

KNOW THE DIOCESES IN 2020

ARCHDIOCESE of ADELAIDE

Originally part of the Vicariate Apostolic of New Holland and Van Diemen's Land, the Diocese of Adelaide was one of the first 3 dioceses (with Sydney and Hobart) established in Australia in 1842. When Sydney was made the Metropolitan Archdiocese of the Province of Sydney the same year, Adelaide became a suffragan diocese. In 1887 Adelaide was raised to Metropolitan Archdiocese of the Province of Adelaide with Perth, Port Augusta (now Port Pirie), and Victoria-Palmerston (now Darwin) as suffragan dioceses, together with the Abbey Nullius of New Norcia (WA) and the Vicariate Apostolic of Kimberly (WA). When the Province of Perth was established in 1913, only the dioceses of Port Augusta and Victoria-Palmerston remained as suffragans. Its current geographical area is 105,000 square kilometres¹, including Kangaroo Island.

Demographics: At the 2016 Census 1,511,572 persons lived in the diocese, with 274,135 self-identified Catholics (18.1% of total). Since the 2001 Census (1,291,831 and 274,302 (21.2%)) the general population has increased 17%, but there has been no change in the Catholic population. In 2016 the diocese ranked 5th in Catholic population with the median age of Catholics at 43 years. Australia is the birthplace of 71.5% of all Catholics, including 2,725 indigenous Australians (1.0% of all Catholics), while the biggest groups born outside Australia are from Italy (5.8%), the UK (3.9%), Philippines (3.1%), Poland (1.3%), Vietnam (1.2%), India (1.0%), Ireland, Germany and Former Yugoslavia (each 0.9%), and Netherlands and Eastern Europe (each 0.7%).

Bishop: The current archbishop is Patrick O'Regan, born in Australia in 1958, ordained a priest for the Diocese of Bathurst in 1983, and ordained a bishop in 2014. Previously the Bishop of Sale Diocese, he was installed as the 12th bishop of Adelaide in 2020. He did not prepare a *Quinquennial Report* for Adelaide at the time of Australian bishops' June 2019 *ad limina* visit.

Structure and Governance: The diocese has 56 parishes divided into 7 regional deaneries. It is one of just 6 dioceses with more than 50 parishes. Forty-two parishes have a full-time resident priest (75%), while 14 share a priest. The diocese has an office for Strategic Financial Services, and a college of consultors, but it does not have a council of priests or a diocesan pastoral council.² Diocesan synods were held in 1885, 1889, 1908, 1916 and 1945, but none has been convened since then. In 2015 a *New Directions* Task Force, appointed to produce a pastoral plan for the renewal of the parishes, schools and communities, identified 8 renewal characteristics, initiated a dialogue with parishes, and convoked a Diocesan Spring Gathering in 2016 to elicit radical localised renewal responses, rather than a one-size-fits-all solution.³ The new bishop recently announced plans for a diocesan assembly and the formation of a diocesan pastoral council in 2021.⁴ Diocesan policy is to expect parish priests and administrators to establish parish pastoral councils.

Priests and Deacons: A total of 167 priests reside in the diocese, including the bishop: 94 diocesan and 73 religious. Of these 96 are active in parish ministry: 40 diocesan, 54 religious, 1 Eastern Rite and 1 Anglican Ordinariate. Of those ministering in parishes, 47 are Australian-born and 49 (51%) overseas-born (19 in India, 8 in Africa (6 in Kenya), 7 in Vietnam, 3 each in Italy and Poland, 2 in Philippines, 1 each in Syria, Greece, and Netherlands, and 4 in other Asia and elsewhere). There has been a significant turnover of priests in parish ministry in the last 10 years (52 exited this ministry in that period) and, as at least 24 of the Australian-born were ordained in 1980 or prior, this will continue in the near future. Within 5 years the diocese will be overwhelmingly reliant on overseas-born priests. Of the priests not in parish ministry, 25 (including the previous bishop) currently live in retirement, 1 works outside the diocese, 6 reside outside parishes, 9 belong to other Rites, and 8 minister as chaplains to various ethnic groups. Currently (2020), there are 5 seminarians preparing for the diocesan priesthood. If only the priests actively ministering in parishes are counted, there are an estimated 2,855 Catholics per priest. The diocese has 15 permanent deacons, with 11 ministering in parishes.

¹ This is a similar geographic area to Iceland (103,000 sq. km)

² There was a long-standing diocesan pastoral council under the previous bishop, but a diocesan pastoral council must lapse when a diocese becomes vacant (Canon 513).

³ <https://adelaide.catholic.org.au/our-people/vicar-general/presentations/discerning-the-path/news-articles?article=21653>

⁴ <https://adelaide.catholic.org.au/news-and-events/plenary-council-2020-1/plenary-gatherings?article=40241>

Lay ministers and officials: There are 27 lay persons ministering as pastoral associates or co-ordinators in the parishes: 4 religious sisters and 23 lay women. In the diocesan curia 32 laypersons hold senior positions: 11 men, 19 women and 2 religious sisters. The presence of religious brothers and sisters in the diocese has been in steady decline since 2001: brothers down 29% and sisters down 16%. This is a common situation across most Australian dioceses.

Mass attendance: In 2006 an average 34,085 Catholics attended Mass regularly (12.2%). In 2016 the average was 28,340 (10.3%) – down 16.9%.

Seminary and Seminarians: There is no diocesan seminary in South Australia. Currently, 5 seminarians from the archdiocese are in formation at the Regional Seminary of Corpus Christi College in Melbourne: 2 in their 6th year and 3 in their 2nd year. Another, ordained in October 2020, completed his studies in the USA.

Pastoral ministries: The diocesan Office of Worship offers workshops on liturgy and ministry formation. Catholic chaplains, who must undertake a 4-year training program, minister in the public hospitals and prisons. Pastoral care services are provided to 34 ethnic communities through the Multicultural Office, which collaborates with migrant chaplains, pastoral workers, and community leaders. It also coordinates welcoming/induction programs for priests arriving from overseas churches for parish ministry. The Family and Parish Based Catechesis Office supports family and parish-based ministries with sacramental and liturgical preparation under the *Partnerships in Sacramental Catechesis: The Pastoral Framework for the Sacramental Catechesis of Children*, trains catechists, and seeks to build more collaborative partnerships between the parishes and their schools. The Office for Youth and Young Adults organises youth events, gatherings, and radio broadcasts, and supports youth ministry leaders in schools. Five Catholic Eastern Rite churches - Maronite, Melkite, Syro-Malabar, Syro-Malankara, and Ukrainian - have a presence in Adelaide, and the Syro-Malabar Church, servicing Catholic immigrants from Southern India (60,000 across Australia) now has 3 parishes in Adelaide and its first purpose-built church. A new Council for Integral Ecology was commissioned in September 2020.⁵

Ecumenism and Inter-faith: The diocese has a Commission for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations.

Plenary Council: A total of 7,913 persons (3% of all Catholics) – 321 as individuals (53% women and 35% men) and 7,592 in groups – responded to the Plenary Council's Listening and Dialogue phase. They identified the top 10 priority issues for the Council as: greater Inclusion of all; fighting for human rights issues; greater focus on Jesus Christ; greater trust, faith and hope in God; ending mandatory celibacy and allowing priests to marry; a greater role for women; ordination of women; inclusion of divorced and remarried; teaching authentic Catholic faith; outreach to youth; and greater leadership from bishops. Two lay members of the diocese (Sarah Moffatt and John Lochowiak) served on the Plenary Council Executive Committee (terminated in October 2020), 1 person was selected for the Discernment and Writing Groups (Peter Bierer), and 6 persons have been called from the diocese to participate in the Council sessions: 2 clerics (bishop and vicar general), and 4 lay persons (Ian Cameron, Julian Nguyen, Monica Conway and Madeline Forde). Adelaide was selected to host the first assembly of the Plenary Council from 3-10 October 2021.⁶ A Plenary planning Forum was held in October 2020.

Education: The diocese has 88 Catholic schools: 59 primary, 2 secondary, 25 combined and 2 special schools. They educate 41,874 students: 24,826 primary and 20,047 secondary. The SA Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS) is responsible for overseeing 101 Catholic schools across the 2 SA dioceses to deliver high quality education to 17% of all school students in the State. Catholic Education SA (CESA) is the executive and policy implementation arm of SACCS, while the Catholic Education Office (CEO) is delegated by SACCS to develop, implement and report on the CESA Strategic Plan and the Non-government Reform Support Fund. The Strategic Plan includes an Aboriginal Education Strategy engaging regional Aboriginal communities and building respectful relationships. A total of 719 indigenous students were enrolled in Catholic schools in 2018. Forty-two of the 88 school principals/heads are lay women. Recurrent and capital grants to diocesan schools from the Commonwealth and State governments in 2019 totalled \$336.9 million, while the CEO received government grants of \$13.6 million. Tertiary education is provided at the Australian Catholic University's St

⁵ [Ecology council to focus on Laudato Si' \(thesoutherncross.org.au\)](https://thesoutherncross.org.au)

⁶ The original plan will not proceed as the ACBC decided at its November 2020 meeting to move to a 'multi-modal gathering'. Cf [Plenary Council assembly mixes in-person, online format - ACBC Media Blog \(catholic.org.au\)](https://catholic.org.au)

Francis of Assisi campus at Thebarton, part of its Faculty of Theology and Philosophy, and Aquinas College provides a Catholic tertiary (and residential) education facility. The diocese also partners with the University of Dayton (Ohio, USA) for its Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF), which provides catechetical and faith formation courses online for parishes and individuals in the diocese.

Health and Welfare Services: The diocese provides most of its welfare services for the aged, disabled, homeless, vulnerable, youth, children and families (especially homeless and victims of domestic violence), and mental health sufferers through Centacare Catholic Family Services, Calvary Care, Adelaide Day Centre, Catherine House, Christian Brothers Community Children's Centre, Hutt Street Centre and St Vincent de Paul Society. Centacare operates with a budget of some \$45 million, including government grants of \$31.1 million. Calvary Care operates 4 hospitals in the diocese as well as Calvary Community Care and Calvary Retirement Community. Southern Cross Care and St Raphael's also provide nursing and aged services.

Finances: Financial statements in the diocesan *2019 Annual Report* show the Catholic Church Endowment Society, which includes the operations of the Archdiocese and the Catholic Development Fund (CDF) - which provides funding to parishes and the education sector and holds deposits on behalf of diocesan parishes, schools and agencies - had income of \$33.7 million, expenses of \$22.7 million, and net assets \$86.3 million. Financial statements for the Presbytery Fund, Catholic Charities, Centacare Family Services, Catholic Church Early Years, Catholic Education Office, and Adelaide Diocesan Schools are also provided. The diocese is registered with the Charities Commission (ACNC) as the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide Charitable Trust, but as a 'Basic Religious Charity' it is not required to answer the financial questions in the Annual Information Statement, submit annual financial reports, or comply with any Governance Standards.

Communications: The diocese has 4 websites (diocese, vocations, *Southern Cross*, and Cathedral Parish) and publishes a monthly print and online newspaper *The Southern Cross* with 61,000 readers, a fortnightly EDM (electronic direct mail) *Living Catholic e-News* with 1,462 subscribers, and a *Find a Mass* app. The diocese has for several years published a comprehensive *Annual Report* covering all its works, ministries and finances. It is one of very few dioceses to do this.⁷ Most parishes in the dioceses also have websites.

Safeguarding and Child Sexual Abuse: The Royal Commission's statistical report includes the diocese as a significant setting of abuse, with 9 of the 222 priests who ministered in the diocese during the period 1950-2010 identified as alleged perpetrators (4.1%). However, taking into account duration of ministry in the period, the proportion is 2.4%, the lowest of the dioceses where there was significant abuse. The Commission's June 2017 *Analysis of Claims* report shows 75 claims were made against the Archdiocese, with 54 payments made for a total of \$5.2 million (average \$96,000 per payment).⁸ The diocese currently has a Child Protection Unit, a Screening and Verification Authority, and a SA & NT Professional Standards Office. Each parish has a Child Safe Contact Person. The diocese has a published *Commitment Statement for Safeguarding Our Children and Young People* providing an overarching policy framework for all church agencies, parishes and communities, while the diocesan Safe Environments for All program (SEFA) implements policy and procedures, addresses gaps in practice, and enhances child abuse prevention initiatives. The diocese, with 457 other diocesan entities, is a registered participant in the National Redress Scheme as part of Australian Catholic Redress Limited.⁹ Following recommendations of the Royal Commission, the SA Parliament included ministers of religion as 'mandatory notifiers' from December 2017 under the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017*. In May 2020 the *Statutes Amendment (Mandatory Reporting) Bill 2020* (SA) was introduced which proposes to further amend the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* requiring ministers of religion to notify the civil authorities if they acquire knowledge of abuse through a religious confession.¹⁰

⁷ https://adelaide.catholic.org.au/files/f/38839/Annual%20Report%202019_Spreads.pdf

⁸ Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, *Analysis of Claims of Child Sexual Abuse Made with Respect to Catholic Church Institutions*, June 2017. <https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/CARC.0050.025.0001.pdf>

⁹ https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/institutions/search?search_api_views_fulltext=catholic+archdiocese+of+adelaide

¹⁰ SA Parliament, <https://www.parliament.sa.gov.au/Legislative-Council/Index-to-Bills-and-Acts>

Table 1: Statistical data for Adelaide Archdiocese: 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2019

	2001	2006	2011	2016	2019	Change 2001 to 2019
Total Population (at Census)	1,291,831	1,351,802	1,431,739	1,511,572		+17.0%*
Catholic Population (at Census) (% of Total)	274,302 (21.2%)	277,251 (20.5%)	289,245 (20.2%)	274,135 (18.1%)		No change* (-3.0%)*
Number of Parishes	76	67	61	56	56	-26.3%
Diocesan priests	93	80	78	70	94	+1.1%
Religious priests	74	60	65	63	73	-1.4%
Total Priests	167	140	143	133	167	No change
Priests in active parish ministry			86 (60.1%)		96 (57.5%)	+11.6%**
- Australian-born			62 (72.1%)		47 (49%)	-24.2%**
- Overseas-born			24 (27.9%)		49 (51%)	+104.2%**
Parishes with full-time resident priest			32 (54.5%)		42 (75%)	+31.3%**
Catholics per priest in parish ministry			3,363		2,855 (est.)	
Permanent deacons	4	3	7	12	15	+275%
Religious Sisters	286	255	272	241	239	-16.4%
Religious Brothers	59	47	37	39	42	-28.8%
Diocesan Seminarians	3	3	3	3	3	No change
Diocesan Pastoral Council in operation		Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Last Diocesan Synod (Diocesan Assembly)	1945	1945	1945	1945	1945 (2016)	
Diocesan Pastoral Plan in place				Yes	Yes	
Published Diocesan Annual Report				Yes	Yes	
Catholic schools	94	91	90	89	88	-6.4%
Students in Catholic schools	38,098	41,674	43,787	42,884	41,874	+9.9%
Hospitals	1	1	4	4	4	+300%
Nursing & Convalescence Homes	17	60	60	11	7	-58.8%
Regular Mass attenders (% of all Catholics)	n/a	34,085 (12.2%)	31,984 (11.0%)	28,340 (10.3%)		-16.9%*** (-1.9%)***

Sources: *Official Catholic Directory* for 2002/03, 2007/08, 2012/13, 2016/17, 2020/21. Data is accurate at 31 December of the previous year, namely, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2019; ACBC, PRO, *Mass Attendance in Australia*, September 2008; ACBC, PRO, *Mass Attendance in Australia: A Critical Moment*, December 2013; ACBC, NCPR. 2016 *National Count of Attendance – National Summary*, Pastoral Research Online, Edition 44, April 2019. Notes: * Change from 2001 to 2016; ** Change from 2011 to 2019; *** Change from 2006-2016

Sources:

Adelaide Archdiocesan website: <http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/>

The Official Directory of the Catholic Church in Australia, 2020-2021 (data is accurate at 31 December 2019)

2019 Annual Report of Diocese: https://adelaide.catholic.org.au/files/f/38839/Annual%20Report%202019_Spreads.pdf

ACBC, NCPR, *Diocesan Social Profile, Based on 2016 Australian Census: Archdiocese of Adelaide*, Canberra, September 2019.

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ACBC, NCPR, *Final Report for Phase I: Listening and Dialogue A Report to the Archdiocese of Adelaide*, Canberra, January 2020.

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Diocesan-Final-Report-Phase-1-Adelaide.pdf>

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, *Proportion of Priests and non-ordained religious subject to a claim of child sexual abuse, 1950-2020*, June 2017 (revised version) :

<https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/CARC.0050.025.0283.pdf>

Charities Commission: <https://www.acnc.gov.au/tools/topic-guides/basic-religious-charities>

Text and Table prepared by Peter J Wilkinson (December 2020)

Note: The draft profile of the Archdiocese was forwarded to Archbishop O'Regan with an invitation to correct any errors and to provide advice on any recent changes made or future plans being contemplated in relation to the recommendations in *The Light from the Southern Cross*. No response was received.