

## **Vox Populi**

24 January 2024

The social profiles of 1230 Catholic parishes across Australia have been published in a report by the National Centre for Pastoral Research.

The profiles draw on data captured in the 2021 Australian Census. Information provided includes statistics on a range of demographic measures, including age, sex, country of birth, family and household composition, type of educational institutions attended, language spoken at home, occupations, income levels and employment status.

The Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research believes the information will be a valuable tool to help parishes understand their local communities.

Where possible, the statistics in the 2021 parish profiles have been compared with 2016 data. Next data will not be available until 2028.

The National Centre for Pastoral Research Broken Bay Parish Profiles are available at [2021 Parish Social Profiles - Broken Bay | National Centre for Pastoral Research \(catholic.org.au\)](https://www.catholic.org.au/national-centre-for-pastoral-research/broken-bay-parish-profiles)

Our Diocese has also been gathering information to assess the needs of our communities and assist in parish and Diocesan planning.

In early 2022, Bishop Anthony Randazzo initiated the Pastoral Discernment Central Coast (PDCC) project, inviting people in the region to come together through listening and dialogue sessions to discuss the circumstances and needs of the Central Coast.

In the spirit of synodality, the purpose of this process was to develop more effective strategies for not only evangelisation and pastoral life in the area but practical needs.

The PDCC final report can be found [here](#).

However, a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Anthony on the PDCC project outlining each key outcome and response will be available in every parish by the beginning of February.

Prior to Christmas, Bishop Anthony wrote to the community of the Northern Beaches inviting them to engage in a Pastoral Discernment project for their region. Pastoral Discernment Northern Beaches will be a major strategic pastoral initiative facilitated by the Diocesan Director of Pastoral Discernment and Accompaniment, Patti Beattie.

This initiative will assist the continuing conversation as we approach the second session of the Synod of Bishops in October.

More on Pastoral Discernment Northern Beaches in the coming weeks!