

# 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 and 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

Pope Francis reminds that all renewal must be grounded in:

*"... a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation."* Evangelii Gaudium #27

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 (2021)

Total Population: 12,765

Catholic Population: 2,124

Catholics make up 16.6 per cent of the total population

Median age of Catholics is 48 years

Total Catholic families: 816

226 Catholics live alone

629 Catholics were born overseas

57 Catholics do not speak English well

184 Catholics need assistance with core activities

584 Catholics have changed address since 2016



# What has changed in your parish since 2016?

This chart will help you identify at a glance changes in some of the key indicators for Catholics in the parish between 2016 and 2021, and may alert you to possible trends that are occurring. The 2016 and 2021 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 2016	Parish in 2021
Catholic population	2,379	<b>2,124</b>
Catholics aged 0-14 (%)	19.2	<b>16.9</b>
Catholics aged 65+ (%)	23.7	<b>26.5</b>
Catholics born in NES <sup>1</sup> (%)	21.0	<b>24.9</b>
Catholics not proficient in English (%)	2.6	<b>2.4</b>
Catholic families	885	<b>816</b>
Catholics living alone	210	<b>226</b>
Catholic students attending Catholic schools <sup>2</sup> (%)	60.2	<b>63.2</b>
Catholics with university degree (%)	31.3	<b>35.5</b>
Catholic males in labour force (%)	63.0	<b>63.5</b>
Catholic females in labour force (%)	56.0	<b>54.9</b>
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling (%)	78.4	<b>80.5</b>

**Notes:**

1. NES = Non-English-Speaking Country as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
2. The percentage of all students who are Catholic attending Catholic schools.

**NOTE ON COMPARABILITY WITH 2016 FIGURES:**

The boundaries of some parishes changed between 2016 and 2021. These boundary changes mean that, in these parishes, figures for 2016 and 2021 may not be comparable. Where parishes have been amalgamated between 2016 and 2021, the 2021 figures in this profile refer to the overall figures for the parishes involved. Prior to 2021, persons living on Australian Defence Force bases were excluded from the Parish Social Profiles figures and were counted within the Military Ordinariate of Australia figures. For 2021, such persons have been included in the geographical parish in which the military base is located. The overall result of inclusion in 2021 figures is negligible.

