



PARISH SOCIAL PROFILE

BASED ON THE 2011 AUSTRALIAN CENSUS

Croydon Parish
Archdiocese of Sydney

Census ID: 10041

September 2013

Dear Father and people of the parish,

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

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

The figures in this profile all come from the Australian Census, which is carried out every five years by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Most of the figures come from the 2011 Census, but some comparisons are provided with 2006.

It is important to remember that the data in this profile applies to all those people living within the boundaries of your parish who identified themselves as Catholic in the Census. Census data tells us a lot about a population's demographic characteristics, but nothing at all about their religious practice.

This parish social profile, produced for every Catholic parish in Australia, is an outcome of the National Catholic Census Project established by the Bishops Conference at the time of the 1991 Census, and it is managed by the ACBC Pastoral Research Office located at the Melbourne campus of the Australian Catholic University. I am very grateful to the staff of that office for the work they do in providing demographic resources for parishes and dioceses. I also thank the team at NCLS Research for contributing their expertise to the technical production of this profile.

This profile is provided to you free of charge by the Bishops Conference as part of its commitment to the support of parish life. I trust that you find it useful and thought provoking. Yours sincerely in Christ,

Julian Porteous Archbishop of Hobart

Chair, Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research.

Your Parish Social Profile

At a glance (pages 2 and 3)

Gives you a brief glance at some key demographic indicators for your parish.

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Parish Overview (pages 4-7)

Gives you a clear overview of the Catholic community of your parish and how it is changing - a useful tool for parishes in their pastoral planning.



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Parish Details (pages 8-25)

Gives you much more detail about the Catholics of your parish which allows for deeper analysis of the nature of your Catholic parish community as you plan in particular areas of ministry.



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Know your parish 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 parish'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 & circumstances) available to the parish to realise the vision.

This Parish 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 parish's demographic reality, this profile helps the parish 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 YOUR PARISH 2011

Total Population: 9,906

Catholic Population: 3,450

Catholics make up 34.8 per cent of the total population

Median age of Catholics is 40 years

Total Catholic families: 1,162

249 Catholics live alone

1,338 Catholics were born overseas

300 Catholics do not speak English well

227 Catholics need assistance with core activities

855 Catholics have changed address since 2006

IMPORTANT COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Most statistics in this profile have been derived by the Pastoral Research Office of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference from customized census tables purchased from the Australian Bureau of Statistics as part of the National Catholic Census Project 1991-2011.

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'This material was prepared by the Pastoral Research Office of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference from census data obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.' A shorter form is also acceptable: 'Prepared by the ACBC Pastoral Research Office from ABS data.'



What has changed in your parish community since 2006?

This chart will help you identify at a glance changes in some of the key indicators for Catholics in the parish between 2006 and 2011, and may alert you to possible trends that are occurring. The 2006 and 2011 figures are drawn from the Parish 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.

	Parish in 2006	Parish in 2011
Catholic population	3,373	3,450
Catholics aged 0-14 (%)	18	17
Catholics aged 65+ (%)	18	19
Catholics born in NESC ¹ (%)	37	35
Catholics not proficient in English (%)	11	9
Catholic families	1,063	1,162
Catholics living alone	245	249
Catholic students attending Catholic schools (%)	65	54
Catholics with university degree (%)	18	24
Catholic males in labour force (%)	62	62
Catholic females in labour force (%)	51	56
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling (%)	75	74

Notes:

NESC = Non-English Speaking Country.

Note on comparability with 2006 figures:

For the 2011 Census, the Australian Bureau of Statistics adopted the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) to replace the previous Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). Boundary changes resulting from this change mean that, in some parishes, figures for 2006 and 2011 may not be comparable.

To compare changes in geographical boundaries for your parish between 2006 and 2011, you can visit Australian Catholic Mapping Online, accessible via the Pastoral Research Office website: www.pro.catholic.org.au

Where parishes have been amalgamated between 2006 and 2011, the 2006 figures in this profile refer to the overall figures for the parishes involved.



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

The Parish Profile begins by looking at the total population living within the parish 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.

Table 1	Parish 2011	Parish 2006	Diocese 2011	Australia 2011	Diocesan Group ¹	Australian Group ¹
Population ²						
Total population ³	9,906	8,482	2,223,104	21,507,719	4	4
Catholic population	3,450	3,373	611,431	5,439,267	3	3
Per cent Catholic	34.8	39.8	27.5	25.3	1	1
At same address						
since previous Census (%)	67.3	70.2	58.9	57.5	1	1
Median age ⁴ (years)	40	39	37	38	1	2
Aged 0-14 (%)	1 7. 1	1 <i>7</i> .5	19.0	20.5	4	4
Aged 65+ (%)	18.6	18.4	14.6	14.1	1	2
Males per 100 females	93.6	94.7	91.8	92.1	2	3

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 parish support disabled Catholics and their carers?

Table 2	Parish 2011	Parish 2006	Diocese 2011	Australia 2011	Diocesan Group ¹	Australian Group ¹
Disability Need assistance with core activities (%) Provided unpaid assistance	6.6	5.8	5.2	4.9	2	1
to a person with a disability ⁵ (% of Catholics aged 15+)	12.5	11.7	11.5	11.7	2	2

Notes:

- A Diocesan (or Australian) Group value of 1 signifies that the parish is in the 20% of parishes with the highest value for this item in the diocese (or in Australia); a value of 5 signifies that the parish is in the 20% of parishes with the lowest value for this item in the diocese (or in Australia).
 All figures in this report refer to Catholics only, except for Total Population and certain other clearly-indicated figures.
- All figures in this report refer to Catholics only, except for Total Population and certain other
 The population figures for the parish, diocese and Australia do not include overseas visitors.
- 4. Median Age: Half the Catholic population are above this age, half are below it. A Diocesan (or Australian) Group value of 1 signifies that the parish is in the 20% of parishes with the highest median age.
- 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.



Table 3: Employment (for more detail on Occupation and Employment see pages 23-25) The extent to which people are involved in the work force and the type of work they are doing influences and shapes many aspects of the community's life.

Have the changes in the employment status of Catholics over the last five years affected your parish?

Table 3	Parish 2011	Parish 2006	Diocese 2011	Australia 2011	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Occupation & Employment						
Managers and Professionals ¹ (% of those recording an occupation)	40.5	37.0	38.9	33.0	3	2
Workers in 'blue collar' occupations ² (% of those recording an occupation)	22.2	26.8	24.5	30.6	3	4
Men, employed or seeking work ³ (%)	61.6	62.4	68.8	69.6	5	5
Women, employed or seeking work ³ (%) 56.3	<i>50.7</i>	57.9	58.5	4	3
Unemployed at time of Census ⁴ (%)	5.2	4.6	5.0	5.0	2	2
Youth unemployed at time of Census ⁵ (%	(a) 11.4	7.3	10.8	10.2	2	2

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 parish's Catholic community, which in itself may raise issues of communication and inclusiveness.

How does the cultural mix of the parish compare to that of the rest of the diocese and of Australia as a whole?

Table 4	Parish 2011	Parish 2006	Diocese 2011	Australia 2011	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Birthplace, Indigenous Status & Lang	uaae					
Born overseas in English-speaking country		3.4	5.5	5.7	4	3
Born in non-English speaking country (%) Immigrants from non-English speaking countries & arriving in Census year	34.7	37.1	29.8	1 <i>7</i> .9	2	1
or previous 3 years	59	46	16,129	98,723	3	3
Catholics of Australian						
Indigenous origin	31	27	5,546	124,610	3	3
Speak language other than						
English at home (%)	47.2	50.3	36.6	19.0	2	1
Not proficient in English ⁷ (%)	8.7	10.9	5.8	2.6	1	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.

 This group includes, for example, toolmakers, technicians, electricians, carpenters, plumbers, bakers and chefs, veterinary nurses, hairdressers, machinery operators, drivers, cleaners and labourers.

- The percentage of Catholics aged 15+ who are in the labour force (i.e. employed or seeking employment).

 The percentage of Catholics aged 15+ who are in the labour force and were unemployed at the time of the Census.

 The percentage of Catholics aged 15-24 who are in the labour force and were unemployed at the time of the Census.

 New Zealand, United Kingdom, Ireland, United States, Canada and South Africa.
- Percentage of all Catholics who reported that they spoke English not well, or not at all.



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

Knowing the proportion of students in your parish and the type of educational institution they are attending can be important even if your parish does not have its own school, for these figures are relevant to the exercise of planning deeper connections with young people and their families. It's also important to be aware of the educational retention rates of your young Catholic adults (aged 15-24).

Has anything changed in these areas over the last five years?

Why do you think this is so?

How does your parish compare to the rest of the diocese?

able 5 ¹	Parish 2011	Parish 2006	Diocese 2011	Australia 2011	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
ducation						
Catholics aged 15+ with bachelor deg	ree					
or higher qualification (%)	24.1	18.4	23.1	1 <i>7</i> .6	3	
Catholics attending an educational insti	tution					
(% of all Catholics in each age group)						
Aged 15-17	93.1	90.2	90.3	87.2	2	
Aged 18-19	80.0	71.8	71.6	57.8	1	
Aged 20-24	47.1	44.5	42.7	34.3	2	
Catholic primary students						
attending Catholic schools (%)	51.8	65.0	58.3	52.8	4	
Catholic primary students						
attending Government schools (%)	37.1	26.5	36.0	41.2	3	
Catholic secondary students						
attending Catholic schools (%)	57 .1	64.1	61.4	52.8	4	
Catholic secondary students						
attending Government schools (%)	27.3	24.6	29.9	37.2	3	
Primary students attending Catholic						
schools who are not Catholic ² (%)	9.0	16.3	16.8	24.1	5	
Secondary students attending Catholic						
schools who are not Catholic ² (%)	17.6	15.9	26.0	31.5	5	



The data in this table relates to the students who live in your parish and not necessarily to the schools in your parish. Students may be attending schools outside your parish. 'Students ... who are not Catholic' includes a small proportion whose religion was not stated in the Census.

Tables 6, 7 & 8: Marital Status, Families & Households (for more detail see pages 13-16)

In 2011, 82 per cent of Australia's Catholics lived in a family setting, with a further nine per cent living alone. The most common type of Catholic family was a couple family with children (45 per cent of all families where at least one person was a Catholic), followed by couple families without children (35%) and one-parent families (parent Catholic, 12%).

What areas show significant change over the last five years? What might this mean? In what areas is the parish quite distinctive compared to the rest of the diocese? The rest of Australia? What possible opportunities or concerns for the parish do you see here?

Table 6	Parish 2011	Parish 2006	Diocese 2011	Australia 2011	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Marital Status of Catholics aged	15+					
Never married (%)	34.6	34.6	36.7	33.9	3	2
Married (%)	51.0	51.8	47.3	49.6	2	3
Divorced or Separated (%)	7.6	6.6	10.0	10.8	5	5
Widowed (%)	6.7	7.0	5.9	5.7	2	2

Table 7	Parish 2011	Parish 2006	Diocese 2011	Australia 2011	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Families ¹ in which at least one person	is Catholic					
Families Families	1,162	1,063	208,055	2,019,556	3	3
One parent families	139	120	26,332	239,340	3	3
One parent families (% of all families)	12.0	11.3	12.7	11.9	3	2
Couples of mixed religion ² (%)	36.0	29.4	46.7	57.2	4	5
De facto couples (%)	8.8	8.8	15.1	16.2	4	5
Median annual family income ³ (\$)	95,421	73,196	97,820	86,401	3	2

Table 8	Parish 2011	Parish 2006	Diocese 2011	Australia 2011	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Households⁴ in which at least one per	son is Catho	olic				
Households	1,429	1,339	277,310	2,594,239	4	3
Persons living alone	·	·	·			
(aged under 35)	30	34	8,942	68,455	4	3
Persons living alone (aged 35+)	219	211	47,074	402,158	4	3
Persons living alone (total)	249	245	56,016	470,613	4	3
Persons living alone (% of all Catholics)	7.2	7.3	9.2	8.7	4	4
Dwellings owned or being purchased (%	6) 73.8	75.0	65.4	71.4	2	3
Median monthly housing	•					
loan repayment ⁵ (\$)	2,502	2,030	2,365	1,861	3	1

- 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.

 Married or de facto couples where only one partner is Catholic as a percentage of all couples where at least one partner is Catholic.

 Fifty per cent of families have a higher income, fifty per cent a lower income. Family income is the sum of the incomes of all family members aged 15 and over.
- A household can consist of one or more families, non-family groups or persons living alone. Fifty per cent of households with a housing loan pay a higher repayment, fifty per cent a lower figure.



Parish Details

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Religious affiliation

The Census question about religion is optional, and 9 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.

How does the number of Catholics in the 0-9 age group compare with the number of children baptised in the parish in the period 2002-2011?

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

What challenges to the parish are associated with the increasing number of people who report that they have no religion?

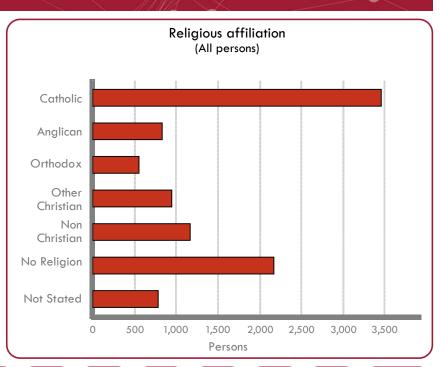


Table 9: Religious affiliation by age	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	Total
Western (Latin Rite)										
Catholic	343	393	369	414	444	389	343	292	155	3,142
Maronite Catholic	32	46	55	44	36	26	33	19	9	300
Melkite Catholic	-	_	_	-	_	5	3	_	-	8
Ukrainian Catholic	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Chaldean Catholic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Catholic	375	439	424	464	480	420	379	311	164	3,456
Per cent Catholic										
(of total population										
in age group)	3 <i>4</i> .8	36.6	<i>27.7</i>	33.2	33.1	33.0	44.1	48.1	3 <i>4.7</i>	34.9
Anglican	89	103	94	81	152	124	87	45	<i>57</i>	832
Orthodox	52	51	44	76	74	50	67	87	52	553
Other Christian	109	135	108	134	146	131	91	47	45	946
Non Christian	99	103	260	221	159	151	75	56	43	1,167
No Religion	273	299	444	318	337	299	101	54	44	2,169
Not Stated	82	<i>7</i> 1	154	103	100	99	60	46	68	783
Total Population	1,079	1,201	1,528	1,397	1,448	1,274	860	646	473	9,906

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 or Ukrainian Rites 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 2011	Females 2011	Total 2011	Total 2006
Age (years)				
0	10	22	32	44
1	19	21	40	23
2	18	1 <i>7</i>	35	27
3	26	12	38	33
4	26	21	47	37
5	25	19	44	45
6	20	15	35	49
7	22	15	37	37
8	26	10	36	41
9	16	1 <i>7</i>	33	41
10	23	20	43	43
11	31	24	55	35
12	20	20	40	42
13	21	1 <i>7</i>	38	49
14	14	22	36	45
15	22	24	46	48
16	22	22	44	42
1 <i>7</i>	1 <i>7</i>	24	41	43
18	19	34	53	37
19	24	18	42	48
20-24	95	111	206	229
25-29	123	98	221	181
30-34	94	114	208	266
35-39	122	134	256	218
40-44	107	121	228	244
45-49	127	124	251	238
50-54	90	122	212	210
55-59	88	122	210	188
60-64	93	106	199	169
65-69	81	93	174	1 <i>77</i>
70-74	<i>7</i> 8	87	165	165
75-79	<i>7</i> 1	<i>7</i> 1	142	124
80+	76	86	162	155
Total	1,666	1,783	3,449	3,373

Note:
The Catholic population of the parish 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.

Table 10 shows the number of Catholics in this parish in 2011, by age and sex, and compares the total number of Catholics in each age group with the 2006 figure.

In 1991, the median age of Catholics in Australia was 30.7 years; by 2011, this had risen to 37.6 years.

The age profile of parishioners is important information for parishes to take into account as it plans its activities. It is also important to keep an eye on how the age profile is changing over time - is the parish becoming older, younger or staying about the same? Each of these possibilities may require different pastoral responses.

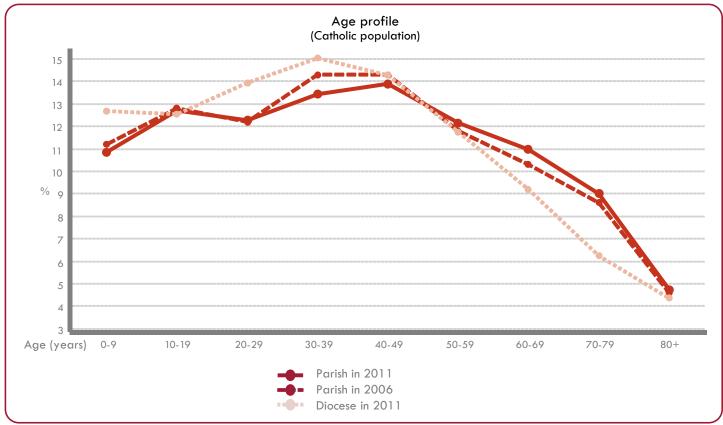
Among Australian Catholics as a whole, 52 per cent are female and 48 per cent are male. But it's not always like this. Among Catholics aged under 25, males outnumber females, whereas females account for 59 per cent of Catholics aged 75 or more. There are also local factors, such as the presence of particular industries or the different rates of movement to the cities by young men and women, that can affect the proportion of men and women in the Catholic population of the parish. These variations also raise pastoral issues.

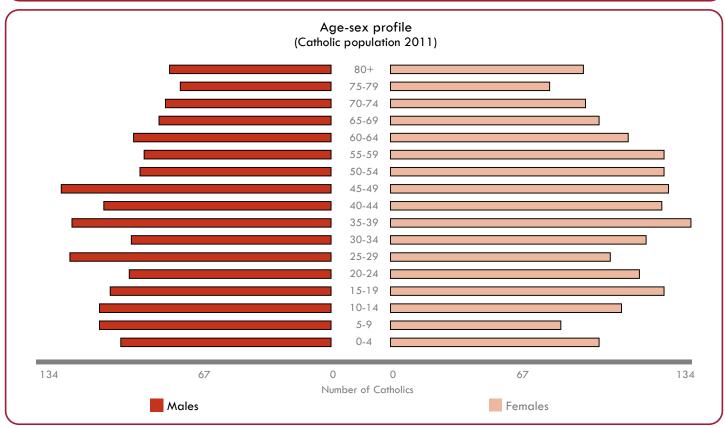
Take time to study the table. Are there any surprises in it? Is there anything that calls for a new or modified response from the parish? What are the major changes since 2006? Can you get a sense from the table of what the parish age profile might look like in 2016, the year of the next Census?



PARISH DETAILS Age and sex

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PARISH DETAILS **Disability**

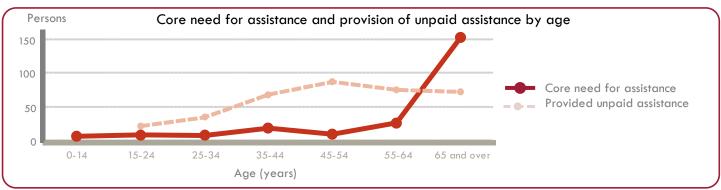
The 2006 Census was the first to include the variable Core Activity Need for Assistance. The variable was developed to measure the number of people with a profound or severe disability. ABS defines the profound or severe disability population as: 'those people needing help or assistance in one or more 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 many Catholics in your parish require assistance with core activities? How many of these live alone? How many are in the younger age groups?

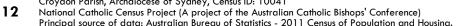
How many of your parishioners provide unpaid assistance to people with a disability? How might the parish respond pastorally to this information?

Table 11: Need for assistance and provision of unpaid assistance 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	3	15	11	20	21	7	77
Females	3	12	15	21	23	11	85
Lone Persons:							
Males	na	-	-	-	3	3	6
Females	na	-	3	-	13	6	22
Other non-family members or persons not present in a household on Census night ³							
Males	_	6	6	9	6	3	30
Females	-	-	-	-	3	4	7
Total							
Males	3	21	1 <i>7</i>	29	30	13	113
Females	3	12	18	21	39	21	114
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Total
Catholics who provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disabilit	y ⁴						
Males	9	10	25	29	10	40	123
Females	12	24	43	58	65	32	234



- Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011. Census Dictionary Australia 2011. Catalogue No. 2901.0. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2004. Australian Social Trends 2004. Catalogue No. 4102.0.
- 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.
- 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.

 Croydon Parish, Archdiocese of Sydney, Census ID: 10041



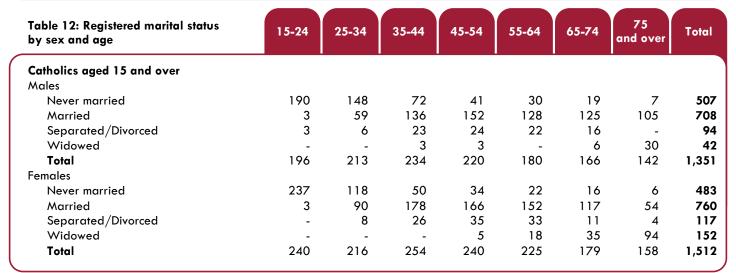


PARISH DETAILS Marital status

The marital status patterns of Australian Catholics have changed quite dramatically over the last two decades. At the time of the 1991 Census, 31.4 per cent of Australian Catholics aged 15 and over had never been married, 55.4 per cent were married, 7.4 per cent were separated or divorced and 5.8 per cent were widowed. By the 2011 Census, these figures were respectively 33.9 per cent, 49.6 per cent, 10.8 per cent and 5.7 per cent. There has been a substantial fall in the percentage of married Catholics and a rise in percentage of the never married and separated and divorced.

How might changes in marital status patterns affect the life of the Church in this parish? Do they result in the need for new pastoral services and programs?

The graph shows the percentage of Catholic men and women aged 15 years and older who lived in the parish at the time of the 2011 Census and who had changed address in the previous 5 years. Across Australia in 2011, 36 per cent of Catholics aged 15 and over had changed address since the previous Census, and 60 per cent of these had come from a different locality or State. ('Locality' in this context refers to a Statistical Local Area (SLA).)



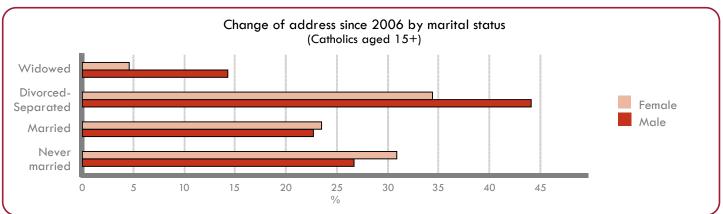


Table 13: Religious affiliation of couple by social marital status	In a registered marriage	In a de facto marriage	Total couples	Per cent couples in de facto marriage
Both persons Catholic	543	38	581	6.5
One person Catholic the other non-Catholic Christian	169	24	193	12.4
One Catholic, the other not Christian or NS	116	18	134	13.4
Total	828	80	908	8.8



Families

Table 14 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.

Take time to study the table. Does it suggest that Catholic families in the parish are mostly well off, OK, or struggling financially?

How do the incomes of families with children living at home compare with those with no children living at home? How well does the parish connect with one-parent families? Note that the income of one-parent families is likely to be much lower than that of two-parent families.

Are families with both parents Catholic a majority or a minority of Catholic families in your parish? What implications might this have for the way the parish connects to families?

Table 14: Family composition ¹ by weekly family income	Less than \$400	\$400- \$799	\$800- \$1249	\$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	9	21	53	<i>7</i> 1	80	51	34	45	364	2,069
One parent Catholic, the other Christian,										_,
but not Catholic One parent Catholic the	3	-	9	18	40	27	23	8	128	2,749
other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not Stated	-	4	-	15	24	22	1 <i>7</i>	5	87	2,916
Couple with no children living at home:										
Both Catholic One person Catholic,	25	84	20	29	24	10	10	15	217	<i>7</i> 61
the other Christian, but not Catholic	-	13	8	10	20	8	6	-	65	2,075
One person Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No										
Religion or Not Stated	-	3	11	3	1 <i>7</i>	9	-	4	47	2,264
One parent family -			•			_				
parent is Catholic	18	22	32	26	16	5	4	16	139	1,102
Other families where at lea		0	10	1.4	10	7	2		70	1 257
one person is Catholic	4	9	19	14	12	7	3	11	79	1,357
Other - spouse temporarily absent ³								36	36	
Total	- 59	156	152	233	186	139	- 97	140	1,162	1,830
IVIUI	37	130	132	233	100	137	7/	140	1,102	1,030

Notes:

This category refers to families with a Catholic reference person whose spouse is temporarily absent. 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.



^{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.

Median family income: fifty percent of families have a higher income, fifty percent a lower income. Family income is the sum of the incomes of all family members aged 15 and over.

Families

2 dependent children 1 dependent 3 dependent Table 15: Weekly family income by 0 dependent Total children child children number of dependent children more Less than \$400 \$400-\$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** 1,162 \$2,599 \$1,905 \$1,830 Median Family Income (\$) \$1,525 \$2,102 \$2,264

Table population: Catholic families. Note that dependent children include all children aged 0-14 and dependent students aged 15-24.

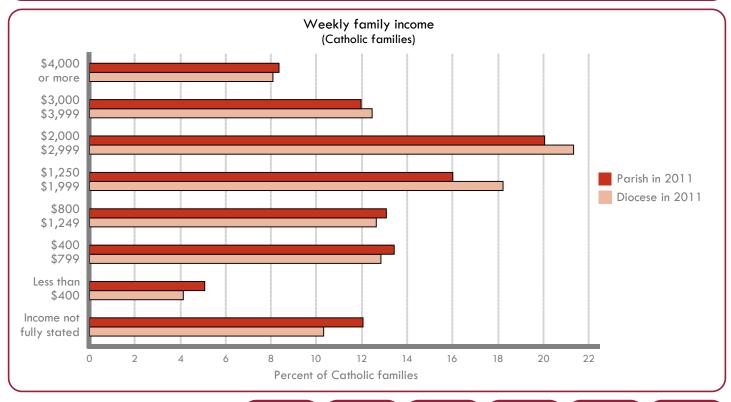


Table 16: Social marital status by number of dependent children	0 dependent children	1 dependent child	2 dependent children	3 dependent children	4 or more	Total
Family Composition Married couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	443	132	200	61	25	861
De facto couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	56	6	18	3	-	83
One parent family, parent Catholic Other families where at least one	85	39	12	3	-	139
person is Catholic Total families	51 635	180	21 251	4 71	25	<i>7</i> 9 1,162



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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. 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 8,182,600 households in Australia in 2011. At least one Catholic person lived in 2,594,200 households, or 32 per cent of all households. Seventy-eight per cent of these Catholic households were family households and, of the Catholic family households, 76 per cent were occupied dwellings that were owned or being purchased.

What is the current housing situation in this parish? 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 parish's pastoral strategies relate to housing issues?

Table 17: Household composition by tenure type	Fully owned or being purchased	Rented from State or Territory Housing Authority	Rented from other landlord, or landlord not stated	Other households	Total households	Percent owned or being purchased
Family households	885	13	195	30	1,123	78.8
Lone person aged under 35 years	11	-	16	3	30	36.7
Lone person aged 35 years or over	138	19	43	19	219	63.0
Group households	21	6	27	3	57	36.8
Total households	1,055	38	281	55	1,429	73.8

Table 18: Household composition by monthly housing loan repayment	\$1- \$449	\$450- \$999	\$1,000- \$1,599	\$1,600- \$2,199	\$2,200- \$2,599	\$2,600 or more	Median monthly household loan repayment
Family households	9	10	41	75	27	164	2,600
Lone person aged under 35 years	-	_	-	4	-	4	2,400
Lone person aged 35 years or over	3	-	5	4	6	-	1 , 750
Group households	3	-	-	3	-	6	2,400
Total households	15	10	46	86	33	174	2,502



Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011. Census Dictionary Australia 2011. Catalogue No. 2901.0. For Census purposes, a Catholic household is any household in which at least one person is Catholic.

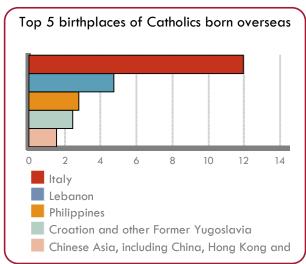
Birthplace

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.

What are the major groups of overseas-born Catholics in your parish?

What difference does their presence make to the parish?

How might the parish better connect with those who have only recently arrived?



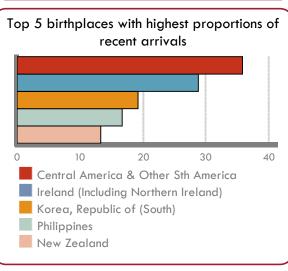


Table 19: Birthplace	All Catholics	% of Catholics	% recent arrivals ¹
Birthplace			
Australia	2,043	59.3	-
New Zealand	30	0.9	13.3
United Kingdom (except			
Northern Ireland)	32	0.9	-
Ireland (including			
Northern Ireland)	52	1.5	28.8
Italy	412	12.0	1.0
Malta	12	0.3	-
Netherlands	4	0.1	-
Germany	14	0.4	-
Austria	3	0.1	-
Croatia and other	0.4	2 1	
Former Yugoslavia	84	2.4	
Poland	39	1.1	7.7
Hungary	6	0.2	-
Other Eastern Europe,			
Russian Federation	10	0.3	
& Baltic States Other Europe	51	1.5	-
Vietnam	21	0.6	-
Philippines	96	2.8	- 16.7
Indonesia	13	2.6 0.4	10.7
	6	0.4	-
Malaysia Other South East Asia	O	0.2	-
India	12	0.3	-
Sri Lanka	10	0.3	-
Chinese Asia including	10	0.3	-
Hong Kong and Taiwan	53	1.5	7.5
Korea,	55	1.5	7.5
Republic of (South)	52	1.5	19.2
Egypt	9	0.3	1 7.2
Lebanon	163	4.7	1.8
Iraq	103	4./	1.0
Other Mid East	-	-	-
& North Africa	6	0.2	_
South Africa	8	0.2	_
Mauritius	7	0.2	_
North America	21	0.6	_
Chile	16	0.5	_
Central America & other	. •	0.0	
South America	53	1.5	35.8
Other	43	1.2	-
ID/At Sea/NEC/NS ²	65	1.9	_
Total	3,446	100.0	2.3

Notes:
1. % recent arrivals = the percentage of Catholics who were born in the named country and who arrived in Australia between 2008 and 2011 inclusive.
2. ID = Inadequately Described; NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified; NS = Not Stated.



Language

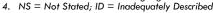
In 2011, 19 per cent of Australia's Catholics spoke a language other than English at home, and three per cent were not proficient in English. People who don't speak English well can face practical problems in education, employment and access to services. On the other hand, it is important to many people from a non-English speaking background to maintain and promote, for reasons of cultural continuity and identity, the use of their home language.

How many Catholics in this parish speak a language other than English at home? How many have difficulty with English? Difficulty in speaking English can affect how well a person can participate in parish life.

Does this parish need to review the pastoral support it offers to parishioners who do not speak English well in relation to for example, prayer and liturgy, inclusiveness in parish events, translation of written material, and access to priests and other pastoral ministers who speak their language?

Table 20: Language spoken at home by religious affiliation	Catholic	Not Catholic (or not stated)	All persons	% Catholics among speakers ²
English only	1,791	2,806	4,597	39.0
Italian	638	77	<i>7</i> 1 <i>5</i>	89.2
Maltese	7	-	7	100.0
Spanish	84	36	120	70.0
Croatian	123	6	129	95.3
Polish	35	6	41	85.4
Dutch	6	-	6	100.0
French	8	10	18	44.4
German	6	11	1 <i>7</i>	35.3
Portuguese	25	10	35	71.4
Hungarian	6	6	12	50.0
Ukrainian	-	3	3	-
Vietnamese	30	104	134	22.4
Filipino languages	74	20	94	78.7
Chinese languages	114	1,683	1 , 797	6.3
Korean	62	221	283	21.9
Indonesian & Malay	1 <i>7</i>	33	50	34.0
Arabic	347	97	444	78.2
Assyrian ³	3	9	12	25.0
Oceanic & Papuan languages	9	42	51	17.6
Australian Indigenous languages	-	-	-	-
Other European languages	21	414	435	4.8
Other Asian languages	12	463	475	2.5
Other languages	4	25	29	13.8
ID/Non-Verbal/NS ⁴	30	372	402	7.5
Total	3,452	6,454	9,906	34.8

- Australian Bureau of Statistics 1999. Australian Social Trends 1999. Catalogue No. 4102.0, p.11. The percentage of Catholics among the speakers of these languages in the parish. Also called Chaldean. The language of Catholics from Iraq. NS = Not Stated; ID = Inadequately Described.





Language

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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 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 parish? 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	30-49	50-64	65 and over	Total	% who do not speak English well
English only	150	208	235	229	496	311	162	1,791	
Italian	9	15	19	35	158	120	282	638	22.4
Maltese	_	-	- ' '	-	-	3	4	7	22.7
Spanish	3	4	_	22	27	12	16	84	19.0
Croatian	-		_	13	36	23	51	123	17.1
Polish	_	_	_	3	6	11	15	35	25.7
Dutch	_	-	-	3	O	3	3	6	25.7
French	-	3	_	-	-	5	J	8	-
German	-	3	-	-	3	J	3	6	-
Portuguese	-	-	-	5	3	6	11	25	16.0
Hungarian	-	-	-	J	3	U	6	6	50.0
Ukrainian	-	-	-	-	-	-	O	U	30.0
Vietnamese	-	-	11	4	6	6	3	30	10.0
	-	-	11	16	29	0 15	10	74	10.0
Filipino languages	-	4 12	- 21	19	29	22	15	114	19.3
Chinese languages	4	8							
Korean	-	•	18	9	19	8	-	62	24.2
Indonesian & Malay	4	17	-	-	13	- (2	-	17	1.5.0
Arabic	18	1 <i>7</i>	39	62	96	63	52	347	15.0
Assyrian ²	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3	-
Oceanic &				•	,			•	
Papuan languages Australian Indigenous	-	-	-	3	6	-	-	9	-
languages	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other European languages	3	3	-	3	3	3	6	21	28.6
Other Asian languages	-	3	-	-	6	3	-	12	-
Other languages	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4	-
ID/Non-Verbal/NS ³	8	-	-	5	7	4	6	30	20.0
Total	199	277	343	428	938	622	645	3,452	8.7

Notes:



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

Also called Chaldean. The language of Catholics from Iraq. NS = Not Stated; ID = Inadequately Described.

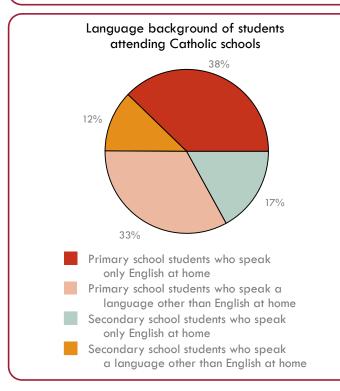
Attendance at Educational Institutions

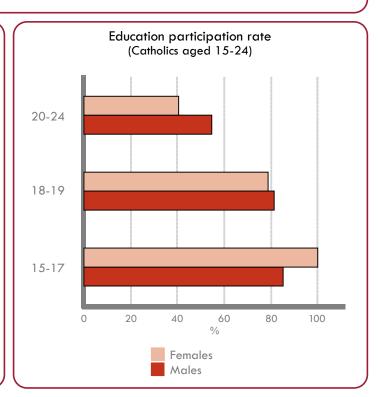
According to the 2011 Census, more than 666,000 Australians attended Catholic schools, accounting for almost 22 per cent of all school students in Australia.

In 2011, there were 914,000 Catholic students - almost one in six of all Catholics - attending government, Catholic, and other non-Government schools. They constitute a very large sub-group of Australian Catholics, considerably larger than the 662,000 or so who attend Mass every Sunday. A further 330,000 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.

How does the parish connect with Catholic students at primary, secondary and tertiary level, 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	101	353	454	22.2
Infants/Primary - Catholic	141	14	155	91.0
Infants/Primary - Other non-Government	30	44	74	40.5
Secondary - Government	65	292	357	18.2
Secondary - Catholic	136	29	165	82.4
Secondary - Other non-Government	37	130	167	22.2
Technical or Further Educational Institution				
(including TAFE Colleges)	67	162	229	29.3
University or other Tertiary Institutions	1 <i>7</i> 8	531	709	25.1
Other (including pre-school)	84	1 <i>7</i> 9	263	31.9
Not stated/Not applicable ¹	2,610	4,721	<i>7,</i> 331	35.6
Total	3,449	6,455	9,904	34.8





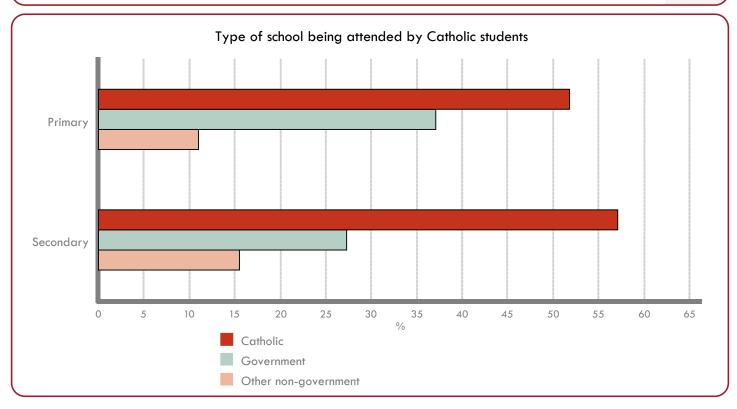
Notes:

1. This table includes the total population of the parish and so there are high numbers for whom the question about type of educational institutions being attended is not applicable.



Attendance at Educational Institutions

Table 23: Type of educational institution attending by weekly income of student's family ¹	Less than \$400	\$400- \$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	7	14	21	15	1 <i>7</i>	15	8	102	82,102
Infants/Primary - Catholic	-	6	25	25	26	20	15	140	109,294
Infants/Primary - Other									·
non-Government	-	-	-	5	3	8	4	20	169,451
Secondary - Government	-	3	12	12	6	10	3	62	91,215
Secondary - Catholic	-	7	29	20	18	18	18	130	102,281
Secondary - Other									
non-Government	-	-	-	6	-	-	6	21	156,402
TAFE, university or other									
tertiary institution	3	9	15	12	1 <i>7</i>	18	16	108	122,671
Other (includes pre-school)	-	3	-	-	3	-	3	9	130,331
NS/NA ⁴	6	-	6	5	7	-	-	27	69,058
Total	16	42	108	100	97	89	<i>7</i> 3	619	102,867



Notes:



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.
 A column of figures for "Family income not fully stated" has been omitted from the table, but the missing figures are included in the Total column.
 Family income is the sum of the incomes of all family members aged 15 and over. (Refer to the definition of family on page 7)
 NS = Not Stated; NA = Not applicable.

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 7 per cent of Australian Catholics aged 15 or more had a degree; by 2011, that figure had reached 18 per cent. Among Catholics aged 15 to 34 years in 2011, 22.5 per cent of women had a degree compared to 13.9 per cent of men. In contrast, among Catholics aged 55 and over, 11.3 per cent of men and 10.5 per cent of women had degrees.

To what extent has participation in higher education in theology and related fields kept pace in this parish with participation in higher education in general?

What new challenges and opportunities are presented to the parish 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. How have women's roles and responsibilities in the parish 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	-	10	22	22	6	10	70
Graduate diploma/							
bachelor degree	13	62	<i>7</i> 1	58	27	14	245
Advanced diploma or							
diploma level	5	20	26	1 <i>7</i>	19	8	95
Certificate level	23	35	34	48	30	<i>57</i>	227
NS/NA/ID ²	153	87	76	72	98	223	709
Total	194	214	229	21 <i>7</i>	180	312	1,346
Per cent with degree or higher	6.7	33.6	40.6	36.9	18.3	7.7	23.4
Females							
Postgraduate degree	5	13	10	1 <i>7</i>	14	3	62
Graduate diploma/							
bachelor degree	30	96	87	54	34	11	312
Advanced diploma or							
diploma level	9	35	39	34	16	10	143
Certificate level	19	29	42	31	12	1 <i>7</i>	150
NS/NA/ID ²	1 <i>7</i> 8	44	76	105	151	296	850
Total	241	21 <i>7</i>	254	241	227	33 <i>7</i>	1,51 <i>7</i>
Per cent with degree or higher	14.5	50.2	38.2	29.5	21.1	4.2	24.7
All Catholics							
Postgraduate degree	5	23	32	39	20	13	132
Graduate diploma/							
bachelor degree	43	158	158	112	61	25	557
Advanced diploma or							
diploma level	14	55	65	51	35	18	238
Certificate level	42	64	76	79	42	74	377
NS/NA/ID ²	331	131	152	1 <i>77</i>	249	519	1,559
Total	435	431	483	458	407	649	2,863
Per cent with degree or higher	11.0	42.0	39.3	33.0	19.9	5.9	24.1

Notes:



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

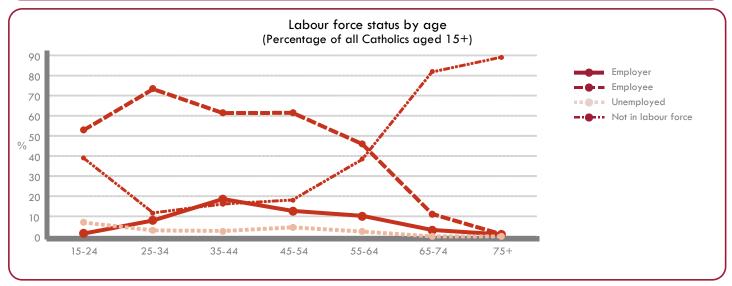
^{2.} NS = Not Stated; NA = Not Applicable; ID = Inadequately Described.

PARISH DETAILS **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 percentage 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 work place. 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 parish?

Table 25: Labour force status by age and sex	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Total
Catholics aged 15+					
Males					
Employer	3	86	<i>7</i> 9	11	1 <i>7</i> 9
Employee	98	281	217	22	618
Unemployed	11	7	16	-	34
Not in the labour force	83	50	72	257	462
Other/NS/NA ²	-	24	1 <i>7</i>	14	55
Total	195	448	401	304	1,348
Per cent in labour force ³	57.4	83.5	<i>77</i> .8	10.9	61.6
Per cent unemployed ⁴	9.8	1.9	5.1	-	4.1
Females					
Employer	3	38	22	3	66
Employee	130	329	256	19	734
Unemployed	19	19	15	-	53
Not in the labour force	86	78	169	291	624
Other/NS/NA ²	-	-	11	26	37
Total	238	464	473	339	1,514
Per cent in labour force ³	63.9	83.2	61.9	6.5	56.3
Per cent unemployed⁴	12.5	4.9	5.1	-	6.2



- Australian Bureau of Statistics 2004. Australian Social Trends 2004. Catalogue No. 4102.0, p.115. NS = Not Stated; NA = Not Applicable.
- The percentage of Catholics in each age group who are in the labour force (i.e. employed or seeking employment).
- 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; 34 per cent of Catholic women and 32 per cent of Catholic men who reported their occupation in the 2011 Census worked as managers or professionals. But men were much more likely than women - 48 per cent compared to 13 per cent - to have a 'blue collar' occupation. The largest occupational category for Catholic men in Australia is Technicians and Trade Workers. For women, it is Clerical and Administrative Workers.

Table 26: Occupation by age and sex	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Total
Catholics aged 15+			<u> </u>				
Males							
Managers	3	29	31	44	20	3	130
Professionals	9	48	58	49	28	12	204
Technicians & Trade Workers	16	27	48	24	22	7	144
Community & Personal							
Service Workers	19	11	3	9	4	3	4
Clerical & Administrative Workers	11	1 <i>7</i>	22	18	-	7	7
Sales Workers	22	14	6	9	7	6	6
Machinery Operators & Drivers	3	12	10	12	19	-	5
Labourers	12	20	15	14	10	4	7
ID/NS/NA ¹	99	36	36	38	70	270	54
Total	194	214	229	21 <i>7</i>	180	312	1,34
Per cent Managers & professionals ²	12.6	43.3	46.1	52.0	43.6	3 <i>5.7</i>	41.
Per cent 'blue collar' workers ²	32.6	33.1	<i>37.8</i>	27.9	46.4	26.2	34.
Females							
Managers	11	12	24	14	6	3	7
Professionals	21	68	56	61	28	9	24
Technicians & Trade Workers	9	14	7	3	6	-	3
Community & Personal							
Service Workers	22	12	21	20	12	3	9
Clerical & Administrative Workers	34	44	64	51	37	3	23
Sales Workers	39	10	11	12	13	-	8
Machinery Operators & Drivers	-	3	-	-	3	_	
Labourers	4	6	6	7	7	4	3
ID/NS/NA ¹	101	48	65	<i>7</i> 3	115	315	<i>7</i> 1
Total	241	21 <i>7</i>	254	241	227	337	1,51
Per cent Managers & professionals ²	22.9	47.3	42.3	44.6	30.4	54.5	39
Per cent 'blue collar' workers ²	9.3	13.6	6.9	6.0	14.3	18.2	9
All Catholics							
Managers	14	41	55	58	26	6	20
Professionals	30	116	114	110	56	21	44
Technicians & Trade Workers	25	41	55	27	28	7	18
Community & Personal							
Service Workers	41	23	24	29	16	6	13
Clerical & Administrative Workers	45	61	86	69	37	10	30
Sales Workers	61	24	17	21	20	6	14
Machinery Operators & Drivers	3	15	10	12	22	_	6
Labourers	16	26	21	21	1 <i>7</i>	8	10
ID/NS/NA ¹	200	84	101	111	185	585	1,26
Total	435	431	483	458	407	649	2,86
Per cent Managers & professionals ²	18.7	45.2	44.2	48.4	36.9	42.2	40.
Per cent 'blue collar' workers ²	18.7	23.6	22.5	17.3	30.2	23.4	22.

Notes:

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NS = Not Stated; NA = Not Applicable; ID = Inadequately Described.
 See Notes 1 and 2 on page 5 for the type of occupations covered by the terms 'Managers and professionals' and 'blue collar'.

PARISH DETAILS Occupation

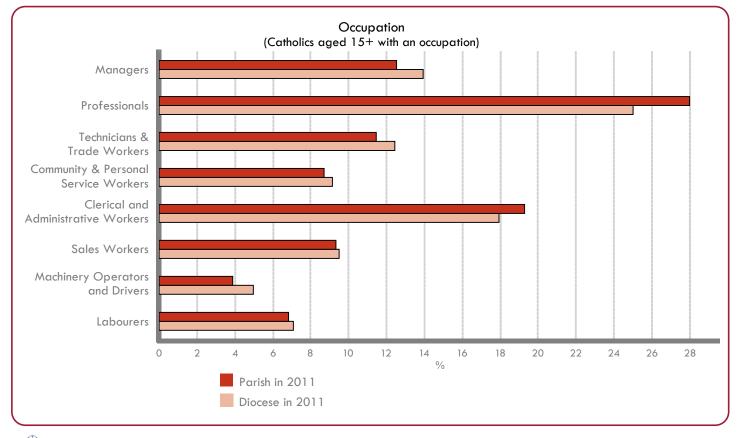
Occupation, like qualifications, is an indicator of socio-economic status. It can also indicate the types of skills and interests that parishioners have.

What are the major occupations of male and female Catholics in this parish? What do you think accounts for differences in occupation between the sexes?

What are the major occupations of younger people? Middle-aged people? Older people? What do you think accounts for differences in occupation between the different age groups?

Are there any figures that strike you as being unexpectedly large or small? How can this information help the parish connect more effectively with parishioners?

Table 27: Occupation of parents of students attending Catholic schools	Primary School	Secondary School
Parental occupation		
Both parents in professional occupations	18	7
One parent or lone parent in professional occupation	36	41
Both parents in 'white collar' occupations	15	20
One parent or lone parent in 'white collar' occupation	39	52
Both parents in 'blue collar' occupation	-	9
"One parent or lone parent in 'blue collar' occupation	16	11
Not applicable and not stated	34	19
Total	158	159
% with professional parent(s)	34.2	30.2
% with blue collar parent(s)	10.1	12.6





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BUILDING STRONGER PARISHES www.buildingstrongerparishes.catholic.org.au

The Building Stronger Parishes website has been developed to be the primary source of information on the Building Stronger Parishes project throughout its duration and beyond.

Although still in its development stage, the website has many academic and research-based resources available, along with practical ideas that parishes can implement. The intended audiences are bishops, diocesan pastoral planners, parish priests and other parish leaders and all those interested in creating vital parishes throughout Australia.

The resources available on the site will be updated and expanded over the course of the project. We are working on making it more interactive and user-friendly and it is our hope that it will be a rich source of information for parishes that wish to increase their vitality.



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