



30 July 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

IDENTIFYING AS CATHOLICS IN THE 2026 CENSUS

As you may be aware, Australia will undertake the national Census this August. This important event provides an opportunity for every person to be counted and for our communities to be better understood and served.

In recent years, some groups have encouraged Australians to identify with a religion only if they are actively practicing, suggesting that those who are less engaged should instead select "No Religion."

As Catholics, we know that the journey of faith is often personal and, at times, complex. While our practice of the faith may vary throughout different seasons of life, many people continue to identify as Catholic because it remains a fundamental part of who they are. Research consistently shows that many Australians who may not attend Mass regularly still regard their Catholic faith as an important part of their identity.

For this reason, I encourage you, when completing your Census, to identify your religion as Catholic if you feel this reflects your faith and identity.

Selecting "Catholic" in the Census is more than a statistical exercise. It helps ensure that the presence and needs of the Catholic community are recognised within Australian society. Census information is used by governments, researchers and community organisations to:

- Plan schools, hospitals and community services;
- Inform the allocation of resources and funding; and
- Better understand the spiritual, cultural and social life of our nation.

An accurate picture of the Catholic community strengthens the Church's ability to advocate for the needs of our people and to continue serving communities across Australia.

Every person who identifies as Catholic helps tell the story of the Church's continuing presence and mission in Australia. Your response contributes to a clearer understanding of the Catholic community, enabling the Church to better serve those in need, support families, educate future generations, and continue proclaiming the hope of the Gospel with confidence.

VERY REV DR DAVID RANSON DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY

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The Census will be conducted in August, and every household will receive information about how to complete it, either online or by paper form.

I encourage you to take a few moments to complete the Census prayerfully and accurately. Thank you for your participation and for the many ways you contribute to the life of our parish and the wider community.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your families.

Very Rev Dr David Ranson
Diocesan Administrator of Broken Bay