



Australian Catholic Bishops Conference - National Count of Attendance

To be held 2/3 May, 9/10 May, 16/17 May and 23/24 May 2026



INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARISHES – COMPLETING THE PAPER FORMS

Note: It is easier and quicker to complete the Count of Attendance online. Please contact the NCPR to get the link.

1. Before the first weekend of May, make sufficient copies of the Counter's Record Form (at the end of this document) for all Masses and other Assemblies in all the Parish's Mass Centres for the **FIRST** four weekends of May. 'Other Assembly' means a Liturgy of the Word and/or a Communion Service.
2. Appoint someone to count the attendance at each Mass or other Assembly, and make sure those people have sufficient copies of the Counter's Record Form.
3. Fill in all the parish details on the first page of the 2026 National Count of Attendance forms.
4. Using the completed Counter's Record Forms, fill in the tables. Use one table for each week.
5. Please try to ensure that the four weekends are consecutive weekends. Do not skip a week. It is important that the count records the ups and downs of attendance, so don't skip a week just because it is 'unusual' for some reason. However, if for some reason you do miss a week, just continue on the following weekend and keep going until you have completed four weekends.
6. There is enough room for up to 14 Masses on a weekend. However, just add extra pages if you need to.
7. Please include the rite of celebration for each Mass that you list, e.g., Latin rite, Chaldean rite, Syriac rite.
8. On the third and fourth weekends, you are also required to complete some basic demographic information about your Mass attenders. This may be easier for some parishes than others. If you think you'll find it difficult, perhaps be creative in obtaining the information. For example, at the end of each Mass on Weekend 4, you could ask each age group to stand up and count them. Please refer to the 'Special Instructions' about age and sex to help you complete these sections.
9. Return the form by email (preferred) or post to the address on the bottom of the form. You may want to keep a copy for your own records.
10. Do not send us the Counter's Record Forms.

Should you have any problems or require assistance, please contact one of the following:

Stephen Reid
Trudy Dantis

stephen.reid@catholic.org.au
trudy.dantis@catholic.org.au

Or by phone on: (02) 6201 9812

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING AGE AND SEX

1. Information about the **Sex** of attenders is asked during Weekend 3. Special Counter's Record Forms have been provided for Weekend 3 to help your counters with this task.
2. Information about the **Age** of attenders is asked during Weekend 4. This may seem like a difficult task, but it really is quite easy. One simple way to obtain this information is described here:
 - Arrange your counters around the church ready for this task. Select one person as an announcer.
 - After Communion or just before the end of each Mass, the announcer will ask each age group to stand up (or raise their hand) in turn.
 - Begin with the smallest group (usually age 0 – 17 years) and work your way up to the largest group. There are only five age groups: 0-17 years, 18-29 years, 30-49 years, 50-69 years and 70 years and over.
 - The counters record the number of people in each age group as they are called out. Special Counter's Record Forms have been provided for Weekend 4 to help your counters with this task.

The entire exercise should not take you more than 5-7 minutes, or at the most 10 minutes for very large parishes. If you think you'll find it difficult, perhaps be creative in obtaining the information.

3. For Fortnightly and Monthly Masses and Other assemblies:

- If your fortnightly or monthly Mass or Communion Service is held on Weekend 1 or 2 in May, you do not need to collect any age or sex information.
- If your fortnightly or monthly Mass or Communion Service is held on Weekend 3 in May, please collect the sex information of attenders at this service.
- If your fortnightly or monthly Mass or Communion Service is held on Weekend 4 in May, please collect the age information of attenders at this service.

Should you have any problems or require assistance, please contact one of the following:

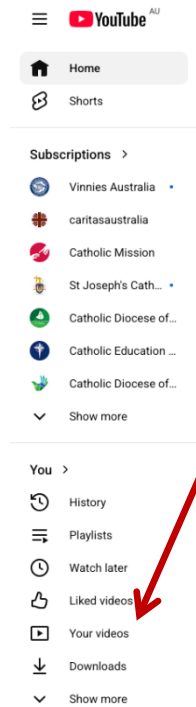
Stephen Reid
Trudy Dantis

stephen.reid@catholic.org.au
trudy.dantis@catholic.org.au

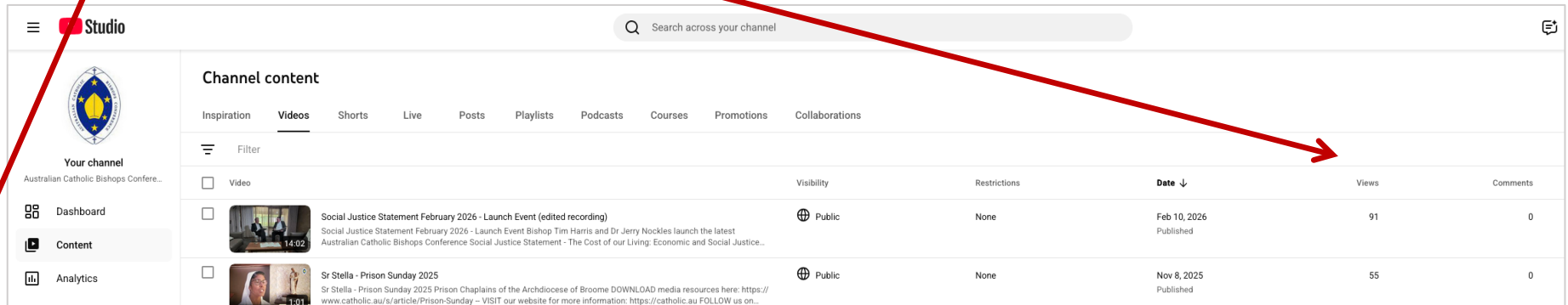
Or by phone on: (02) 6201 9812

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR COUNTING YOUR ONLINE MASS 'VIEWS'

YouTube



Ensure you are logged-in and click **'Your Videos'** on the YouTube sidebar. It will open YouTube Studio, and a list of your videos will appear. You can find **'Views'** in the fourth column.

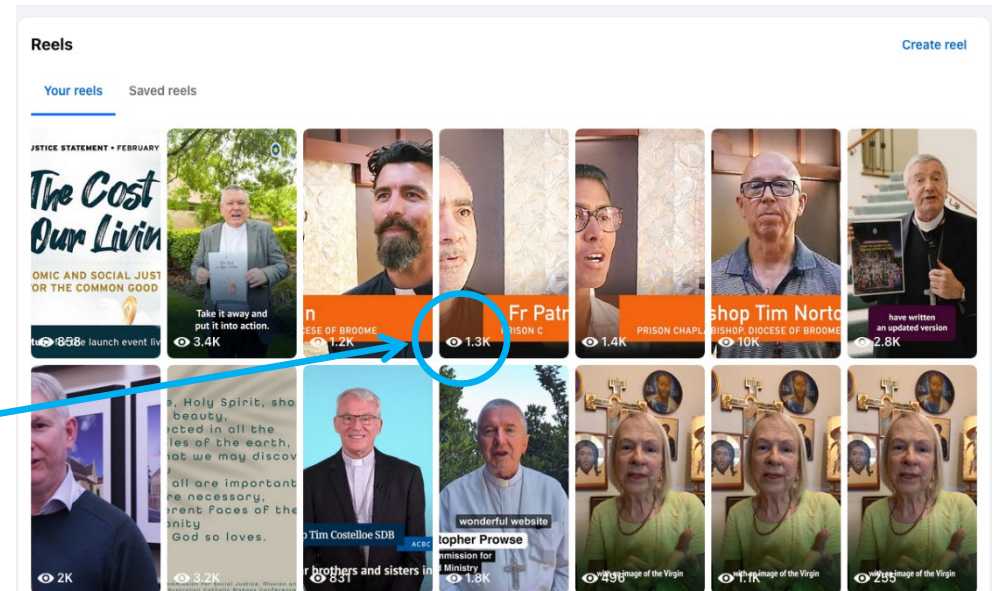


Facebook

If you live-streamed the Mass, it should automatically save as a video.

Click **'Reels'** on the top bar (under your profile picture in the top left-hand corner). It may be under the **'More'** dropdown button.

Find the video. The number of views is usually displayed in bottom left corner of the video.



The following is provided as an example of how to complete the paper forms.

WEEKEND 4 DATE: *Sunday 24 May 2026*

Key for Frequency:
 Weekly = W Fortnightly = F
 Monthly = M Irregular = I

Note: 'Other Assembly' means a Liturgy of the Word and/or a Communion Service.

Please also include the rite of celebration for the Masses that you list (e.g., Latin rite, Chaldean rite, Syriac rite etc.).

Time of Service <i>(Write 'V' for Vigil Masses)</i>	Type of Mass or other Assembly <i>(e.g. Other assembly - Liturgy of the Word, Mass - Syriac rite)</i>	Where held <i>(Parish church or other Mass centre)</i>	Language of celebration <i>(just leave blank if in English)</i>	Frequency	Attendance <i>(enter only a number)</i>	How many in the different age groups? <i>(This must add to total attendance)</i>					Were there any special events or other circumstances that caused the attendance to be unusually high or low?		
						0-17 years	18-29 years	30-49 years	50-69 years	70 years & over	Yes/No	Reason	If yes, typical attendance
<i>V</i>	<i>Mass-Latin rite</i>	<i>Parish church</i>		<i>W</i>	<i>231</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Confirmations</i>	<i>150</i>
<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Other assembly - Liturgy of the Word</i>	<i>Retirement home</i>		<i>F</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>No</i>		
<i>10.30am</i>	<i>Mass-Latin rite</i>	<i>St Stephen's - Churchville East</i>	<i>Italian</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Harvest time</i>	<i>80</i>
<i>Noon</i>	<i>Mass-Syriac rite</i>	<i>Parish church</i>	<i>Aramaic</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>No</i>		
<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Mass-Latin rite</i>	<i>Parish church</i>		<i>W</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Youth away on camp</i>	<i>140</i>

Time of service	Type of Mass	Type of online platform, e.g. YouTube, Facebook	Language of celebration	Frequency	Number of 'views'
<i>6:00 pm</i>	<i>Mass - Latin rite</i>	<i>Facebook Live</i>		<i>W</i>	<i>44</i>

← In the rows to the left, please include details of any online Masses provided by the parish during Weekend 4.

If you need assistance in calculating the ages of attenders, please refer to the "Special instructions for counting age and sex" document. Also available at <https://ncpr.catholic.org.au/national-count-of-attendance/>



Australian Catholic Bishops Conference – 2026 National Count of Attendance

To be held 3 May, 10 May, 17 May and 24 May 2026



PAPER FORM

NOTE: It is easier and quicker to complete this form online. Please contact the NCPR to get the link.

Diocese: _____ Parish name: _____

e.g. St Patrick's

Parish location: _____

Suburb or town

Names and locations of Mass Centres in the parish:

Parish church: _____

e.g. St Patrick's

Location: _____

e.g. Churchville

Other Mass Centres: _____

e.g. St Anthony's

Location: _____

e.g. Churchville East

e.g. Retirement home

Location: _____

e.g. Churchville North

Location: _____

Location: _____

Parish website address: _____

Name of person responsible for completing these forms: _____

Contact number and email address (*just in case we need to clarify anything*): _____

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference – 2026 National Count of Attendance

WEEKEND 1 DATE: _____

Key for Frequency:
 Weekly = W Fortnightly = F
 Monthly = M Irregular = I

*Note: 'Other Assembly' means a Liturgy of the Word and/or a Communion Service.
 Please also include the rite of celebration for the Masses that you list (e.g., Latin rite, Chaldean rite, Syriac rite etc.).*

Time of Service <i>(Write 'V' for Vigil Masses)</i>	Type of Mass or Other assembly <i>(e.g. Other assembly - Liturgy of the Word, Mass - Syriac rite)</i>	Where held <i>(Parish church or other Mass centre)</i>	Language of celebration <i>(just leave blank if in English)</i>	Frequency	Attendance <i>(enter only a number)</i>	<i>Were there any special events or other circumstances that caused the attendance to be unusually high or low?</i>		
						Yes/No	Reason	If yes, typical attendance?

In the following rows, please include details of any online Masses provided by the parish during Weekend 1

Time of service	Type of Mass	Type of online platform, <i>e.g. YouTube, Facebook</i>	Language of celebration	Frequency	Number of 'views'

If you need assistance in checking the number of views for a platform, please download and refer to the "Special instructions for counting online Mass "views". Also available at: <https://ncpr.catholic.org.au/national-count-of-attendance/>

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference – 2026 National Count of Attendance

WEEKEND 4 DATE: _____

Key for Frequency:
 Weekly = W Fortnightly = F
 Monthly = M Irregular = I

Note: 'Other Assembly' means a Liturgy of the Word and/or a Communion Service.

Please also include the rite of celebration for the Masses that you list (e.g., Latin rite, Chaldean rite, Syriac rite etc.).

This week, could you also include the number of attenders in each of the following age groups?

Time of Service <i>(Write 'V' for Vigil Masses)</i>	Type of Mass or Other assembly <i>(e.g. Other assembly - Liturgy of the Word, Mass - Syriac rite)</i>	Where held <i>(Parish church or other Mass centre)</i>	Language of celebration <i>(just leave blank if in English)</i>	Frequency	Attendance <i>(enter only a number)</i>	How many in the different age groups? <i>(This must add to total attendance)</i>					Were there any special events or other circumstances that caused the attendance to be unusually high or low?				
						0-17 years	18-29 years	30-49 years	50-69 years	70 years & over	Yes/No	Reason	If yes, typical attendance?		
Time of service	Type of Mass	Type of online platform, <i>e.g. YouTube, Facebook</i>	Language of celebration	Frequency	Number of 'views'	← In the rows to the left, please include details of any online Masses provided by the parish during Weekend 4.					If you need assistance in calculating the ages of attenders, please refer to the "Special instructions for counting age and sex" document. Also available at https://ncpr.catholic.org.au/national-count-of-attendance/				

Thank you for completing the 2026 National Count of Attendance

Please return all six pages of the “Paper Form” (Page 5 to Page 9) to:

EMAIL: ncpr@catholic.org.au **PREFERRED OPTION**

POST: Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
National Centre for Pastoral Research
GPO Box 368
Canberra ACT 2601

BY MONDAY, 15 JUNE 2026

PRINT AND CUT OUT AS MANY FORMS AS YOU NEED

(You don't need to return these completed forms)

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Australian Catholic Bishops Conference National Count of Attendance 2026 Counter's Record Form – Weekends 1 & 2	Australian Catholic Bishops Conference National Count of Attendance 2026 Counter's Record Form – Weekends 1 & 2
Date: _____	Date: _____
Church or centre: _____	Church or centre: _____
Type of Mass or Other Assembly: <i>(e.g. Mass – Latin rite, Other assembly - Liturgy of the Word, Mass - Syriac rite)</i> _____	Type of Mass or Other Assembly: <i>(e.g. Mass – Latin rite, Other assembly - Liturgy of the Word, Mass - Syriac rite)</i> _____
Starting time of Mass or Other Assembly: _____	Starting time of Mass or Other Assembly: _____
Language of celebration: _____ <i>(if other than English)</i>	Language of celebration: _____ <i>(if other than English)</i>
Total number of people in attendance: <div data-bbox="801 1219 1052 1385" style="border: 1px solid black; width: 112px; height: 104px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"></div>	Total number of people in attendance: <div data-bbox="1597 1219 1848 1385" style="border: 1px solid black; width: 112px; height: 104px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"></div>

FOR WEEKEND 3 WHEN YOU ARE COUNTING SEX

PRINT AND CUT OUT AS MANY FORMS AS YOU NEED (You don't need to return these completed forms)

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Australian Catholic Bishops Conference National Count of Attendance 2026 Counter's Record Form – Weekend 3	Australian Catholic Bishops Conference National Count of Attendance 2026 Counter's Record Form – Weekend 3												
Date: _____	Date: _____												
Church or centre: _____	Church or centre: _____												
Type of Mass or Other Assembly: <i>(e.g. Mass – Latin rite, Other assembly - Liturgy of the Word, Mass - Syriac rite)</i> _____	Type of Mass or Other Assembly: <i>(e.g. Mass – Latin rite, Other assembly - Liturgy of the Word, Mass - Syriac rite)</i> _____												
Starting time of Mass or Other Assembly: _____	Starting time of Mass or Other Assembly: _____												
Language of celebration: _____ <i>(if other than English)</i>	Language of celebration: _____ <i>(if other than English)</i>												
Total number of people in attendance: <table border="1" data-bbox="407 1248 1048 1417"><tr><td data-bbox="407 1248 658 1417"></td><td data-bbox="730 1200 887 1232">Males</td><td data-bbox="913 1200 1048 1232">Females</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="407 1248 658 1417"></td><td data-bbox="730 1248 887 1417"></td><td data-bbox="913 1248 1048 1417"></td></tr></table>		Males	Females				Total number of people in attendance: <table border="1" data-bbox="1205 1248 1845 1417"><tr><td data-bbox="1205 1248 1456 1417"></td><td data-bbox="1563 1200 1720 1232">Males</td><td data-bbox="1747 1200 1881 1232">Females</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="1205 1248 1456 1417"></td><td data-bbox="1563 1248 1720 1417"></td><td data-bbox="1747 1248 1881 1417"></td></tr></table>		Males	Females			
	Males	Females											
	Males	Females											

FOR WEEKEND 4 WHEN YOU ARE COUNTING AGE

PRINT AND CUT OUT AS MANY FORMS AS YOU NEED (You don't need to return these completed forms)

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Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
National Count of Attendance 2026
Counter's Record Form – Weekend 4

Date: _____

Church or centre:

Type of Mass or Other Assembly:
(e.g. Mass – Latin rite, Other assembly - Liturgy of the Word, Mass - Syriac rite)

Starting time of Mass or Other Assembly:

Language of celebration:

(if other than English)

Total number of people in attendance:

Ages:

0-17	18-29	30-49	50-69	70+

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
National Count of Attendance 2026
Counter's Record Form – Weekend 4

Date: _____

Church or centre:

Type of Mass or Other Assembly:
(e.g. Mass – Latin rite, Other assembly - Liturgy of the Word, Mass - Syriac rite)

Starting time of Mass or Other Assembly:

Language of celebration:

(if other than English)

Total number of people in attendance:

Ages:

0-17	18-29	30-49	50-69	70+