	8	14	7	6	5	64	1
	Quite important	23	16	22	12	9	3	42	3
	Very / extremely important	39	30	33	18	7	5	23	2
	<i>Statistical significance</i>	***	***	***	***			***	
	<i>N = 2,349</i>								

Question number	Question	Has a prominent role (%)	Members share responsibility for parish life (%)	Encourages parishioners to get involved (%)	Spells out the mission of the Church (%)	Has no real authority (%)	Doesn't achieve much (%)	Don't know much about it (%)	This parish doesn't have one (%)
8	How many people in the parish does the respondent know well?								
	Hardly anyone / No-one	16	14	15	10	2	3	59	2
	A fair number of people	34	24	30	16	10	4	29	2
	Everyone or nearly everyone	43	35	32	17	7	6	14	3
	<i>Statistical significance</i>	***	***	***	**	***		***	
	<i>N = 2,365</i>								
9	Weekly financial contribution of respondent's family *								
	Less than \$5 or none	18	13	17	11	3	2	54	4
	\$5 to less than \$10	31	20	27	16	6	3	36	3
	\$10 to less than \$20	35	26	29	15	9	5	25	1
	\$20 or more	37	31	33	17	12	7	22	2
	<i>Statistical significance</i>	***	***	***		***	**	***	*
	<i>N = 2,257</i>								
	* Excludes respondents who answered 'Don't know'.								

Statistical Note:

Results have been weighted so that they better reflect the distribution of Church attenders across Australia.

Percentages across each row add to more than 100% because respondents could choose more than one option.

For each question, the actual (unweighted) number of valid responses is shown as 'N = '

Statistical significance is shown as follows:

**** $p < 0.001$*

*** $p < 0.01$*

** $p < 0.05$*

Blank indicates relationship not significant

Statistical significance is shown for each response option because the options are independent of each other.

Thank you for taking part in this survey

- Please use a BLACK OR BLUE PEN or dark pencil and press firmly.
- FILL IN or CROSS the box next to the category that best describes your response (☐ or ☒). PLEASE DO NOT USE TICKS.
- Choose ONE ONLY for each question unless it states otherwise.
Example: Do you eat fruit? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Mass Centre Code

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S3



1. How often do you go to Mass? Please answer for how often you go to Mass, AND for how often you go to Mass in this parish. (Mark an option in BOTH columns)

	Generally?	Here?
This is my first time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardly ever/special occasions only	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Less than once a month	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Once a month	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Two or three times a month	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Usually every week	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More than once a week	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. How long have you been going to church at this parish?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 year | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 20 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 years | <input type="checkbox"/> I am visiting. I usually go to church somewhere else |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3-5 years | <input type="checkbox"/> I am visiting and do not regularly go anywhere else |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6-10 years | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11-20 years | |

3. Are you regularly involved in any group activities here? (Mark ALL that apply)

- ☐ Yes, in small prayer, discussion or Bible study groups
☐ Yes, in clubs, social groups or other types of groups
☐ No, we have no such groups
☐ No, I am not regularly involved

4. Do you regularly take part in any parish activities reaching out to the wider community (e.g. community service, social justice, welfare, outreach, evangelisation)? (Mark ALL that apply)

- ☐ Yes, in outreach or evangelisation activities
☐ Yes, in community service, social justice or welfare activities of this parish
☐ No, we don't have such activities
☐ No, I am not regularly involved

5. Do you currently perform any of these leadership or ministry roles in this parish? (Mark ALL that apply)

- ☐ Reader (lector) or special minister of the Eucharist
☐ Music ministry (e.g. choir, organist, musician)
☐ Member of a liturgy planning group
☐ Preparing adults for sacraments (e.g. RCIA, marriage preparation)
☐ Involved in children's liturgy or sacrament preparation
☐ Religious education teacher in a government school
☐ Visitor to the sick or elderly or others in need
☐ Leader of a group (e.g. a prayer, discussion, youth or social group)
☐ Member of the parish council or similar leadership group
☐ Member of a committee
☐ Teacher in the parish school
☐ Actively involved in the parish school (not as a teacher)
☐ Another role not mentioned above
☐ I do not have any leadership or ministry role at present

6. How important is this parish community in your life?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all important | <input type="checkbox"/> Very important |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A little important | <input type="checkbox"/> Extremely important |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quite important | |

7. Do you have a strong sense of belonging to this parish?

- ☐ Yes, a strong sense of belonging, which is growing
☐ Yes, a strong sense - about the same as last year
☐ Yes, although perhaps not as strongly as in the past
☐ No, but I am new here
☐ No, but I am happy as I am
☐ No, and I wish I did by now
☐ Don't know/Not applicable

8. In this parish, how many people do you know well enough to speak to?

- ☐ Everyone or nearly everyone
☐ A fair number of people
☐ Hardly anyone/no-one

9. About how much do you or your family give each week, in total, to the support of the parish and the priest(s) in this parish?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$5 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 or more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 to less than \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> My family and I don't contribute financially here |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 to less than \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 to less than \$40 | |

10. Which of the following statements describe your view of the Parish Pastoral Council in this parish? (Mark ALL that apply)

- ☐ The Parish Council has a prominent role in parish leadership
☐ Parish Council members share responsibility for parish life
☐ The Parish Council encourages all parishioners to get involved in parish life
☐ The Parish Council spells out how the mission of the Church is to be realised in this parish
☐ The Parish Council is a good thing, but it doesn't have any real authority
☐ The Parish Council doesn't achieve much as far as I can tell
☐ I don't know much about what the Parish Council does
☐ This parish doesn't have a Parish Council

11. What is the STARTING TIME of the church service(s) that you regularly attend here? (Mark up to TWO)

This service (Leave blank if you are a visitor)

(Write time, e.g. 09:45 and mark am or pm, and day of week)

↳ : ☐ am ☐ pm Sun M T W T F Sat

Another church service you regularly attend here

(Only fill this in if it applies to you)

↳ : ☐ am ☐ pm Sun M T W T F Sat

This form will be scanned - Please mark boxes ☒ and ☐ and WRITE NUMBERS CLEARLY to help scanning process

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About You

12. In what year were you born?

Please write the year in the squares:

--	--	--	--

13. What is your gender?

☐ Female ☐ Male

NB: If you identify as 'Other', this option is in the online survey.

14. Which term best describes your present marital status?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Never married | <input type="checkbox"/> In a defacto relationship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In first marriage | <input type="checkbox"/> Separated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remarried after divorce | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remarried after widowed | <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed |

15. What is the highest educational qualification you have completed?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primary school | <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor degree from a university or equivalent institution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some secondary school | <input type="checkbox"/> Postgraduate degree or diploma |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Completed secondary school | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trade certificate | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diploma or associate diploma | |

16. Where were you born? Where was your mother born? Where was your father born?

(Please mark an option in EVERY COLUMN)

	You	Mother	Father
Australia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Zealand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pacific Islands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Great Britain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ireland (incl. N. Ireland)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Italy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Malta	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Southern Europe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northern or Western Europe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eastern Europe/former USSR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Middle East/North Africa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Republic of South Africa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Africa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mauritius	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North America	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Central or South America	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
China/Hong Kong	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Korea	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vietnam	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Philippines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
India/Sri Lanka	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Asia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

17. At home, do you speak a language other than English?

- ☐ English only
- ☐ English plus other language(s)
- ☐ Non-English language(s) only

18. What is your religious denomination? And that of your spouse or partner?

	Yours	Your spouse/partner
Catholic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anglican	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uniting Church	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Christian	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Christian religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have no spouse or partner/Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What type of school did you (or do you now) mainly attend? (Mark ONE in each row)

	Catholic	Government	Other
19. Primary School	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Secondary School	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

About Your Faith

21. Are you a Catholic?

Yes, I became a Catholic when I was

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A baby | <input type="checkbox"/> An adult |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A child | <input type="checkbox"/> I am not a Catholic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A teenager | |

22. Do you agree or disagree? 'Being Catholic is an important part of who I am'

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral/Unsure | <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable |

23. How important is God in your life?

- ☐ God does not matter to me at all
- ☐ Fairly important, but many other things are more important
- ☐ God is more important to me than almost anything else
- ☐ God is the most important reality in my life

How often do you... (Mark one box on EACH line)

	Every day /most days	A few times a week	Once a week	Occasionally	Hardly ever	Never
24. Spend time in private prayer or meditation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25. Say the Rosary?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26. Read the Bible alone?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

27. Which of the following comes closest to expressing your belief about the Resurrection of Christ? (Mark ONE only)

- ☐ Christ was raised by God's power from death to life — really, bodily, physically
- ☐ Christ 'rose from the dead', not literally, but in the Christian community's faith in God's power to give life
- ☐ Christ did not rise from the dead in any sense
- ☐ Don't know

28. Which of the following comes closest to expressing your idea about God? (Mark ONE only)

- ☐ There is one God, three divine persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- ☐ God exists and is a divine person, but not Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- ☐ God is not a person, but the name we give to a higher power in the universe, the mysterious and creative source of life
- ☐ We and the universe are in God, part of God, identified with God
- ☐ God is not 'out there', but is found only within each person
- ☐ We cannot know for sure whether God exists
- ☐ God does not exist

29. Which of the following statements about the consecrated bread and wine at Mass expresses your belief? (Mark ONE only)

- ☐ They truly become the sacred Body and Blood of Christ
- ☐ They remain bread and wine

30. Which of the following comes closest to your belief about the Virgin Birth?

- ☐ Mary gave birth to Jesus without having had sexual intercourse
- ☐ The Virginity of Mary is not meant to be taken literally; it is a way of saying that Jesus is the Son of God

31. Do you think that it is wrong for a man and a woman to have sexual relations before marriage?

- ☐ Always morally wrong
- ☐ Not wrong, if they are committed to a long-term relationship
- ☐ Not wrong in any circumstances

32. Which statement is closest to your attitude toward abortion?

- ☐ Abortion is always morally wrong
- ☐ Abortion is justified only in extreme circumstances (e.g. rape, risk to the mother's life, etc)
- ☐ Abortion is justified in a wider range of circumstances, but not in every case
- ☐ Abortion is not wrong in any circumstances
- ☐ Don't know

33. Which of the following statements best describes the way you make decisions about moral issues?

- ☐ I always follow the teachings of the Church
- ☐ I look to the teaching of the Church for guidance, but then I follow my own conscience
- ☐ The teachings of the Church do not influence my decisions about moral issues

The Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation

34. How often have you been to the First Rite of Reconciliation in the past 12 months? ('Going to confession' individually, privately, with no communal celebration)

- ☐ Usually every week ☐ Once or twice
- ☐ About once a month ☐ I haven't been to First Rite
- ☐ A few times during the year ☐ at all in the past 12 months

35. How often have you taken part in the Second Rite in the last 12 months? (Communal prayers of preparation, then individual confessions — usually, several priests are present)

- ☐ A few times during the year
- ☐ Once or twice
- ☐ Not in the past twelve months
- ☐ The Second Rite was not held in my parish or nearby

36. Compared with 5 years ago, how often do you go to Reconciliation (any rite) now?

- ☐ I go more often now ☐ I go less often now
- ☐ I go just as often ☐ I don't go at all

37. Why did you go to Reconciliation last time you went? (Mark the TWO most important reasons)

- ☐ For spiritual direction
- ☐ For counselling and help with problems
- ☐ To receive God's forgiveness for my sins and grace to live a better life
- ☐ To worship a merciful God
- ☐ To be reconciled with others
- ☐ Because I was afraid of God's judgement
- ☐ To set a good example for my children
- ☐ Other reason

Issues in Ministry

38. Do you accept the practice whereby divorced Catholics who have remarried without an annulment of their previous marriage are refused Communion?

- ☐ Yes, with no difficulty ☐ No
- ☐ Yes, with some difficulty ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Yes, with great difficulty

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Mark one box on EACH line)

39. The cases of sexual abuse by priests and religious have damaged my confidence in Church authorities

- Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral/Unsure ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐

40. My respect for priests and religious has greatly declined as a result of these offences

- Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral/Unsure ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐

41. The response of Church authorities to these incidences has been inadequate and shows a complete failure of responsibility

- Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral/Unsure ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐

42. The media have been fair in their coverage of sexual offences by priests and religious

- Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral/Unsure ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐

43. The Church now seems to be taking appropriate steps to meet its responsibilities in these cases

- Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral/Unsure ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐

44. Church authorities can be trusted when they speak about child sexual abuse

- Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral/Unsure ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐

45. How aware are you of the safeguards and procedures that the Church has put in place to eradicate sexual abuse and support those who have been affected?

- ☐ I am not at all aware of what the Church has done to address this issue
- ☐ I know the Church has addressed the issue, but I'm not very aware of how this has been done
- ☐ I am reasonably aware of how the Church has addressed this issue, but I'm not aware of the details
- ☐ I have a detailed knowledge of what the Church has done to address this issue

46. Have you heard of Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment, "Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home"? If yes, where have you heard about it? (Mark ALL that apply)

- ☐ Local parish ☐ Church agencies (e.g. Catholic Earthcare)
- ☐ Media ☐ I have not heard of the encyclical
- ☐ Dedicated workshops
- ☐ Church leaders (e.g. bishops)

47. How familiar are you with the contents of the encyclical?

- Not at all ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ Very familiar

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48. How much has the Pope’s message in the encyclical impacted on your beliefs and practices, would you say?

Not at all

Very much

1

2

3

4

5

49. Do you believe that Christians have a responsibility to actively care for the environment?

Yes, and I am very active

No

Yes, and I am a little active

Unsure

Yes, but I am currently not active

Since 2011, we have been using a new English translation of the Mass, changing what the priest and the people say. For example, we now say ‘And with your spirit’ instead of ‘And also with you’, and ‘Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof’ instead of ‘Lord, I am not worthy to receive you’.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Mark one option on EACH line)

50. I like the new translation better than the old one

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral/Unsure

Disagree

Strongly disagree

51. Some of the language in the new translation is awkward and distracting

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral/Unsure

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Mark one option on EACH line)

52. The preaching I hear in this parish is very helpful to me in everyday life

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral/Unsure

Disagree

Strongly disagree

53. This parish plays an active role in the local community

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral/Unsure

Disagree

Strongly disagree

54. This parish reaches out to people in need

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral/Unsure

Disagree

Strongly disagree

55. My spiritual needs are being met in this parish

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral/Unsure

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Children and Schooling

56. What do you think are the most important things to look for in choosing a school?

(Mark up to THREE in BOTH columns)

	Primary school	Secondary school
School discipline		
Quality school leadership and teaching		
Convenient school location		
Religious education		
Values that are important to the child's family		
Academic reputation		
Quality of facilities		
Class sizes		
School fees		
Caring and nurturing environment		
Range of subjects offered		
Single-sex education		
Co-education		
Extra-curricular opportunities, e.g. sport, music		
Support for additional learning needs		
Other		

57. How many children do you have?

None

1

2

3

4

5 or more

58. Please answer the questions below for each of your children, starting with the eldest.

If you have more than 5 children, answer for the first 5.

	Eldest Child	Child No 2	Child No 3	Child No 4	Child No 5
What is his/her age in years?					
	years	years	years	years	years

What type of primary school does (or did) he/she mainly attend?

	Eldest Child	Child No 2	Child No 3	Child No 4	Child No 5
Catholic					
Government					
Other					
Not applicable					

What type of secondary school does (or did) he/she mainly attend?

	Eldest Child	Child No 2	Child No 3	Child No 4	Child No 5
Catholic					
Government					
Other					
Not applicable					

This question is only for those who have, or once had, children of school age.

59. If you did not choose a Catholic school for your child(ren), what were the main reasons?

(Mark up to THREE in BOTH columns)

	Primary school	Secondary school
Poor facilities		
School fees too high		
Revelations of sexual abuse in some schools		
Poor school discipline		
Inconvenient school location		
Poor quality religious education		
Weak Catholic ethos		
Poor academic reputation		
Large class sizes		
Not welcoming		
Lack of support for additional learning needs		
Inadequate range of subjects offered		
Poor range of extra-curricular opportunities		
Some other reason		

Thank you for your help today

