



DIOCESAN SOCIAL PROFILE

Based on the 2021 Australian Census

Archdiocese of Sydney



Date of report: July 2023

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AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research

July 2023

Dear readers,

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is pleased to make available to you this profile of the Catholic population of your diocese.

I hope that you will find it to be a valuable tool for your diocese's pastoral planning by helping you understand the local Catholic community and assess its needs. Diocesan pastoral councils and diocesan agencies in particular will find it a useful resource.

The data in this profile has 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 diocese who identified themselves as Catholic in the Census. Census data informs us about a population's demographic characteristics, but not about their religious practice.

This social profile, produced for every Catholic parish and diocese 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 and diocesan life. I trust that you find it informative, useful and thought-provoking.

Yours sincerely,

(Professor) Gabrielle McMullen AM

Chair, Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research

Diocesan Social Profile

At a Glance (pages 2 and 3)

Provides a brief glance at some key demographic indicators for the diocese.

	Page
Diocesan Snapshot	2
What has changed since 1996?	3

Diocesan Overview (pages 4-7)

Provides a clear overview of the Catholic community of the diocese, how it is changing and how it compares to other dioceses.

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

Diocesan Details (pages 9-25)

Provides much more detail about the Catholics of the diocese, allowing for deeper analysis of the nature of the Catholic community.

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

The Diocesan 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 diocese'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 diocese to realise the vision.

This Diocesan 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

By giving a clear picture of the diocese's demographic reality, this profile helps the diocesan 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 THE DIOCESE (2021)

Total Population: 2,582,298

Catholic Population: 590,175

Catholics make up 22.9 per cent of the total population

Median age of Catholics is 40 years

Total Catholic families: 210,680

56,634 Catholics live alone

229,474 Catholics were born overseas

38,080 Catholics do not speak English well

38,290 Catholics need assistance with core activities

206,984 Catholics have changed address since 2016



What has changed in the diocesan community since 1996?

This chart will help you identify, at a glance, changes in some of the key indicators for Catholics in the diocese between 1996 and 2021 and may alert you to possible trends that are occurring. The 2016 and 2021 figures are drawn from the Diocesan 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.

RANDOMISATION OF CENSUS DATA

The Catholic population of the diocese 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 always be taken in interpreting small counts in tables.

	Diocese in 1996	Diocese in 2001	Diocese in 2006	Diocese in 2011	Diocese in 2016	Diocese in 2021 ¹
Catholic population	588,820	596,697	594,700	611,431	594,145	590,175
Catholics aged 0-14 (%)	19.5	19.3	19.1	19.0	18.5	17.3
Catholics aged 65+ (%)	12.5	13.1	14.0	14.6	16.4	18.1
Catholics born in NESC ² (%)	31.1	30.1	29.7	29.8	31.4	33.5
Catholics not proficient in English (%)	6.8	6.3	6.1	5.8	6.1	6.5
Catholic families	190,455	198,675	200,534	208,055	204,898	210,680
Catholics living alone	48,598	53,216	55,521	56,016	51,701	56,634
Catholic students attending Catholic schools (%)	60.5	60.0	60.3	59.7	59.9	60.0
Catholics with university degree (%)	12.3	15.9	19.6	23.1	27.3	31.1
Catholic males in labour force (%)	70.0	63.3	69.0	68.8	69.0	63.5
Catholic females in labour force (%)	54.3	53.4	56.4	57.9	59.6	57.2
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling (%)	62.9	63.3	65.1	65.4	63.4	62.7

Notes:

1. Prior to 2021, persons living on Australian Defence Force bases were excluded from the Diocesan Social Profiles figures, but rather were counted within the Military Ordinariate of Australia figures. For 2021, such persons have been included in the geographical diocese in which the military base is located. The overall result of inclusion in 2021 figures is negligible.
2. NESC = Non-English-Speaking Country.



Overview

Table 1: Population (for more detail on Population and Religion see page 9).

The Diocesan Profile begins by looking at the total population living within the diocesan 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 diocesan population changed over the last five years? Of the changes identified here, which do you think have been the most significant for the life of the diocese?

Table 1: Population ¹	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank ²	Diocese 2016 Rank ²
Total population ³	2,582,298	2,455,169	25,422,788	23,401,892	3	3
Catholic population	590,175	594,145	5,075,910	5,291,834	3	3
Per cent Catholic	22.9	24.2	20.0	22.6	7	8
At same address since previous Census (%)	58.9	57.9	59.4	57.3	13	9
Median age ⁴ (years)	40	38	43	40	22	20
Aged 0-14 (%)	17.3	18.5	17.9	19.8	21	26
Aged 65+ (%)	18.1	16.4	19.9	16.6	22	17
Males per 100 females	91.2	91.0	89.1	90.6	7	17

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

Table 2 shows the percentage of Catholics who are disabled 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 with some form of disability.

In what particular ways does the diocese support disabled persons and their carers?

Table 2: Disability	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Need assistance with core activities (%)	6.5	6.1	6.7	5.8	16	9
Provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability ⁵ (% of Catholics aged 15+)	12.0	12.2	13.5	12.5	25	19

Notes:

1. All figures in this report refer to Catholics only, except for Total Population and certain other clearly indicated figures.
2. A diocesan rank of 1 indicates that the diocese had the highest score of any diocese, while the diocese with the lowest score had a diocesan rank of 28.
3. The population figures for the diocese and Australia do not include overseas visitors.
4. Median age: Half the Catholic population of the diocese (or Australia) are above this age, half are below it. A diocesan rank of 1 signifies that the diocese has the highest median age of all dioceses.
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.



Overview

Table 3: Employment (for more detail 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 the diocese?

Table 3: Employment	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Managers and Professionals ¹ (% of those recording an occupation)	45.0	40.5	37.1	34.1	2	2
Workers in 'blue collar' occupations ² (% of those recording an occupation)	22.1	24.1	28.1	29.6	27	27
Men, employed or seeking work ³ (%)	63.5	69.0	66.5	69.7	23	12
Women, employed or seeking work ³ (%)	57.2	59.6	59.7	60.6	23	14
Unemployed at time of Census ⁴ (%)	4.4	5.0	4.2	5.8	7	23
Youth unemployed at time of Census ⁵ (%)	8.1	10.4	8.9	12.2	15	25

Table 4: Birthplace and Language (for more detail on Birthplace and Language see pages 17-19).

This table begins to explore the ethnic balance of the diocese's Catholic community, which may highlight greater needs related to communication and inclusiveness.

Is there a need for the diocese to review the way it addresses the needs of recently arrived Catholic migrants? How does the cultural mix of the diocese compare to that of the rest of Australia?

Table 4: Birthplace, Indigenous Status & Language	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Born overseas in English-speaking country ⁶	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.6	7	8
Born overseas in non-English-speaking country (%)	33.5	31.4	21.4	19.1	1	1
Immigrants from non-English-speaking countries & arriving in Census year or previous 3 years	20,093	22,315	97,457	106,428	2	2
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	6,364	5,992	135,686	133,528	7	7
Speak language other than English at home (%)	38.0	37.8	21.5	20.4	1	1
Not proficient in English ^{7, 8} (%)	6.5	6.1	2.7	2.6	1	1

Notes:

1. This group includes, for example, farmers and farm managers, sales, marketing and production managers, education and health service managers, retail managers, school principals and school teachers, medical practitioners, nurses, scientists, arts and media professionals, accountants, engineers and IT professionals.
2. This group includes, for example, toolmakers, technicians, electricians, carpenters, plumbers, bakers and chefs, veterinary nurses, hairdressers, machinery operators, drivers, cleaners and labourers.
3. The percentage of Catholics aged 15+ who are in the labour force (i.e. employed or seeking employment).
4. The percentage of Catholics aged 15+ who are in the labour force and were unemployed at the time of the Census.
5. The percentage of Catholics aged 15-24 who are in the labour force and were unemployed at the time of the Census.
6. New Zealand, United Kingdom, Ireland, United States, Canada and South Africa.
7. Percentage of all Catholics who reported that they spoke English not well, or not at all.
8. The figures and rankings for some dioceses were slightly incorrect in the 2016 Social Profile and have been amended in this 2021 Social Profile.



Overview

Table 5: Education (for more detail on Education and Qualifications see pages 20-22).

Catholic schools are a very important part of every diocese in Australia. This table is primarily devoted to the educational levels of all Catholics, the participation of young Catholics and to the percentage of non-Catholics in Catholic schools.

What are the implications for the diocese, if any, of changes in the percentage of Catholics with a university degree?

Has there been any change in the percentage of young Catholics continuing their education in the post-compulsory years?

What challenges for the diocese are associated with the percentage of Catholic students attending Catholic schools? And what challenges are associated with the percentage of non-Catholics among students at Catholic schools?

In relation to the topics covered in this table, how does this diocese compare with other dioceses in Australia?

Table 5: Education ¹	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Catholics aged 15+ with bachelor degree or higher qualification (%)	31.1	27.3	24.6	20.6	2	2
Catholics attending an educational institution (% of all Catholics in each age group)						
Aged 15-17	96.3	94.0	94.9	92.2	3	4
Aged 18-19	78.1	75.7	67.2	62.9	1	1
Aged 20-24	48.7	46.9	43.4	38.2	3	1
Catholic primary students attending Catholic schools (%)	58.3	57.6	55.5	53.1	8	4
Catholic primary students attending Government schools (%)	35.8	36.8	38.4	41.0	23	25
Catholic secondary students attending Catholic schools (%)	61.9	62.8	55.3	54.5	2	1
Catholic secondary students attending Government schools (%)	26.9	27.5	33.4	35.1	28	28
Primary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic ¹ (%)	26.9	21.4	36.6	28.1	26	26
Secondary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic ¹ (%)	32.0	29.0	41.3	35.7	28	26

Notes:
1. 'Students ... who are not Catholic' includes a small proportion whose religion was not stated in the Census. Some of these may be Catholic.



Overview

Table 6, 7 & 8: Marital Status, Families & Households (for more detail 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%).

Have you observed changes to marriage and family life in recent years? Do you think these changes are common to Australia as a whole, or are they particularly prevalent in this diocese?

What programs and strategies does the diocese have in place to support families with children? One-parent families? Catholics living alone? Catholics who are separated or divorced?

Table 6: Marital Status of Catholics aged 15+

	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Never married (%)	37.2	36.5	32.9	33.3	3	5
Married (%)	46.8	47.5	49.3	49.7	25	24
Divorced or Separated (%)	10.4	10.2	11.7	11.2	27	26
Widowed (%)	5.6	5.8	6.1	5.8	22	15

Table 7: Families¹
in which at least one person is Catholic

	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Families	210,680	204,910	1,995,658	1,997,833	3	3
One-parent families	25,087	24,975	225,180	231,370	3	3
One-parent families (% of all families)	11.9	12.2	11.3	11.6	5	8
Couples of mixed religions ² (%)	48.7	46.5	58.1	55.9	27	27
De facto couples (%)	18.6	16.5	17.7	17.7	15	23
Median annual family income ³ (\$)	137,657	117,208	120,943	100,270	2	4

Table 8: Households⁴
in which at least one person is Catholic

	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Households	277,764	268,797	2,567,362	2,548,354	3	3
Persons living alone (aged under 35)	7,400	6,389	51,145	53,499	2	3
Persons living alone (aged 35+)	49,234	45,312	442,080	407,684	3	3
Persons living alone (total)	56,634	51,701	493,225	461,183	3	3
Persons living alone (% of all persons)	9.6	8.7	9.7	8.7	18	17
Dwellings owned or being purchased (%)	62.7	63.4	73.0	71.2	25	25
Median monthly housing loan repayment ⁵ (\$)	2,682	2,390	1,948	1,873	1	2

Notes:

1. A family is defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering, and who are usually resident in the same household. Family members who live elsewhere are not included in the Census definition.
2. Married or de facto couples where only one partner is Catholic as a percentage of all couples where at least one partner is Catholic.
3. Fifty per cent of families have a higher income, 50 per cent a lower income. Family income is the sum of the incomes of all family members aged 15 and over.
4. A household can consist of one or more families, non-family groups or persons living alone.
5. Fifty per cent of households with a housing loan pay a higher repayment, 50 per cent a lower figure.



Diocesan Details

CONTENTS OF THE DETAILED PROFILE

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

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



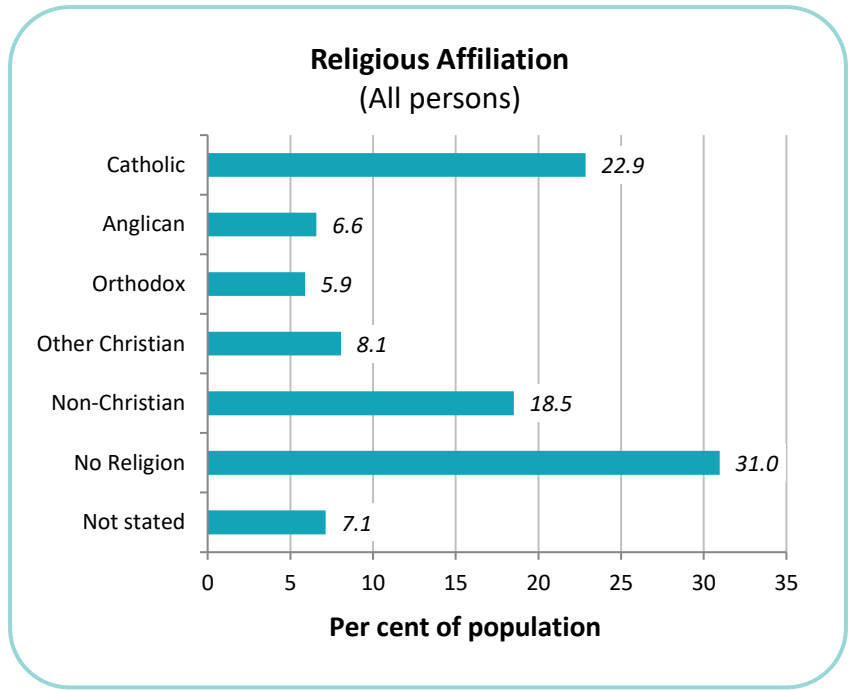
Religious Affiliation

The Census question about religion is optional, and just over 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, where it remained in 2021. 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 diocese in the period 2012-2021?

What are the largest non-Catholic religious groups? What involvement does the diocese have in ecumenical and interfaith activities and programs?

What challenges to the diocese 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	59,239	68,693	69,151	78,429	74,614	73,583	59,778	45,194	30,455	559,136
Maronite Catholic	3,172	3,148	2,790	2,922	2,878	2,486	1,868	1,311	700	21,275
Melkite Catholic	220	190	173	192	153	181	138	88	44	1,379
Ukrainian Catholic	32	26	29	31	32	46	59	52	24	331
Chaldean Catholic	1,313	1,418	1,224	1,138	911	886	590	261	94	7,835
Syro-Malabar Catholic	35	59	20	20	53	19	8	-	-	214
Total Catholic	64,011	73,534	73,387	82,732	78,641	77,201	62,441	46,906	31,317	590,170
Per cent Catholic (of total population in age group)	22.5	27.1	17.8	18.7	23.0	25.1	25.1	28.1	29.8	22.9
Anglican	10,988	15,277	13,629	16,777	22,719	26,317	25,967	23,082	15,241	169,997
Orthodox	14,844	18,684	16,268	16,169	21,299	22,914	15,590	14,956	11,598	152,322
Other Christian	19,743	21,052	26,388	30,889	28,179	28,100	25,439	17,720	10,600	208,110
Non-Christian	62,795	54,522	90,372	91,086	63,360	48,437	38,589	19,866	9,048	478,075
No Religion	91,424	71,451	160,515	171,869	105,237	85,712	65,569	33,555	14,099	799,431
Not Stated	20,382	16,594	32,255	33,723	23,220	19,185	14,776	10,907	13,160	184,202
Total Population	284,187	271,114	412,814	443,245	342,655	307,866	248,371	166,992	105,063	2,582,307

Note: Since the 1996 Census, following consultation with the Eastern Catholic Bishops, Eastern Catholics have been counted separately from Western (or Latin Rite) Catholics. Catholics belonging to the Chaldean, Maronite, Melkite, Syro-Malabar or Ukrainian Catholic Churches have been requested by their Bishops NOT to tick the box marked 'Catholic' on the Census form, but rather to write, for example, 'Maronite Catholic' in the space provided. Those Eastern Catholics who were unaware of this request and who ticked the 'Catholic' box are counted as Western Catholics.



Age and Sex

**Table 10:
Age by sex**

	Males 2021	Females 2021	Total 2021	Total 2016
Age (years)				
0	2,769	2,672	5,441	6,049
1	2,717	2,681	5,398	6,714
2	2,958	2,803	5,761	6,784
3	3,050	2,919	5,969	7,034
4	3,165	3,002	6,167	7,349
5	3,471	3,293	6,764	7,327
6	3,457	3,141	6,598	7,688
7	3,610	3,418	7,028	7,640
8	3,695	3,546	7,241	7,968
9	3,975	3,663	7,638	7,860
10	3,848	3,610	7,458	7,630
11	3,903	3,768	7,671	7,572
12	3,900	3,713	7,613	7,538
13	3,972	3,731	7,703	7,508
14	4,020	3,709	7,729	7,408
15	3,746	3,551	7,297	7,354
16	3,727	3,510	7,237	7,280
17	3,676	3,418	7,094	7,218
18	3,597	3,270	6,867	7,000
19	3,512	3,337	6,849	7,053
20-24	17,237	17,018	34,255	36,862
25-29	18,614	20,523	39,137	41,999
30-34	20,077	21,890	41,967	44,073
35-39	19,465	21,302	40,767	41,331
40-44	18,280	20,488	38,768	41,618
45-49	18,722	21,148	39,870	40,769
50-54	18,314	21,025	39,339	39,226
55-59	17,986	19,881	37,867	35,242
60-64	15,693	18,289	33,982	29,881
65-69	12,696	15,769	28,465	27,802
70-74	11,952	14,788	26,740	22,048
75-79	9,046	11,122	20,168	18,128
80+	12,648	18,673	31,321	29,229
Total	281,498	308,671	590,169	594,182

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

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

Several factors can influence the age profile, including fertility rates in the past and mortality rates, but in many parishes and dioceses the key factor is migration, related either to people moving to other parts of the country or to people arriving from other parishes or dioceses, or from overseas.

It is important to keep an eye on how the diocesan age profile changes over time, as different age groups have different needs and require different pastoral responses.

In this diocese, which age group has the largest Catholic population?

Which age groups have seen the greatest changes since 2016?

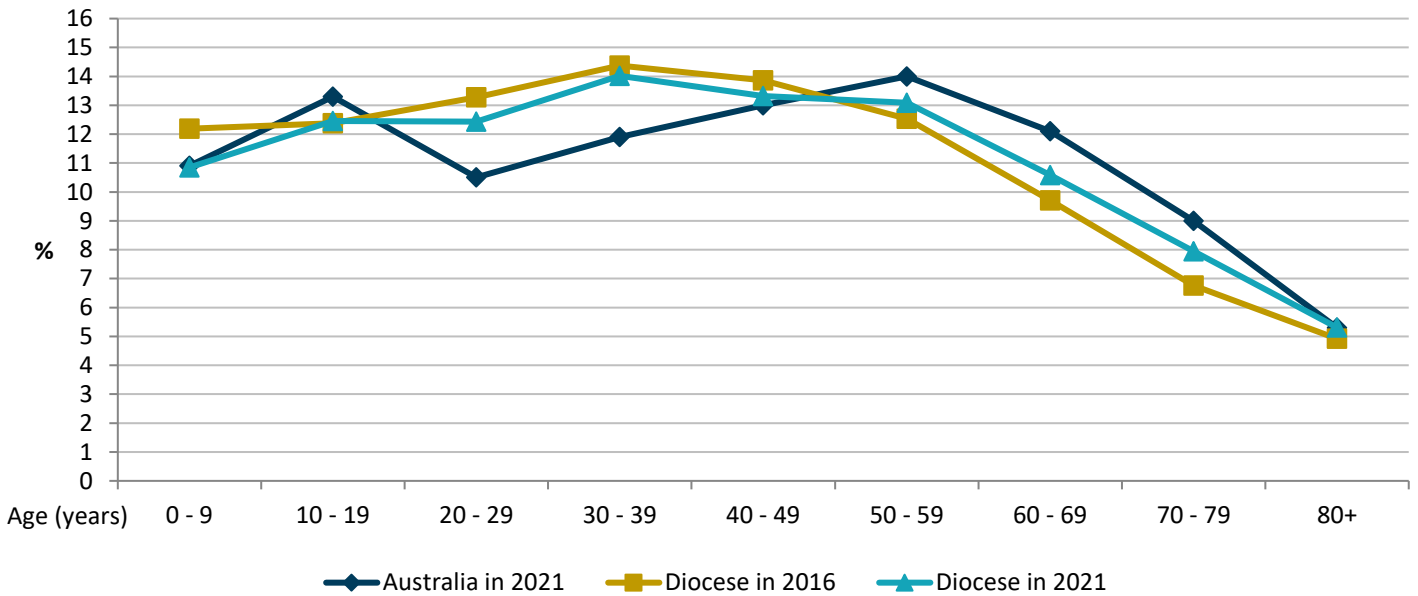
Does this data suggest any new challenges for the diocese?

Note: The Catholic population of the diocese 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 always be taken in interpreting small counts in tables.

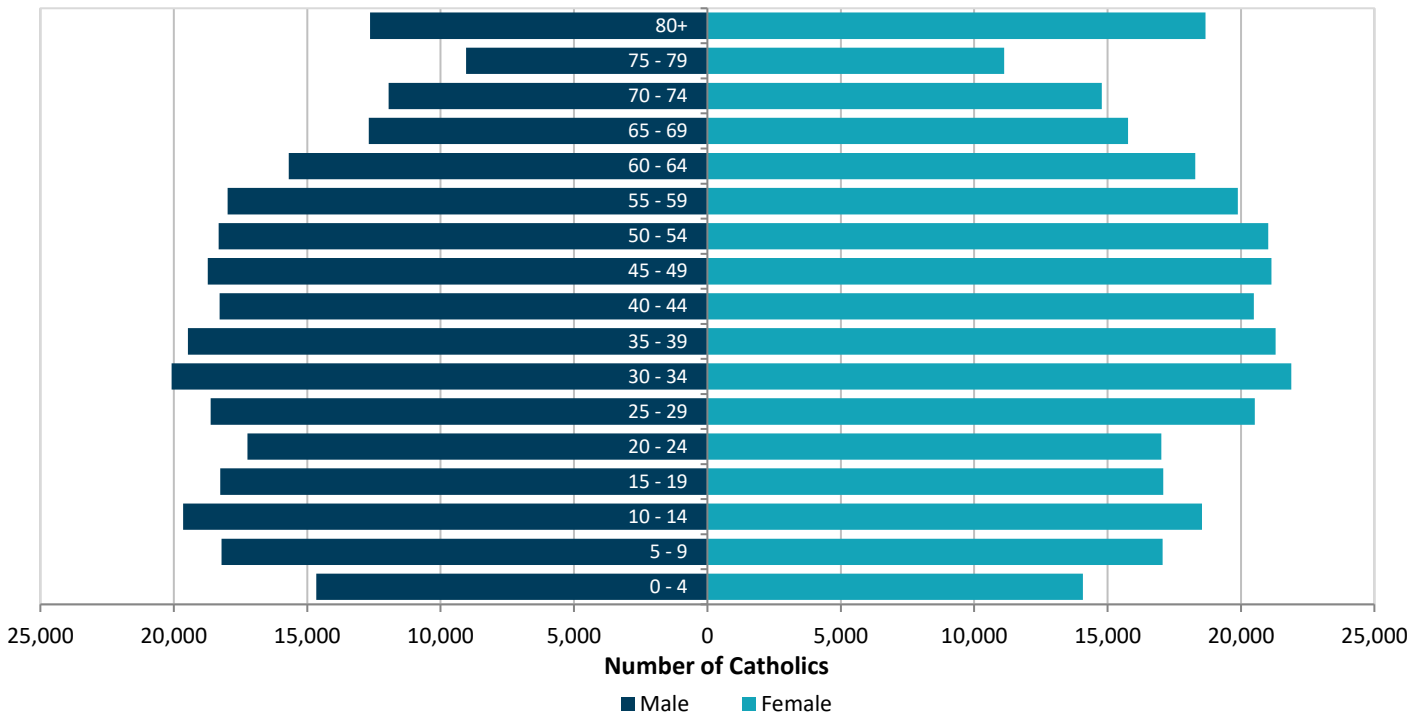


Age and Sex

Age profile of the Catholic population, 2016 & 2021



Age-sex profile of the Catholic population, 2021



Disability

The 2006 Census was the first to include the variable Core Activity Need for Assistance. The variable was developed to measure the number of people with a profound or severe disability. ABS defines the profound or severe disability 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 have fewer opportunities for social interaction.²

How does the diocese support people who need assistance with core activities? How well are Catholic schools in the diocese equipped to meet the needs of students with a disability?

How does the diocese support and encourage Catholics who provide unpaid assistance to people with a disability?

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 with core activities							
Family members:							
Males	1,546	1,877	2,175	1,937	2,705	1,874	12,114
Females	730	1,377	2,647	2,597	3,615	2,594	13,560
Lone Persons:							
Males	-	151	545	367	489	545	2,097
Females	-	115	573	753	1,582	1,960	4,983
Other non-family members or persons not present in a household on Census night³							
Males	42	183	403	350	485	673	2,136
Females	19	134	344	372	821	1,710	3,400
Total							
Males	1,588	2,211	3,123	2,654	3,679	3,092	16,347
Females	749	1,626	3,564	3,722	6,018	6,264	21,943

Table 11b: Provision of unpaid assistance by age

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Total
Catholics who provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability⁴							
Males	1,810	2,238	3,549	5,310	5,250	4,959	23,116
Females	2,003	2,993	5,585	9,024	8,602	7,382	35,589

Notes:

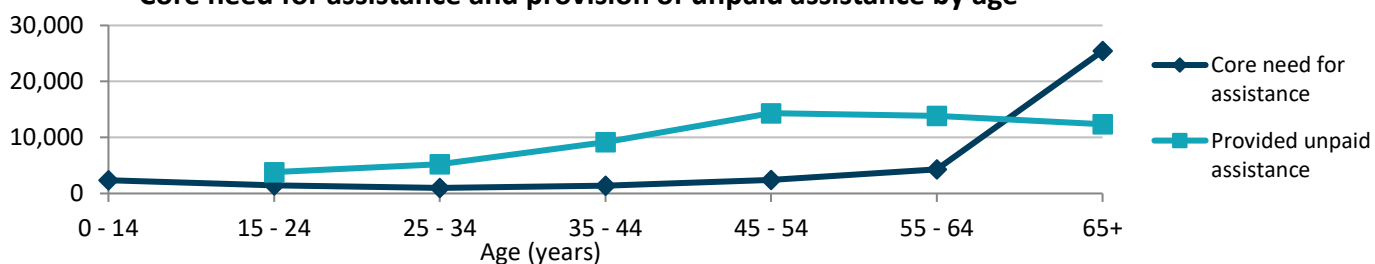
1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006. *Census Dictionary Australia 2006*. Catalogue No. 2901.0.

2. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2004. *Australian Social Trends 2004*. Catalogue No. 4102.0.

3. Among people aged 75 and over, being in hospital or a nursing home is a major reason for not being in a household on Census night.

4. The Census question asked whether the respondent had provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability in the two weeks prior to the Census. The question is not applicable to persons aged 0-14.

Core need for assistance and provision of unpaid assistance by age



Marital Status

The marital status patterns of Australian Catholics have changed noticeably over the last two decades. At the time of the 1991 Census, 31 per cent of Australian Catholics aged 15 and over had never been married, 55 per cent were married, seven per cent were separated or divorced and six per cent were widowed. By the 2021 Census, these figures were respectively 33 per cent, 49 per cent, 12 per cent and six per cent. Since 1991, there has been a decline in the percentage of married Catholics and a rise in the percentage of those never married and those separated and divorced.

How might changes in marital status patterns affect the life of the Church in this diocese? 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 diocese 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	35,280	28,272	12,112	7,830	5,472	2,672	1,672	93,310
Married	187	9,612	22,662	24,002	22,073	16,884	14,588	110,008
Divorced or Separated	19	790	2,918	5,040	5,656	4,101	2,151	20,675
Widowed	13	19	55	168	475	980	3,279	4,989
Total	35,499	38,693	37,747	37,040	33,676	24,637	21,690	228,982
Females								
Never married	33,545	27,045	10,824	7,193	4,885	2,613	2,027	88,132
Married	513	13,898	26,468	26,910	23,114	17,305	10,029	118,237
Divorced or Separated	54	1,430	4,298	7,433	8,136	5,824	3,055	30,230
Widowed	4	35	204	634	2,026	4,816	14,691	22,410
Total	34,116	42,408	41,794	42,170	38,161	30,558	29,802	259,009

Change of address since 2016 by marital status (Catholics aged 15+)

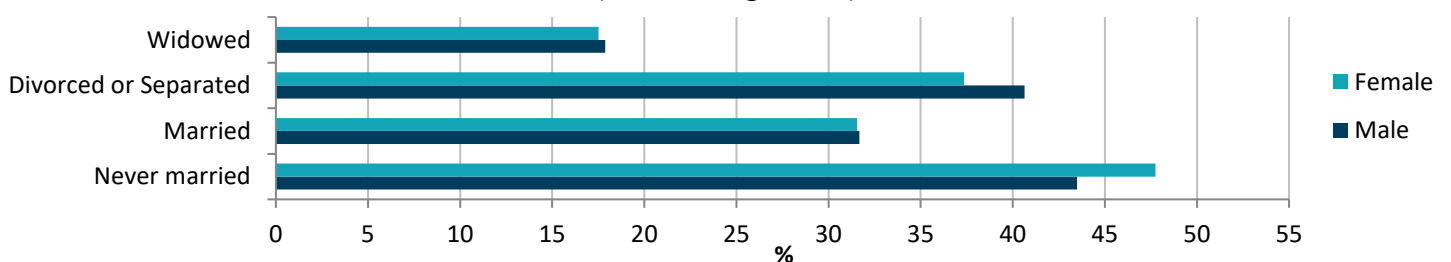


Table 13: Religious affiliation of couple by social marital status

	In a registered marriage	In a de facto marriage	Total couples	% couples in de facto marriages
Both persons Catholic	76,686	10,133	86,819	11.7
One person Catholic, the other non-Catholic Christian	33,307	7,144	40,451	17.7
One Catholic, the other non-Christian, not stated or temporarily absent	31,629	15,108	46,737	32.3
Total	141,622	32,385	174,007	18.6



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.

What is the proportion of 'mixed marriages' among couple families in this diocese? It is likely to be higher now than previously. How does this alter the pastoral needs of families, and how does it affect diocesan services, including Catholic education?

Is this a particularly difficult time, financially, for families in the diocese? What assistance is the diocese able to give struggling families? Note that the income of one-parent families is likely to be much lower than that of two-parent families. What support services can the diocese offer one-parent 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 Family Income ² (\$)
Two-parent families with children at home:										
Both parents Catholic	968	1,305	2,900	7,153	11,229	9,061	16,616	2,314	51,546	3,117
One parent Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	207	268	762	2,240	4,449	4,329	9,879	1,047	23,181	3,725
One parent Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	229	310	826	2,354	4,389	4,075	9,702	906	22,791	3,695
Couples with no children living at home:										
Both partners Catholic	3,245	5,218	4,644	5,969	6,642	3,833	4,822	893	35,266	1,762
One partner Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	902	1,461	1,972	3,045	3,710	2,287	3,545	356	17,278	2,291
One partner Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	722	965	1,392	3,020	5,331	3,910	5,752	370	21,462	2,834
One-parent families:										
Parent is Catholic	2,181	2,490	4,486	5,907	4,697	1,778	1,802	1,746	25,087	1,569
Other families where at least one person is Catholic										
Other: Reference person Catholic but spouse temporarily absent ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,491	2,491	-
Total	9,153	12,800	18,554	32,006	42,907	30,529	54,080	10,651	210,680	2,640

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: 50 per cent of families have a higher income, 50 per cent 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 dependent children	Total
Less than \$500	6,126	1,402	999	442	185	9,154
\$500-\$799	8,984	1,616	1,337	621	237	12,795
\$800-\$1,249	12,276	2,676	2,288	949	371	18,560
\$1,250-\$1,999	19,227	5,457	4,859	1,867	612	32,022
\$2,000-\$2,999	24,118	7,760	7,817	2,559	663	42,917
\$3,000-\$3,999	15,349	5,964	6,708	2,111	384	30,516
\$4,000 or more	22,238	11,034	14,818	5,061	923	54,074
Income not fully stated	6,039	1,880	1,782	694	241	10,636
Total Families	114,357	37,789	40,608	14,304	3,616	210,674
Median Family Income (\$)	2,312	2,876	3,088	2,173	2,426	2,640

Note: Table population is Catholic families. Dependent children include all children aged 0-14 and dependent students aged 15-24. Some figures may differ from figures in other similar tables (i.e. Table 14) due to the randomisation process used by the ABS – see note at the bottom of page 10.

**Weekly Family Income
(Catholic families)**

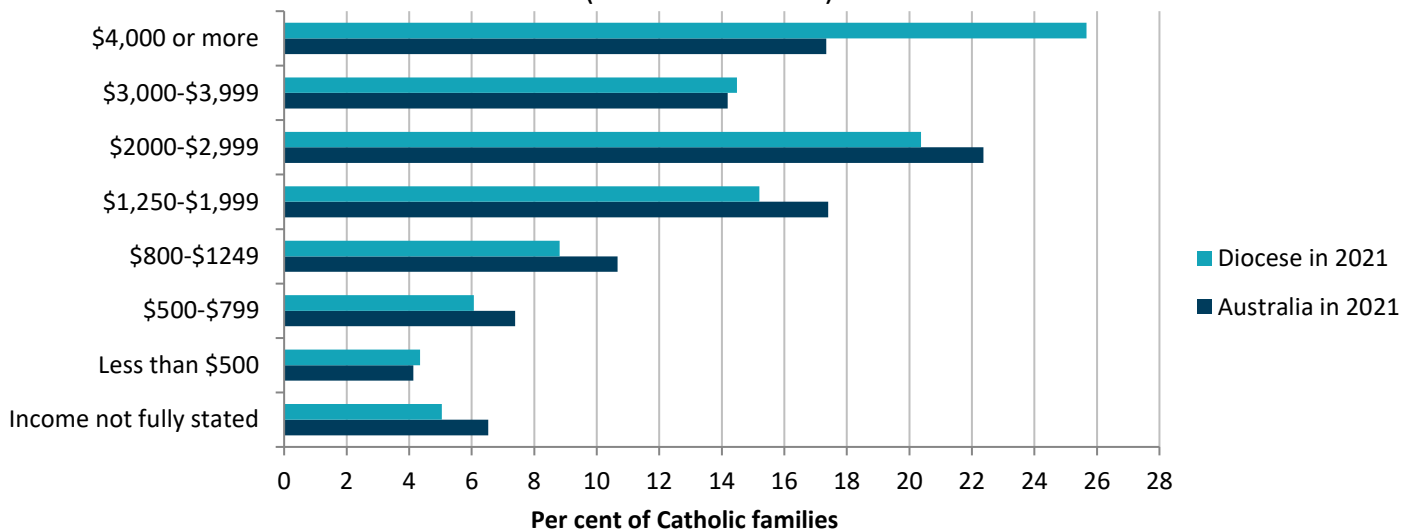


Table 16: Social marital status by number of dependent children

	0 dependent children	1 dependent child	2 dependent children	3 dependent children	4 or more dependent children	Total
Family Composition:						
Married couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	71,903	24,125	31,205	11,548	2,833	141,614
De facto couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	24,256	4,356	2,827	738	216	32,393
One parent family, parent Catholic	12,413	6,767	4,204	1,323	386	25,093
Other families where at least one person is Catholic	5,777	2,541	2,379	702	191	11,590
Total families	114,349	37,789	40,615	14,311	3,626	210,690



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 diocese? 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 diocese's pastoral strategies relate to housing issues?

	Fully owned or being purchased	Rented from State or Territory Housing	Rented from other landlord, or landlord not stated	Other households	Total households	Per cent owned or being purchased
Family households	140,993	3,738	60,096	3,283	208,110	67.7
Lone person aged under 35 years	1,829	122	5,174	275	7,400	24.7
Lone person aged 35 years or over	28,838	5,187	13,184	2,025	49,234	58.6
Group households	2,577	298	9,723	422	13,020	19.8
Total households	174,237	9,345	88,177	6,005	277,764	62.7

	\$1-\$599	\$600-\$999	\$1,000-1,599	\$1,600-\$2,199	\$2,200-\$2,799	\$2,800 or more	Median monthly household loan payment
Family households	2,457	2,736	7,446	11,893	10,133	34,283	2,788
Lone person aged under 35 years	17	29	188	485	289	300	2,119
Lone person aged 35 years or over	484	517	1,196	1,480	844	1,510	1,931
Group households	57	72	166	241	178	335	2,171
Total households	3,015	3,354	8,996	14,099	11,444	36,428	2,682

Notes:

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016. *Census Dictionary Australia 2016. Catalogue No. 2901.0.*
2. For Census purposes, a Catholic household is any household in which at least one person is Catholic.



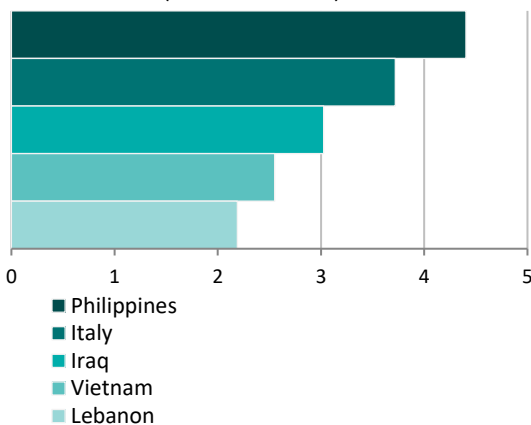
Birthplace

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.

How does the diocese support Catholics born in non-English-speaking countries in matters such as chaplaincy, education, pastoral care, and so on?

Is there a need for the diocese to review the way it addresses the needs of Catholics who have arrived in Australia in recent years?

Top 5 birthplaces of Catholics born overseas
(% of all Catholics)



Top 5 birthplaces with highest proportions of recent arrivals
(% of all Catholics from that birthplace)

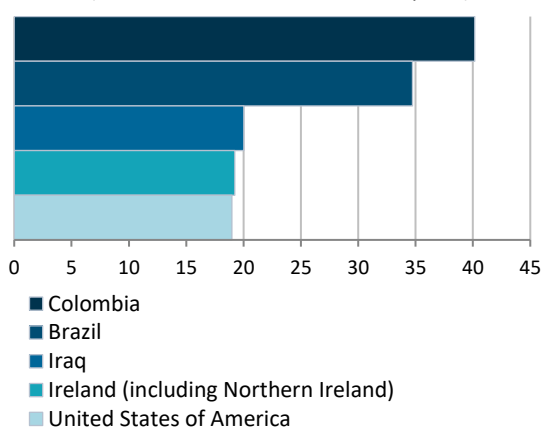


Table 19: Birthplace

	All Catholics	% of Catholics	% recent arrivals ¹
Australia	356,831	60.5	-
New Zealand	5,614	1.0	5.5
Other Oceania	3,756	0.6	4.9
United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland)	9,927	1.7	9.0
Ireland (including Northern Ireland)	11,553	2.0	19.2
Italy	21,951	3.7	2.6
Malta	3,453	0.6	0.2
Spain and Portugal	6,890	1.2	4.2
France	2,243	0.4	16.1
Netherlands	598	0.1	4.5
Germany	2,046	0.3	6.3
Austria	678	0.1	3.8
Croatia and other Former Yugoslavia	7,233	1.2	0.6
Poland	4,207	0.7	4.4
Hungary	1,006	0.2	4.4
Other Eastern Europe, Russian Federation and Baltic States	2,784	0.5	7.2
Other Europe NEC	790	0.1	10.5
Vietnam	15,054	2.6	5.2
Philippines	25,991	4.4	14.6
Indonesia	6,227	1.1	11.1
Malaysia	2,100	0.4	7.9
Singapore	1,186	0.2	12.8
South East Asia NEC	2,021	0.3	4.2
India	4,418	0.7	14.1
Sri Lanka	1,398	0.2	6.3
China (except Hong Kong and Taiwan)	4,715	0.8	7.8
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	3,763	0.6	6.9
Korea, Republic of (South)	5,195	0.9	6.1
Egypt	1,520	0.3	0.8
Lebanon	12,921	2.2	3.6
Iraq	17,854	3.0	20.0
Sudan (including South Sudan)	457	0.1	2.2
Middle East and North Africa NEC	4,577	0.8	11.3
South Africa	1,648	0.3	7.9
Mauritius	1,639	0.3	1.4
United States of America	2,313	0.4	19.0
Canada	889	0.2	15.1
Argentina	2,232	0.4	15.3
Brazil	5,892	1.0	34.7
Colombia	5,608	1.0	40.2
Chile	4,137	0.7	7.6
Central America and South America NEC	7,879	1.3	8.7
Other countries	3,111	0.5	12.0
Inadequately described/Not stated	3,879	0.7	0.3
Total	590,184	100.0	4.1

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



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

What provisions does this diocese make for people who do not speak English well in terms of availability of Masses in languages other than English, interpreters at diocesan events, translation of written material, access to priests and other pastoral ministers who speak their language, and so on?

Is there a need for current services to be reviewed in the light of recent changes to the non-English-speaking Catholic population?

Table 20: Language spoken at home by religious affiliation

	Catholic	Not Catholic (or not stated)	All persons	% Catholics among speakers ²
English	359,391	935,609	1,295,000	27.8
Italian	31,548	6,209	37,757	83.6
Maltese	2,428	161	2,589	93.8
Spanish	23,661	17,290	40,951	57.8
Croatian	9,313	938	10,251	90.8
Polish	4,479	1,831	6,310	71.0
Dutch	380	1,801	2,181	17.4
French	4,079	8,298	12,377	33.0
German	1,451	5,366	6,817	21.3
Portuguese	11,412	7,971	19,383	58.9
Hungarian	1,115	1,217	2,332	47.8
Ukrainian	392	555	947	41.4
Vietnamese	22,671	78,861	101,532	22.3
Filipino languages	20,731	5,611	26,342	78.7
Chinese languages	14,816	245,360	260,176	5.7
Malayalam	1,358	2,502	3,860	35.2
Sinhalese	378	2,088	2,466	15.3
Korean	6,143	25,586	31,729	19.4
Indonesian & Malay	5,865	18,008	23,873	24.6
Arabic	32,882	115,966	148,848	22.1
Assyrian and Chaldean	16,258	16,964	33,222	48.9
Oceanic and Papuan languages	2,898	12,193	15,091	19.2
Australian Indigenous Languages	107	593	700	15.3
Other European languages NEC	3,837	115,660	119,497	3.2
Other Asian languages NEC	4,221	173,190	177,411	2.4
Other languages NEC	2,024	40,103	42,127	4.8
Inadequately described/Non-verbal/Not stated	6,339	152,199	158,538	4.0
Total	590,177	1,992,130	2,582,307	22.9

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



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 who 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 diocese? 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	30-39	40-59	60 and over	Total	% who do not speak English well
English	19,909	36,795	43,227	46,230	91,686	66,802	54,744	359,393	-
Italian	573	790	919	1,617	6,417	7,109	14,123	31,548	13.8
Maltese	14	25	34	33	295	374	1,652	2,427	7.0
Spanish	818	1,135	988	3,144	8,688	3,582	5,302	23,657	13.9
Croatian	233	384	555	651	2,040	1,833	3,626	9,322	14.1
Polish	170	221	155	332	1,410	855	1,335	4,478	9.6
Dutch	27	21	23	29	100	76	100	376	1.9
French	195	309	242	368	1,403	663	898	4,078	3.3
German	66	111	77	111	418	257	406	1,446	1.5
Portuguese	428	467	329	1,622	4,610	1,707	2,247	11,410	16.8
Hungarian	24	47	53	44	290	206	451	1,115	8.4
Ukrainian	20	25	20	36	89	78	127	395	8.8
Vietnamese	1,015	1,635	2,413	3,667	6,339	5,101	2,495	22,665	30.1
Filipino languages	453	538	839	2,576	8,689	4,568	3,066	20,729	2.8
Chinese languages	563	1,520	1,135	1,780	4,163	2,790	2,858	14,809	20.4
Malayalam	85	141	126	195	606	151	45	1,349	4.4
Sinhalese	10	11	12	63	130	84	63	373	0.8
Korean	231	506	393	647	2,190	1,122	1,059	6,148	33.6
Indonesian & Malay	232	361	354	1,212	2,118	918	670	5,865	9.1
Arabic	1,080	1,872	2,767	4,234	9,661	6,935	6,334	32,883	17.4
Assyrian and Chaldean	969	1,949	2,301	2,457	4,337	2,717	1,532	16,262	31.6
Oceanic and Papuan languages	106	212	252	427	887	692	322	2,898	7.5
Australian Indigenous Languages	6	18	14	14	23	25	5	105	2.8
Other European languages NEC	249	303	223	379	1,139	583	962	3,838	8.4
Other Asian languages NEC	205	344	320	696	1,503	720	432	4,220	9.1
Other languages NEC	84	131	162	278	827	338	205	2,025	9.9
Inadequately described/Non-verbal/ Not stated	965	550	468	531	1,310	896	1,625	6,345	19.7
Total	28,730	50,421	58,401	73,373	161,368	111,182	106,684	590,159	6.5

Notes:

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

NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified



Archdiocese of Sydney

National Catholic Census Project 1991-2021

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

Attendance at Educational Institutions

According to the 2021 Census, more than 767,800 Australians attended Catholic schools, accounting for almost 21 per cent of all school students in Australia. In 2021, there were 847,500 Catholic students—almost one in six of all Catholics—attending Government, Catholic, and other non-Government schools. A further 326,700 Catholics were involved in some form of post-secondary education. The Church of today, not just of tomorrow, is being shaped by the attitudes, beliefs and lifestyles of these young people.

The pie-chart below shows the language background of all primary and secondary school students in your diocese, 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 diocese connect with Catholic students at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, especially those not attending Catholic schools?

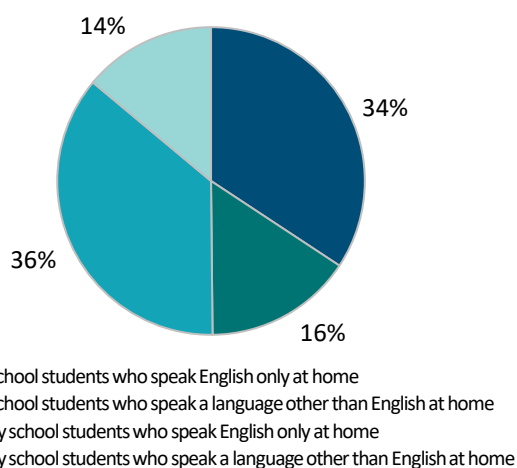
Table 22: Type of educational institution attending by religious affiliation

	Catholic	Not Catholic or not stated	All persons	% Catholic
Infants/Primary – Government	17,685	99,810	117,495	15.1
Infants/Primary – Catholic	28,823	10,602	39,425	73.1
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	2,895	22,263	25,158	11.5
Secondary – Government	11,730	67,253	78,983	14.9
Secondary – Catholic	26,986	12,700	39,686	68.0
Secondary – Other Non-Government	4,908	26,430	31,338	15.7
Technical or Further Educational Institution (including TAFE Colleges)	16,394	55,429	71,823	22.8
University or other Tertiary Institutions	28,984	135,869	164,853	17.6
Other (including pre-school)	18,443	65,439	83,882	22.0
Not stated/Not applicable ¹	433,327	1,496,328	1,929,655	22.5
Total	590,175	1,992,123	2,582,298	22.9

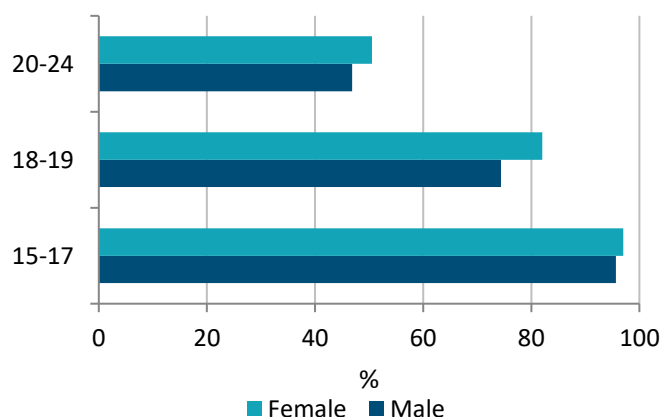
Note:

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

Language background of all students attending Catholic schools



Education participation rate (Catholics aged 15-24)



Attendance at Educational Institutions

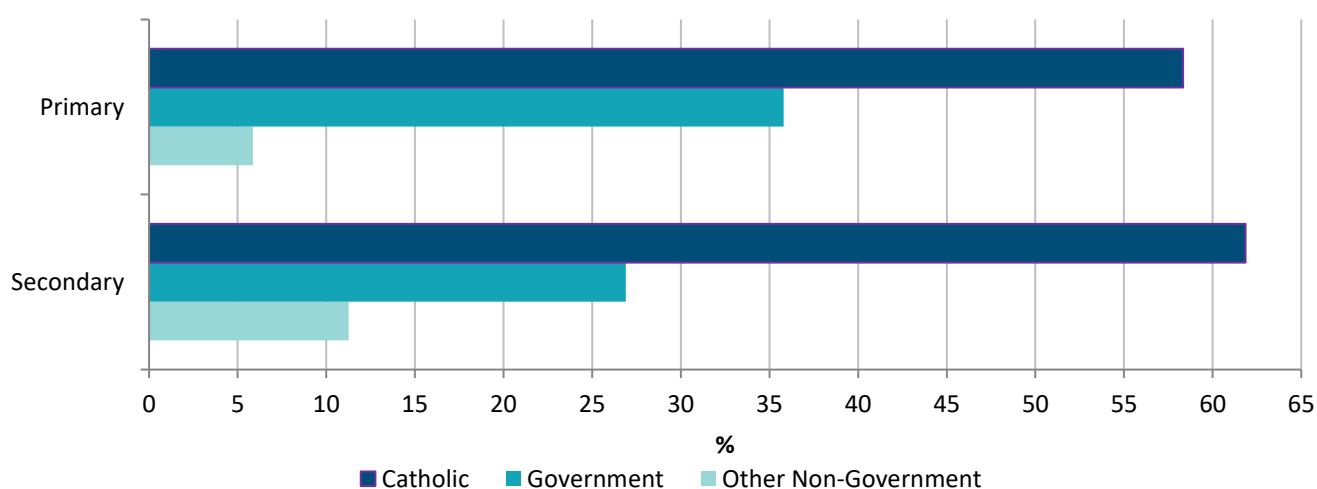
Table 23: Type of educational institution attending by weekly income of student's family¹

	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	929	1,138	1,677	2,636	3,263	2,389	4,630	17,262	135,415
Infants/Primary – Catholic	811	1,050	1,707	3,605	5,541	4,643	10,036	28,262	167,431
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	68	64	98	188	341	275	1,701	2,839	218,791
Secondary – Government	615	764	1,323	2,083	2,221	1,525	1,759	10,847	112,733
Secondary – Catholic	647	876	1,474	3,378	5,073	4,232	9,133	26,072	168,213
Secondary – Other Non-Government	108	71	116	321	530	491	2,758	4,629	167,014
TAFE, University or other Tertiary institution	260	290	773	1,844	2,785	2,375	5,722	14,956	179,945
Other (including pre-school)	91	106	199	369	546	410	875	2,686	155,177
Not stated or not applicable	138	122	174	229	175	94	188	1,267	86,661
Total	3,667	4,481	7,541	14,653	20,475	16,434	36,802	108,820	160,235

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.

Type of school being attended by Catholic students



Educational Qualifications

Both the percentage of Catholics with university degrees and the gender balance of Catholics with degrees have changed dramatically in recent decades due to the upsurge in young people, especially women, undertaking tertiary study and the upgrading of courses, such as nursing, to degree status. In 1991, less than seven per cent of Australian Catholics aged 15 or over had a degree; by 2021, that figure had reached 25 per cent. Among Catholics aged 15 to 34 years in 2021, 30 per cent of women had a degree compared to 19 per cent of men. In contrast, among Catholics aged 55 and over, just under 17 per cent of both men and women had degrees.

To what extent has participation in higher education in theology and related fields kept pace in this diocese with participation in higher education in general? What new challenges and opportunities are presented to the diocese 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 diocese 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	115	3,239	4,240	3,524	2,548	2,147	15,813
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	3,272	14,251	11,386	8,390	6,254	5,882	49,435
Advanced diploma or diploma level	958	3,666	4,838	4,747	3,315	2,889	20,413
Certificate level	3,589	7,802	7,935	9,050	8,888	10,457	47,721
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	27,559	9,733	9,342	11,320	12,667	24,957	95,578
Total	35,493	38,691	37,741	37,031	33,672	46,332	228,960
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>9.5</i>	<i>45.2</i>	<i>41.4</i>	<i>32.2</i>	<i>26.1</i>	<i>17.3</i>	<i>28.5</i>
Females							
Postgraduate degree	257	4,969	5,474	3,913	2,379	1,750	18,742
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	4,910	20,511	16,516	11,764	7,625	6,621	67,947
Advanced diploma or diploma level	1,726	4,986	6,059	6,995	5,014	4,716	29,496
Certificate level	2,557	4,338	5,257	6,676	6,298	5,364	30,490
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	24,663	7,612	8,491	12,829	16,845	41,901	112,341
Total	34,113	42,416	41,797	42,177	38,161	60,352	259,016
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>15.1</i>	<i>60.1</i>	<i>52.6</i>	<i>37.2</i>	<i>26.2</i>	<i>13.9</i>	<i>33.5</i>
All Catholics							
Postgraduate degree	372	8,208	9,714	7,437	4,927	3,897	34,555
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	8,182	34,762	27,902	20,154	13,879	12,503	117,382
Advanced diploma or diploma level	2,684	8,652	10,897	11,742	8,329	7,605	49,909
Certificate level	6,146	12,140	13,192	15,726	15,186	15,821	78,211
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	52,222	17,345	17,833	24,149	29,512	66,858	207,919
Total	69,606	81,107	79,538	79,208	71,833	106,684	487,976
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>12.3</i>	<i>53.0</i>	<i>47.3</i>	<i>34.8</i>	<i>26.2</i>	<i>15.4</i>	<i>31.1</i>

Note:

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



Employment

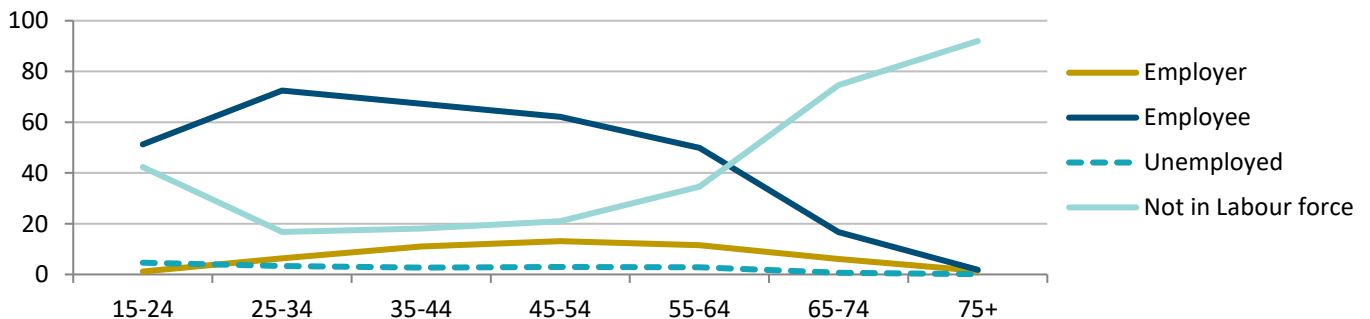
In recent years there have been many changes in society and the workplace that have affected Australian workers. One major change has been the increase in the percentages of workers, especially young people and women, in part-time jobs. Another has been the rise in participation in the labour force by women. A third major change has been the rise in participation in the labour force by older workers, following the removal of incentives to early retirement and resulting in the continuing availability of their skills, experience and maturity in the workplace.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 diocese?

Table 25: Labour force status by age and sex

	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Total
Catholics aged 15+					
Males					
Employer	474	9,448	12,677	3,013	25,612
Employee	17,294	52,222	38,191	4,896	112,603
Unemployed	1,814	2,683	2,354	281	7,132
Not in the labour force	15,645	11,207	16,680	36,818	80,350
Other, Not stated, Not applicable	272	878	819	1,328	3,297
Total	35,499	76,438	70,721	46,336	228,994
<i>Per cent in labour force²</i>	55.2	84.2	75.3	17.7	63.5
<i>Per cent unemployed³</i>	9.3	4.2	4.4	3.4	4.9
Females					
Employer	331	4,426	6,015	1,119	11,891
Employee	18,388	60,090	46,777	5,238	130,493
Unemployed	1,402	2,158	1,994	159	5,713
Not in the labour force	13,812	16,796	24,828	51,770	107,206
Other, Not stated, Not applicable	176	732	720	2,065	3,693
Total	34,109	84,202	80,334	60,351	258,996
<i>Per cent in labour force²</i>	59.0	79.2	68.2	10.8	57.2
<i>Per cent unemployed³</i>	7.0	3.2	3.6	2.4	3.9

Labour force status by age (percentage of all Catholics aged 15+)



Notes:

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2004. *Australian Social Trends 2004. Catalogue No. 4102.0, p.115.*
2. The percentage of Catholics in each age group who are in the labour force (i.e. employed or seeking employment).
3. The percentage of Catholics in each age group who were in the labour force and were unemployed at the time of the Census.



Occupation

Catholic women are more likely to be employed as managers or professionals; 39 per cent of Catholic women and 35 per cent of Catholic men aged 15 and over who reported their occupation in the 2021 Census worked as managers or professionals. But men were much more likely than women—45 per cent compared to 12 per cent—to have a ‘blue collar’ occupation. The largest occupational category for Catholic men in Australia is Technicians and Trades Workers. For women, it is Professionals.

Table 26: Occupation by age and sex	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Total
Catholics aged 15+							
Males							
Managers	770	4,297	7,461	7,461	4,818	1,474	26,281
Professionals	2,373	9,295	8,364	6,526	4,634	2,108	33,300
Technicians & Trade Workers	4,176	6,263	5,290	4,681	3,664	1,117	25,191
Community & Personal Service Workers	1,952	1,802	1,341	1,214	916	303	7,528
Clerical & Administrative Workers	1,428	2,445	2,429	2,368	1,793	664	11,127
Sales Workers	2,867	1,770	1,630	1,569	1,199	484	9,519
Machinery Operators & Drivers	1,181	1,956	2,084	2,568	2,636	860	11,285
Labourers	2,760	2,447	1,848	2,071	2,118	823	12,067
ID / NS / NA ¹	17,994	8,418	7,300	8,574	11,907	38,515	92,708
Total	35,501	38,693	37,747	37,032	33,685	46,348	229,006
<i>Per cent Managers & Professionals²</i>	<i>18.0</i>	<i>44.9</i>	<i>52.0</i>	<i>49.1</i>	<i>43.4</i>	<i>45.7</i>	<i>43.7</i>
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’²</i>	<i>46.4</i>	<i>35.2</i>	<i>30.3</i>	<i>32.8</i>	<i>38.7</i>	<i>35.7</i>	<i>35.6</i>
Females							
Managers	752	4,397	6,070	5,317	2,642	639	19,817
Professionals	3,535	14,380	11,386	8,939	5,532	1,658	45,430
Technicians & Trade Workers	641	1,170	912	910	685	195	4,513
Community & Personal Service Workers	4,115	3,652	2,824	3,306	2,642	693	17,232
Clerical & Administrative Workers	3,175	5,457	6,671	8,130	6,856	2,114	32,403
Sales Workers	4,948	2,042	1,815	2,234	1,778	481	13,298
Machinery Operators & Drivers	289	376	294	424	368	94	1,845
Labourers	1,046	1,286	955	1,198	1,440	440	6,365
ID / NS / NA ¹	15,601	9,659	10,857	11,721	16,224	54,030	118,092
Total	34,102	42,419	41,784	42,179	38,167	60,344	258,995
<i>Per cent Managers & Professionals²</i>	<i>23.2</i>	<i>57.3</i>	<i>56.4</i>	<i>46.8</i>	<i>37.3</i>	<i>36.4</i>	<i>46.3</i>
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’²</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>8.6</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>8.3</i>	<i>11.4</i>	<i>11.5</i>	<i>9.0</i>
All Catholics							
Managers	1,522	8,694	13,531	12,778	7,460	2,113	46,098
Professionals	5,908	23,675	19,750	15,465	10,166	3,766	78,730
Technicians & Trade Workers	4,817	7,433	6,202	5,591	4,349	1,312	29,704
Community & Personal Service Workers	6,067	5,454	4,165	4,520	3,558	996	24,760
Clerical & Administrative Workers	4,603	7,902	9,100	10,498	8,649	2,778	43,530
Sales Workers	7,815	3,812	3,445	3,803	2,977	965	22,817
Machinery Operators & Drivers	1,470	2,332	2,378	2,992	3,004	954	13,130
Labourers	3,806	3,733	2,803	3,269	3,558	1,263	18,432
ID / NS / NA ¹	33,595	18,077	18,157	20,295	28,131	92,545	210,800
Total	69,603	81,112	79,531	79,211	71,852	106,692	488,001
<i>Per cent Managers & Professionals²</i>	<i>20.6</i>	<i>51.4</i>	<i>54.2</i>	<i>47.9</i>	<i>40.3</i>	<i>41.6</i>	<i>45.0</i>
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’²</i>	<i>28.0</i>	<i>21.4</i>	<i>18.5</i>	<i>20.1</i>	<i>25.0</i>	<i>24.9</i>	<i>22.1</i>

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 and professionals’ and ‘blue collar’.



Occupation

Occupation is one of the many indicators of socioeconomic status.

Does the following table suggest that the socioeconomic status of Catholics in this diocese is different from that of non-Catholics? If there are differences, how might they have arisen?

Table 27: Occupation by religious affiliation¹ (%)

	Catholic	Non-Catholic
All persons aged 15+ with an occupation		
Managers	16.6	16.0
Professionals	28.4	33.8
Technicians & Trade Workers	10.7	9.4
Community & Personal Service Workers	8.9	8.9
Clerical & Administrative Workers	15.7	13.0
Sales Workers	8.2	7.6
Machinery Operators & Drivers	4.7	4.7
Labourers	6.7	6.4
Total	100.0	100.0

Note:

1. In this table, 'Not Catholic' includes those who did not answer the question about religious affiliation.

Occupation
(Catholics aged 15+ with an occupation)



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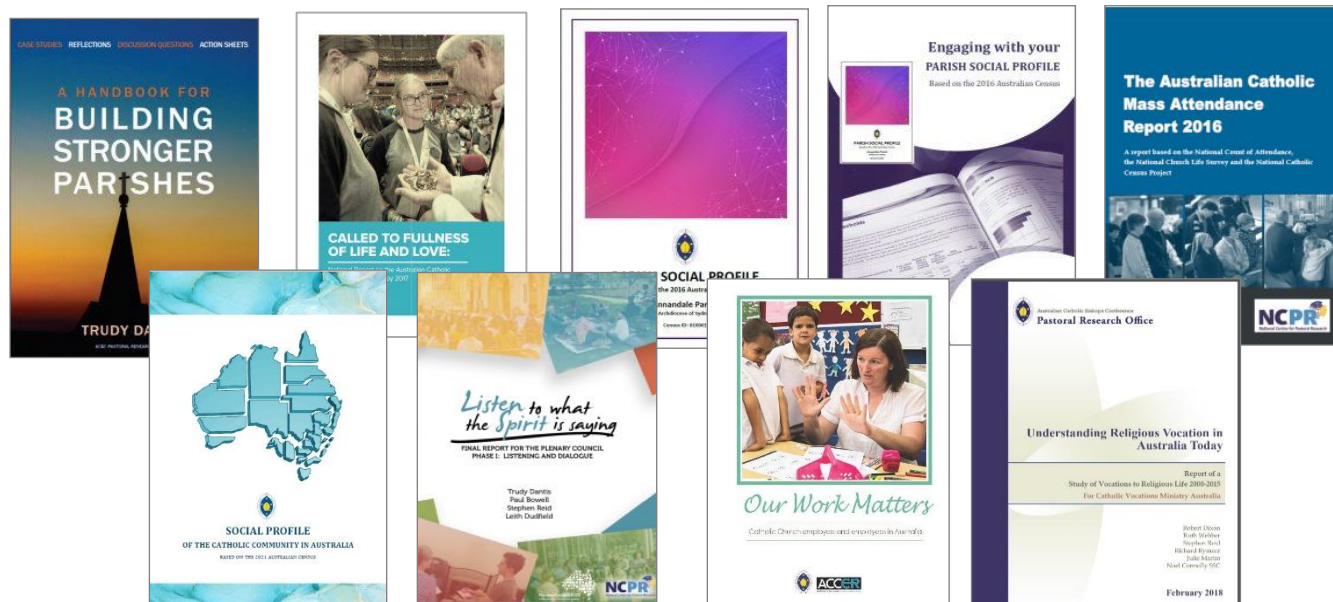
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This profile has been created by the staff of the ACBC National Centre for Pastoral Research as part of the National Catholic Census Project 1991-2021.

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