



# HOLY FAMILY

## DOVETON

*The only thing that counts is faith working through love. (Galatians 5:6)*

### THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023

#### NEW REPORT BREAKS DOWN AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC POPULATION

A new document from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference profiles a Catholic population which is increasingly culturally diverse.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has released a new report examining the Catholic community in the country, using data from the 2021 national census. The document, released by the bishops' National Centre for Pastoral Research, profiles a community which is shrinking and aging, but also becoming more culturally, linguistically, and ritually diverse.

#### Numbers and age

The report puts the number of Catholics in Australia at 5,075,910, almost exactly 20% of the total population of 25,422,788. This is a decrease of around 2.5 percentage points in five years – in 2016, 22.6% of respondents identified as Catholic. Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference, said that these figures “were not a surprise” given the “broad shift away from religious identification in Australian society”, although he admitted they were disappointing. The Catholic population in Australia, moreover, is increasingly elderly: the median age for Catholics is 43, compared to 33 in 1996. The median age for all Australians is 38. 493,225 Australian Catholics (9.7%) live alone, while 342,034 (6.7%) require assistance with core activities.

#### Cultural and linguistic diversity

One of the report's key findings is the increasing cultural and linguistic diversity of the Australian Catholic Church.

*Continue on next page...*

**Parish Priest:**

Fr. Prince Joseph VC  
(John Prince)

**Priest-In Residence:**

Fr Sebastian  
Mappilarambil VC

**Parish Secretary:**

Maureen Goonewardena

**Parish Manager:**

Wilfred D’Couto

**Principal:**

Paul Sharp

**Child Safety Officer:**

Bernadette Saubolle

**Sunday Masses:**

Saturday Vigil .... 6.30pm  
Sunday..... 9.15am  
..... 11.00am  
Healing Mass .... 7.00pm

**Spanish Mass:**

Saturday 4.00pm

**Weekday Masses:**

Everyday 9.15am  
Wednesday 9.15am &  
7.00pm

**Reconciliation:**

Tuesday 9.45am - 10.15am  
Saturday 9.45am - 10.15am

**Novena to Our Lady:**

Saturday 9.00am  
Wednesday 7.00pm

**Baptisms:** Second Sunday

**Divine Kids Bible Class:**

Sunday 10.15am

**Parish Prayer Group:**

Tuesday 7.00pm-8.00pm

**Parish Halls:**

Available for hire –  
Contact Parish Office

The bishops' analysis shows that 1,369,744 Australian Catholics, or 21.4% of the total number, were born abroad in a non-English speaking country, and 21.5% speak a language other than English at home. In 2006, these numbers were 17.9% and 19.2% respectively.

The five countries supplying the largest amount of non-native English-speaking Catholics are the Philippines, Italy, India, Vietnam, and Croatia (which was counted together with other countries from former Yugoslavia).

This increase in cultural and linguistic diversity is in line with national trends; the figures for foreign-born and foreign-language speaking Australian Catholics are close to the national averages

**Eastern Catholic Churches**

Since 1996, Eastern Catholics in Australia have been counted separately to Latin Catholics. This year, of the 5 million total Catholics in the country, 77,393 – or 1.5% - registered as belonging to the Eastern Catholic Churches. Of these, 47,003 were Maronite, 3,091 Melkite, 2,886 Ukrainian, 14,108 Chaldean, and 10,305 Syro-Malabar.

However, the real number of Eastern Catholics in Australia is probably higher; the report indicates that some likely ticked the standard “Catholic” box in the census, and were thus registered as Latin. In this regard, it is significant that just over 3% of Australian Catholics reported speaking languages traditionally associated with the Eastern Churches; 77,727 speak Arabic at home, 34,237 Assyrian/Chaldean, 38,288 Malayalam, and 2,967 Ukrainian.

*By Joseph Tulloch, Vatican News*

## READINGS

### SUNDAY

Acts 2:14,22-33  
Psalm 16:1-2,5,7-11  
1 Peter 1:17-21  
Luke 24:13-35

### MONDAY

Acts 6:8-15  
Psalm 119: 23-24, 26-27,29-30  
John 6:22-29

### TUESDAY

#### ANZAC Day

Wisdom 3:1-9  
Psalm 116:5-6, 10-11, 15-16  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
John 12:23-28

### WEDNESDAY

1 Peter 5:5-14  
Psalm 89:2-3,6-7,16-17  
Mark 16:15-20

### THURSDAY

Acts 8:26-40  
Psalm 66:8-9,16-17,20  
John 6:44-51

### FRIDAY

Acts 9:1-20  
Psalm 117  
John 6: 52-59

### SATURDAY

1 John 1:5 - 2:2  
Psalm 103:1-4, 8-9, 13-14, 17-18  
Matthew 11:25-30

## YOUTH CORNER

Every Friday 6.30 - 7.30 pm Youth gathering in the Small Hall.

### **YOU ARE INVITED TO THE HOLY FAMILY PRAYER GROUP (Every Tuesday 7 pm)**

Leading a good Christian family life and bringing up children in the Catholic faith is becoming more challenging in our secular society. "...The sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light" (Lk 16:8). Our Lord has given us a way to overcome these powers of darkness: "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer" (Mk 9:29). We are in need of more prayers these days, but often as individuals, we struggle to prioritise our prayer life. The safe future of us and our children greatly depends on how much we pray today. A prayer group helps us to do this. It also helps us to grow in our intimacy with God and thus to lead a happier family and social life.

- God meets us in unique ways when we're together. He promises his presence to his gathered people. (Matt. 18:20, Eph. 5:18-21). Petitions placed in a prayer meeting often gets answered by our merciful God.
- The testimonies of others help renew our faith when we struggle to see God working in our lives. It reminds us of God's providence and helps us keep praying when it is hard to.
- It's easy to get in our own little prayer bubbles, praying for our kids, our partners stressful job, or our relationship with our parents. In a prayer group we also pray for more universal matters that affect our church, society and future generations.

**"Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his presence continually" (1 Chronicles 16:11)**



*Sajan Jose  
(Prayer Group  
Coordinator)*

## OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

Novena to  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
and Holy Mass  
Every Wednesday, 7.00pm  
Holy Family Church, Doveton



### CO-RESPONSIBILITY (TWG - WORD OF THE WEEK)

On 10<sup>th</sup> August 2012, Pope Benedict XVI's message to the International Forum for Catholic action contained a curious reference to the term 'Co-responsibility'. His use of the term was to convey his desire that the laity, you and me, would work in greater collaboration with our priests in advancing the work of evangelisation.

Co-responsibility is more than teamwork, it is about the realisation of one's own priesthood by the virtue of their Baptism, and the effective collaboration that priests and laity can have in the mission of the Church. Benedict reminded us all that this move towards co-responsibility 'demands a change in mindset especially concerning the role of lay people in the Church.' However, the intention of the Pope was not to replace priests with laity or reduce the ministry that is part of ordained priesthood, but to urge laity and clergy to share the responsibility for the spiritual wellbeing of parish communities. Benedict's intention of a shared responsibility for the Church's mission is now part of the current renewal of the worldwide Church through the work of Pope Francis and the 2023 synod on Synodality.

Co-responsibility is an essential feature of Take the Way of the Gospel to ensure that future mission parishes will be successful in sharing Jesus with all in our community. Essential to co-responsibility is the continued formation of all of us a laity, Pope Benedict asked us to 'never tire...of daily commitment to formation, through the aspects of your particular vocation as lay faithful.' As Take the Way of the Gospel unfolds, let us pray that we can foster Benedict's co-responsibility here at Holy Family parish so that our witness of the Gospel will make Christ known to all.

*Lindsay Sant (TWG Coordinator)*

#### Parish Office Hours

Monday .....9am-11am  
Wednesday ...9am-12 pm  
Friday .....9am-12pm

#### Telephones

Presbytery 97924317  
School 97911853  
Child Safety Email ...

#### Parish Website/Email

[holyfamilydoveton.org.au](http://holyfamilydoveton.org.au)  
[doveton@cam.org.au](mailto:doveton@cam.org.au)  
[holyfamilycso@cam.org.au](mailto:holyfamilycso@cam.org.au)

***Let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, and all the more as you see the day approaching. (Hebrews 10:25)***