

## Know the Dioceses in 2020

### DIOCESE of BROKEN BAY

In 1986 the northern part of the territory of the Archdiocese of Sydney was excised to establish the Diocese of Broken Bay. It is one of 9 dioceses in NSW which are suffragans of the Archdiocese of Sydney, the Metropolitan See of the Province of Sydney. Its geographical area is 2,511 square kilometres.<sup>1</sup>

**Demographics:** At the 2016 Census 942,450 persons lived in the diocese, with 215,449 self-identified Catholics (22.9% of total). Since the 2001 Census (806,742 and 203,550 (25.2%)), the general population has increased by 16.8%, while the Catholic population has increased by 5.8% (+11,899). However, the percentage of Catholics in the total population is down 2.3%. In 2016 the diocese ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in Australia's Catholic population with a median age of 41 years. Australia is the birthplace of 74.9% of all Catholics, including 3,556 Indigenous Australians (1.7% of all Catholics), while the biggest groups born outside Australia are from the UK excluding Nth Ireland (3.2%), Philippines (2.4%), Italy (1.9%), Ireland and New Zealand (each 1.2%), Korea (1.1%), India, Hong Kong and Central America (each 0.8%), South Africa (0.7%), and Croatia/Former Yugoslavia, USA and Brazil (each 0.6%). The male: female ratio among Catholics is 90.6:100.

**Bishop:** The current bishop is Anthony Randazzo, born in Australia in 1966, ordained a priest for Brisbane Archdiocese in 1991, and ordained a bishop in 2016. Previously an auxiliary bishop in Sydney, he was installed as the 4<sup>th</sup> bishop of Broken Bay in 2019. A *Quinquennial Report* for the diocese for the Australian bishops' June 2019 *ad limina* visit was prepared by the then Diocesan Administrator.

**Structure and Governance:** At end-2020 the diocese had 26 parishes organised into 5 deaneries. It is one of 17 dioceses with less than 30 parishes. All parishes had a full-time resident priest (100%). The diocese has a Secretariat for Clergy, a Marriage Tribunal, and Offices for the Bishop, Safeguarding, Stewardship, Evangelisation, Communications, Vocations, and the Permanent Diaconate. It also has Diocesan Consultors and Trustees, a Council of Priests and a Diocesan Finance Council, but no Diocesan Pastoral Council. The last diocesan synod was held in 2011-2012. No diocesan assembly has ever been held. A pastoral plan is currently in formation. Diocesan policy is to encourage parish pastoral councils.

**Priests and Deacons:** At end-2020 a total of 99 priests (including 3 bishops) were residing in or belonged to the diocese: 40 diocesan and 59 religious. Just 51 (including the bishop) were active in parish ministry (17 diocesan and 34 religious) while 19 were living in retirement (including 2 bishops), 4 were ministering as full or part-time chaplains, and 1 was on loan to another diocese. At 26 August 2021 there were 51 priests (including the bishop) ministering in parishes; 20 diocesan and 31 religious. Of these 13 were Australian-born and 38 overseas-born (15 in India, 5 in Africa, 7 in Poland and 5 in Philippines, 2 in Vietnam, 2 in South Korea, 1 each in Brazil and Sri Lanka); There has been a significant turnover of priests in parish ministry in the last 10 years, and as 2 Australian-born priests ordained prior to 1980 may soon retire, there will be an increasing reliance on priests from outside Australia. The diocese has 6 permanent deacons, with 3 ministering in parishes and 1 each ministering in Filipino chaplaincy, permanent diaconate formation and Catholic Youth. There is a diocesan formation program for the permanent diaconate. Currently, there are 8 seminarians preparing for the diocesan priesthood. If only the priests actively ministering in parishes are counted, there are an estimated average 4,224 Catholics per priest.

**Lay ministers and officials:** Nineteen lay persons hold responsible positions in the diocesan curia: 4 men and 15 women. There are no lay pastoral associates or coordinators in the parishes, but 2 lay women, 1 lay man, and 1 religious brother minister as pastoral care practitioners in the local hospitals. Many male and female religious congregations minister or have a foundation in the diocese. When the diocese was established in 1986 there were 203 religious sisters and 25 religious brothers. However, since 2011 the numbers of both religious brothers and sisters have been in significant decline: brothers are down 69.7% (from 33 to 10 in 2020

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<sup>1</sup> This land area is based on the NCPR's 2016 National Census Project (called Statistical Area 1's). This is almost identical to the land area of Luxembourg (2,586 sq. Km) and slightly smaller than Hong Kong (2,755 sq. km).

and 9 in 2021) and religious sisters down 75.3% (from 154 to 38 in 2020 and 15 in 2021). At present, there are few young religious sisters and brothers in Australia.<sup>2</sup>

**Mass attendance and liturgy:** In 2006 the typical weekend Mass attendance in the diocese was 29,502 or 13.8% of all Catholics. In 2016 the typical weekend attendance was 22,586 (10.5%) – down 6,916 or -23.4%. At end-2020 each priest active in parish ministry was ministering to an estimated average 443 regular Mass attenders. The diocese does not have a dedicated office, council or commission for liturgy, but the Catholic Life and Faith Formation Team assists to create more vibrant liturgies and ATSICM aims to provide Indigenous liturgical celebrations.

**Seminary and Seminarians:** At August 2021 there were 8 seminarians preparing for the diocesan priesthood. Six were living at the Good Shepherd Seminary in Sydney and 2 were on parish pastoral appointments in mutual discernment with the diocese. Three transitional deacons who will be ordained to the diocesan priesthood in October 2021. For many years the diocese had no seminarians, with the last priestly ordination in 2013. In May 2021 the Bishop opened Joseph House, a house of discernment for young men in the diocese where a vocational culture – to the priesthood, marriage, religious or single life – can be encouraged. The bishop plans to develop the model for a house of discernment for women.<sup>3</sup>

**Pastoral ministries:** Most pastoral ministry takes place in the parishes where Catholics have their principal experience of church. The Bishop's pastoral priorities are parish renewal and discipleship and has established Evangelisation Broken Bay with 4 Teams: 1) Parish Renewal and Discipleship works with the parishes, their pastoral councils, teams, ministry groups and faith communities to help them move towards a more missionary approach: sharing the good news with the church, the unchurched and the lost, forming small community groups, prioritising faith formation, and inviting everyone to share their gifts in active ministry. It aims to transform parish culture through renewal planning, evangelisation formation, and outreach programs; 2) Catholic Youth Broken Bay (CYBB) gathers, evangelises and sends by promoting a culture of discipleship, drawing young people into missionary faith communities, and empowering them to live as disciples in the world. It also provides resources and training to school-aged youth, and links with national and international gatherings; 3) Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) delivering quality Special Religious Education to Catholic students in State Government schools through its catechists; and 4) Life Marriage and Family promotes and fosters all aspects of marriage and family life to enhance the quality of family life and assist those who struggle as well as looking to uphold the dignity of the human person through social justice, ecology and life issues. Evangelisation Broken Bay also works with the Catholic Schools Broken Bay and CatholicCare Broken Bay to develop a culture of evangelisation, to better connect schools and parishes, to facilitate united responses to contemporary issues, and to ensure continuity of care for all people in the diocese. Since 2010 the diocese has had a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Ministry (ATSICM) to provide the Indigenous people with a voice. It aims to develop local leadership and ministries, guide the ministry team, educate the wider community about Indigenous history and culture, provide culturally appropriate faith expression and liturgical celebrations, promote and celebrate Indigenous Catholic identity, promote reconciliation, and provide a place of belonging and welcome for the wider community. The diocese has special ministries for children, men, and women,<sup>4</sup> chaplaincies for the Korean and Filipino communities, and a strong commitment on social justice issues, ecumenism,<sup>5</sup> and inter-faith relations.

**Plenary Council:** A total of 16,820 persons – 587 as individuals (56% women and 33% men) and 16,233 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 celibacy/allowing priests to marry; greater role for women; new

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<sup>2</sup> A 2015 study of 93 religious congregations of men and women, with a total membership of 4,427, representing 64 per cent of all religious in Australia, found that only 4% of the women and 11% of the men in the participating congregations were aged under-45 years at the time of the survey. <https://ncpr.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CVMA-Report-Final-report-Feb-2018.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [www.bbcatholic.org.au/josephhouse](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/josephhouse)

<sup>4</sup> Catechesis Of The Good Shepherd - Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay ([www.bbcatholic.org.au](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au))

<sup>5</sup> The Diocese of Broken Bay is a signatory to the Tri-Diocesan Covenant between the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle, and the Catholic Dioceses of Broken Bay and Maitland-Newcastle.

model of church, diocese & parish; outreach to youth; greater emphasis on prayer & sacraments; sharing the faith with others. Seven persons were selected from Broken Bay for the Discernment and Writing Groups (2 clerics, 1 religious sister and 4 lay persons), and 5 persons have been called to participate in the Council sessions as members: the Bishop, Vicar General, and 3 lay persons (Mrs Alison Newell, Mr Dharmaraj Rajasigam and Mr Daniel Casey). The diocesan website provides accurate up-to-date information of the Council.

**Education:** At end-2020 the diocese had 53 Catholic schools: 36 primary, 11 secondary, 4 combined and 2 special (for children with physical and intellectual disabilities). They were educating 24,273 students: 11,178 primary and 13,094 secondary. Among the 53 lay school principals 27 are women (50.9%). Of the Catholic children of primary school age in 2016, 43.2% were attending Catholic primary schools, while of those of secondary school age, 53.7% were attending Catholic secondary schools.<sup>6</sup> Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) oversees the management of 44 schools (36 primary schools and 8 high schools) and approximately 15,000 students. Besides the schools' teaching staff CSBB employs a further 120 staff for evangelisation and catechesis, student achievement, governance, capability and enablement, human resources, finances, and infrastructure and facilities. Each bishop has responsibility for the Catholic School Agency (CSA) in his own diocese but CSBB has representatives on the Catholic Schools New South Wales Ltd (CSNSW), the approved System Authority which coordinates and represents Catholic education in NSW and the ACT at a state level. CSNSW receives and distributes government funding to diocesan Catholic schools for their day-to-day operations and capital works, ensures schools and agencies are government-compliant, provides policy advice and direction, reports to the Bishops, fosters resource collaboration and efficiency, and promotes and advocates Catholic education in NSW. In 2020 the NSW Catholic school system received \$2.8 billion in lump sum grants from State and federal governments, which CSNSW allocated to the 11 dioceses according to a transparent and publicly available 'needs-based' model. The separate dioceses allocate the funds on their own 'needs-based' model to individual schools. The *2019 Combined Special Purpose Financial Report for the Broken Bay Diocesan Catholic School System* published on the ACNC website shows annual income for the diocese's 44 systemic schools as \$258.1 million including \$179.1 million in government grants, and total net assets of \$291.2 million.<sup>7</sup> The Broken Bay Institute – The Australian Institute of Theological Education (BBI-TAITE) is located in the diocese, but is not connected with the diocese in any way. It provides a wide range of tertiary courses in theology, governance and canon law, religious education, and leadership.<sup>8</sup>

**Health and Welfare Services:** CatholicCare Broken Bay is the principal diocesan agency providing welfare services since 1987 to more than 26,000 people in the local region regardless of their circumstances, religion, ethnicity, age, gender or ability. Its wide range of services include those for families, young people and children, including early learning and children in need of foster care, for seniors, for people with disabilities, and those suffering from family and domestic violence and homelessness. Its service area crosses three Aboriginal Nations – Darkinjung, Gurringai and Darug - and it makes a special effort to treat the Indigenous people with equity, dignity and respect and employs 19 Aboriginal staff. It is also committed to reconciliation and has a Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) endorsed by Reconciliation Australia, actively monitored and in the process of being updated. The St Vincent de Paul Society also provides a range of services including a hostel for men, emergency youth accommodation, a youth drop-in centre. There are no Catholic hospitals in the diocese, but the diocese provides 8 chaplains and pastoral care practitioners to the principal local public hospitals. Since 1996 the proportion of Catholics aged 65 years in the diocese has increased from 12.4% to 17.6% in 2016. Catholic Health Care and Southern Cross Care each operate 2 accommodation facilities in the diocese and Stocklands one, with a Catholic chapel. Priests in the parishes provide frequent Masses and other sacraments to residents in the accommodation facilities.

**Finances:** The diocese is registered with the Charities Commission (ACNC) as The Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay and Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Broken Bay. 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. The diocese does not publish an annual financial report for its activities. Also registered with the ACNC are several other diocesan entities including CatholicCare, the Catholic Development Fund (CDF) and Catholic Schools Broken Bay. The CDF is the treasury for the diocese and

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<sup>6</sup> [Broken-Bay\\_2016-Diocesan-Profile.pdf \(catholic.org.au\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> Microsoft Word - Combined Financial Statements 2019 vARC.docx (windows.net)

<sup>8</sup> BBI – TAITE

its agencies, including its schools, parishes, CatholicCare, and diocesan curia. It funds capital works and delivers a surplus to offset recurrent expenditure on religious, charitable and educational services. The CDF's 2020 Annual Financial Report shows total assets of \$202.1 million (with deposits of \$190.4 million) and net assets of \$8.6 million. Loans to diocesan entities totalled \$119.7 million.<sup>9</sup>

**Communications:** The diocese has a website and publishes *The Broken Bay News*, a quarterly print and online magazine keeping Catholics informed about a wide range of local, national, and international events and issues that affect their lives. It is the official publication of the Broken Bay Diocese to over 10,500 Catholic families linked to parishes, schools and agencies. It also publishes almost daily news and updates. The diocese has Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube pages.

**Safeguarding and Child Sexual Abuse:** The Royal Commission's statistical report did not include the diocese as a significant setting of abuse. However, in its June 2017 *Analysis of Claims* report it notes 16 claims were made against the Diocese, with 7 payments made for a total of \$595,720 (average \$85,103 per payment).<sup>10</sup> The diocese has an Office for Safeguarding with a designated director and a Statement of Commitment to Safeguarding children and vulnerable people which calls on everyone to take responsibility. Each year in September a special liturgy is celebrated to recall past abuse and care for the future, and other events are held to highlight the importance of safeguarding. The diocesan website publishes several relevant documents and videos, important information on redress and support groups, as well as a Code of Conduct for employees and volunteers. While the diocese currently follows the *Towards Healing* protocol, during 2021 it will transition to the new National Response Protocol adopted by the ACBC in November 2020.<sup>11</sup> The diocese, with 644 other diocesan entities, is a registered participant in the National Redress Scheme as part of Australian Catholic Redress Limited.<sup>12</sup>

**Table 1: Statistical data for Broken Bay Diocese: 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2020 and 2021**

	2001	2006	2011	2016	2020	2021 at 26 August	Change 2001 to 2020
Total Population (at Census)	806,742	840,241	887,195	942,450			+16.8%*
Catholic Population (at Census) (%)	203,550 (25.2%)	213,285 (22.7%)	223,240 (22.5%)	215,449 (22.9%)			+11,899* +5.8%*
Number of Parishes	39	40	26	26	26	26	-33.3%
Diocesan priests	51	50	45	37	40	41	-21.6%
Religious priests	61	119	75	72	59	76	-3.3%
Total Priests	112	169	120	109	99	99	-11.6%
Priests in active parish ministry			70 (58.3%)		51 (51.5%)	51 (51.5%)	-27.1%**
- Australian-born			32 (45.7%)		14 (27.5%)	13 (24.1%)	-59.4%**
- Overseas-born			38 (54.3%)		37 (72.5%)	38 (75.9%)	+7.9%**
Parishes with full-time resident priest			24 (92.3%)		26 (100%)	26 (100%)	+8.3%**
Catholics per priest in parish ministry			3,189		4,224 (est.)		
Permanent deacons	0	3	5	6	7	6	+700%
Religious Sisters	154	0	63	48	30	15	-80.5%
Religious Brothers	33	0	14	9	10	9	-39.4%
Diocesan Seminarians	0	0	0	1	9	8	+900%
Diocesan Pastoral Council in operation		No	No	No	No	No	
Last Diocesan Synod (Diocesan Assembly)	(Never)	(Never)	2011-2012 (Never)	2011-2012 (Never)	2011-2012 (Never)	2011-2012 (Never)	
Diocesan Pastoral Plan in place						In formation	
Catholic schools	51	52	52	53	53		+3.9%
Students in Catholic schools	21,177	22,703	24,263	25,708	24,352		+15.0%
Hospitals	0	0	0	0	0		No change
Nursing & Convalescence Homes	10?	7?	13 ?	5	5	5	
Regular Mass attenders (% of all Catholics)	n/a	29,502 (13.8%)	25,532 (11.4%)	22,596 (10.5%)			-6,916*** -23.4%***

<sup>9</sup> 2020 Broken Bay CDF Audited Accounts (PDF 663.8KB)

<sup>10</sup> 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>

<sup>11</sup> file (catholic.org.au)

<sup>12</sup> Search for institutions that have joined the Scheme | National Redress Scheme

Sources: *Official Catholic Directory* for 2002/03, 2007/08, 2012/13, 2016/17, 2020/21, 2021/22. Data is accurate at 31 December of the previous year, namely, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2019 and 2020; 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 2006 to 2020; \*\*\* Change from 2006-2016; the Diocese questioned some data on 'Nursing and Convalescence Homes (for the elderly).'

### Sources:

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Text and table prepared by Peter J Wilkinson (August 2021)

Note: The draft profile of the Diocese were forwarded to Bishop Randazzo 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*. Several corrections and updates were provided in the response and these have all been incorporated into the text and table.