

## Australia's Catholics in 2006 – an extended profile

### Mass attenders, Catholic population and Australian population compared 2006 demographic characteristics for persons aged 15 and over

<b>Demographic characteristic</b>	<b>Mass attenders (Aged 15 &amp; over)</b>	<b>Catholic population (Aged 15 &amp; over)</b>	<b>Australian population (Aged 15 &amp; over)</b>
Median age (years)	58	44	44
% female	61	53	51
% degree or higher	28	15	16
% born overseas	36	29	28
% married	68	51	50
% in de facto relationship	1	7	9
% currently separated or divorced	5	10	11
% widowed	10	6	6
<b>Number of persons</b>	<b>595,264</b>	<b>4,045,626</b>	<b>15,918,082</b>

**Notes:**

Only persons aged 15 and over are included in this comparison as no demographic data is available for Mass attenders aged under 15.

The Catholic population includes the Mass attenders and the Australian population includes the Catholic population

% born overseas is for age 20+ in all three categories

Sources of data: National Church Life Survey 2006 and Australian Bureau of Statistics - 2006 Census of Population and Housing

### Where Australia's Catholics live

New South Wales is the State where Catholics made up the highest proportion of the population (28.2%), although it was only a little less (28.0%) in the ACT. Catholics made up only 18.4 per cent and 20.2 per cent of the population in Tasmania and South Australia respectively.

### Catholics by State and Territory

<b>State / Territory</b>	<b>Catholics</b>	<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>Per cent Catholic</b>
New South Wales	1,845,360	6,549,527	28.2
ACT	90,855	324,130	28.0
Victoria	1,355,916	4,932,556	27.5
Queensland	936,595	3,904,373	24.0
South Australia	305,189	1,514,265	20.2
Western Australia	464,357	1,961,062	23.7
Tasmania	87,802	476,464	18.4
Northern Territory	40,810	192,911	21.2
<b>Australia</b>	<b>5,126,884</b>	<b>19,855,288</b>	<b>25.8</b>

Source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics - 2006 Census of Population and Housing

### The biggest and smallest parishes in Australia

The largest parishes in the country were Burleigh Heads, in Queensland, with over 28,000 Catholics, Narre Warren in Victoria, and Maroochydore, also in Queensland. Twenty-three parishes had Catholic populations in excess of 14,000. On the other hand, twenty-one parishes had fewer than 250 Catholics; Campbell Town in Tasmania was the smallest, with only 84 Catholics.

**Australia's largest parishes***23 parishes with more than 14,000 Catholics*

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Diocese</b>	<b>Catholics</b>	<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>Per cent Catholic</b>
Burleigh Heads	Brisbane	28,061	116,636	24.1
Narre Warren	Sale	20,054	67,082	29.9
Maroochydore	Brisbane	19,312	92,512	20.9
Camden	Wollongong	17,939	51,546	34.8
Caloundra	Brisbane	17,566	87,984	20.0
South Tuggeranong	Canberra & Goulburn	17,224	53,969	31.9
Salisbury	Adelaide	17,213	79,640	21.6
St Albans	Melbourne	17,018	38,800	43.9
Surfers Paradise	Brisbane	16,967	71,009	23.9
Southport	Brisbane	16,946	74,383	22.8
Caboolture	Brisbane	16,042	78,573	20.4
Werribee	Melbourne	15,705	44,804	35.1
Gladstone Park	Melbourne	15,388	31,785	48.4
Bonnyrigg	Sydney	15,127	35,777	42.3
Mill Park	Melbourne	14,971	39,499	37.9
Laverton	Melbourne	14,955	43,459	34.4
Croydon	Melbourne	14,805	68,520	21.6
Nowra	Wollongong	14,699	66,063	22.2
Craigieburn	Melbourne	14,652	39,040	37.5
Browns Plains	Brisbane	14,501	68,355	21.2
Castle Hill	Parramatta	14,183	45,364	31.3
Keilor Downs - Kealba	Melbourne	14,081	31,057	45.3
Bundaberg	Rockhampton	14,025	72,202	19.4

*Source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics - 2006 Census of Population and Housing***Australia's smallest parishes***21 parishes with fewer than 250 Catholics*

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Diocese</b>	<b>Catholics</b>	<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>Per cent Catholic</b>
Campbell Town	Hobart	84	743	11.3
Jugiong	Canberra & Goulburn	108	406	26.6
Flinders Island	Hobart	119	866	13.7
Quairading	Perth	167	1,019	16.4
Wandoan	Towoomba	174	919	18.9
Jabiru	Darwin	175	1,134	15.4
Corrigin	Perth	186	1,145	16.2
Ungarie	Canberra & Goulburn	193	716	27.0
Aramac	Rockhampton	199	721	27.6
Weethalle	Canberra & Goulburn	205	898	22.8
Surat	Towoomba	206	756	27.2
Mallee Border	Adelaide	219	2,131	10.3
Norseman	Perth	223	1,073	20.8
Finch Hatton	Rockhampton	227	851	26.7
Texas	Towoomba	235	1,126	20.9
New Norcia	Perth	237	1,065	22.3
Richmond	Townsville	238	901	26.4

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Diocese</b>	<b>Catholics</b>	<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>Per cent Catholic</b>
Minnipa	Port Pirie	239	1,311	18.2
Barellan	Canberra & Goulburn	244	731	33.4
Bribbaree	Canberra & Goulburn	244	860	28.4
Alpha	Rockhampton	249	919	27.1

*Source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics - 2006 Census of Population and Housing*

### **Where Australia's Catholics come from**

The major overseas birthplaces of Catholics in the 2006 Census were, in order, Italy, Great Britain, the Philippines, New Zealand, Croatia and other Former Yugoslavia, Ireland (including Northern Ireland), Malta, Poland, Vietnam and India. Almost 100,000 Catholics arrived in Australia from overseas between 2003 and 2006, the greatest numbers coming from the Philippines, Great Britain, the Middle East and North Africa, New Zealand, Central and South America, and India.

### **Major birthplaces of Australian Catholics**

<b>Birthplace</b>	<b>Catholics</b>
<i>Individual countries</i>	
Australia	3,829,531
Italy	184,240
Great Britain	125,921
Philippines	96,572
New Zealand	59,622
Croatia and other Former Yugoslavia	46,317
Ireland (Including Northern Ireland)	41,662
Malta	40,402
Poland	39,484
Viet Nam	35,402
India	34,501
Germany	31,029
Lebanon	29,197
Netherlands	26,610
Sri Lanka	16,767
South Africa	16,039
Chile	15,495
Indonesia	14,513
Malaysia	14,487
Mauritius	14,090
Korea, Republic of (South)	12,789
Iraq	12,234
Hungary	11,335
Hong Kong	11,314
Austria	10,510
<i>Other regions</i>	
European countries (excluding those listed above)	73,686
South and Central America (excluding Chile)	40,101
Middle East and North Africa (except Lebanon and Iraq)	24,634
Oceania (except Australia and New Zealand)	20,274
South-East Asia (except Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia)	21,076
North America	19,396

*Birthplaces with more than 10,000 Catholics*

*Source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics - 2006 Census of Population and Housing*

### **What languages do Australia's Catholics speak at home?**

Italian, with over 287,000 speakers, remains by far the most common language other than English spoken at home by Catholics, followed by Filipino languages, Arabic, Spanish, Croatian, Vietnamese, Polish and Chinese languages. Catholics most likely to say that they did not speak English well were those who spoke Korean, Vietnamese, Assyrian (the language of Chaldean Catholics) or Portuguese at home. About 8,300 Catholics spoke an Australian Indigenous language at home.

#### **Major languages spoken at home by Australia's Catholics**

<b>Language</b>	<b>Catholics</b>
Italian	287,233
Filipino languages	77,348
Arabic	70,100
Spanish	66,234
Croatian	57,797
Vietnamese	55,701
Polish	44,615
Chinese languages	42,859
Maltese	35,085
French	23,398
German	22,583
Portuguese	21,121
Indonesian-Malay languages	13,423
Korean	13,421
Hungarian	13,412
Assyrian	12,459
Dutch	12,044
Oceanic & Papuan languages	12,014

*Languages spoken at home by more than 12,000 Catholics*

*Source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics - 2006 Census of Population and Housing.*

The figures from the Australian Census describe the population that identifies itself as Catholic in the Census.

Watch out for regular updates to this profile over the next few months.

The ACBC Pastoral Projects Office is now engaged in the production of comprehensive census reports for every parish in Australia. These will be sent to parishes a little later in the year.