



This presentation  
can be downloaded  
from the Parish Web Site  
{ [cg.org.au/watson](http://cg.org.au/watson) }  
(In 'Special Notices')

# **Blackfriars Parish Watson**

## **Social Profile & its Relevance to Evangelisation**

# What information is already 'out there' ?

**Holy Rosary Mass numbers surveys**

**Data on parishioner involvement in Parish activities**

**National Centre for Pastoral Research:** Detailed analyses of census data

- <https://ncpr.catholic.org.au/2016-parish-social-profiles/canberra-goulburn/>

**Numerous Research Reports for the Catholic Bishops Conference e.g.:**

- Australian Catholic Bishops' Youth Survey
- What do Mass attenders believe?
- Catholics who have ceased attending Mass

**National Church Life Survey:** Held every 5 years and addresses topics such as:

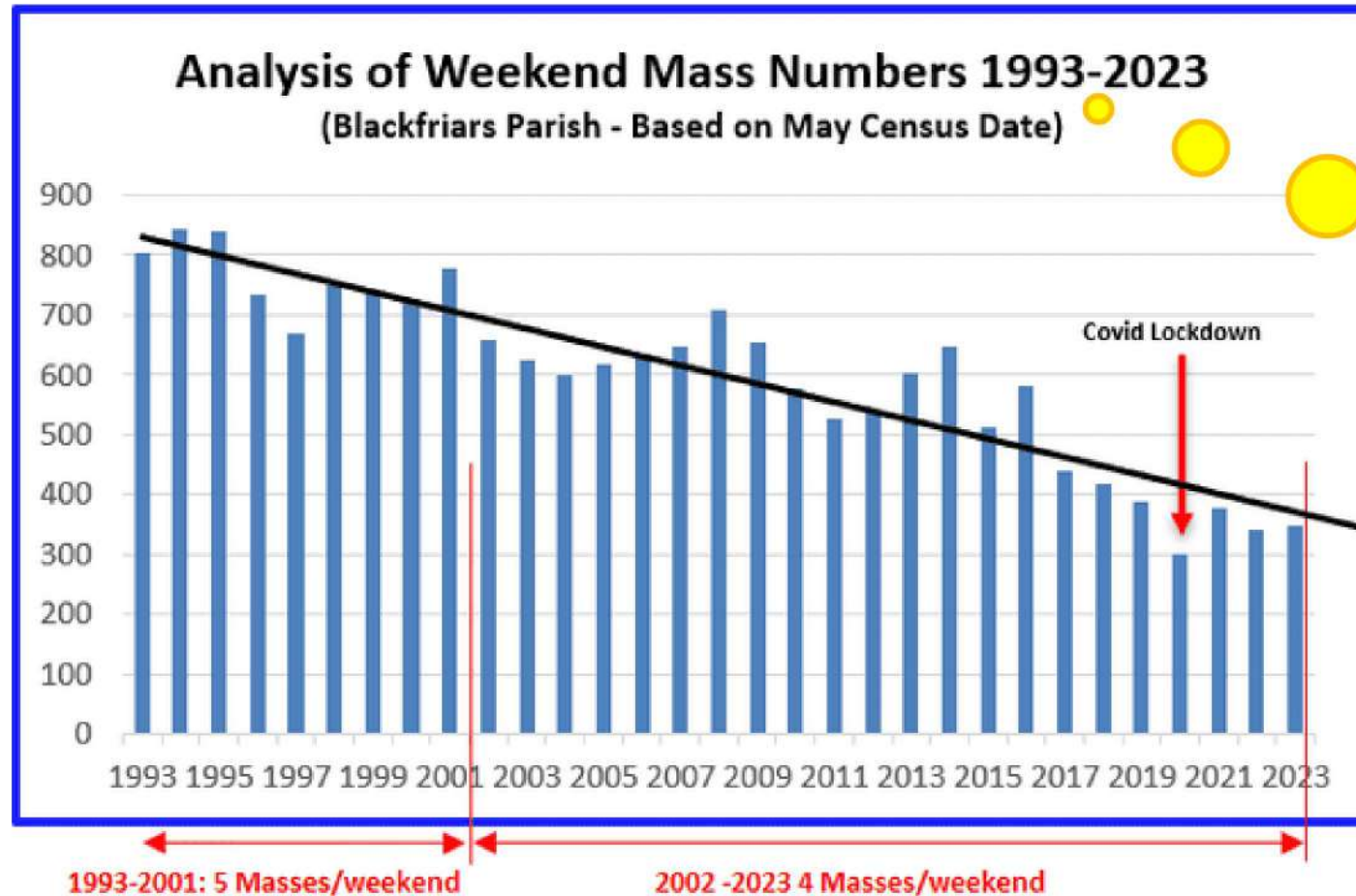
- What People Value and Prioritise
- People's Gifts and Skills
- How People Relate to God
- How People Relate to Each Other
- How People Relate to the Wider Community



Copy of this presentation can be downloaded from the Parish Web Site { [cg.org.au/watson](https://www.catholic.org.au/watson) } (In 'Special Notices')



# Sunday Mass Numbers 1993-2023



Over these 30 years:

- ☐ Catchment population more than doubled
- ☐ Mass attendance has fallen 60%

# Falling Mass numbers are due to

## ■ People rejecting the Church ... No longer identifying as 'Catholic'

- 1991 census, 31.0% of ACT population identified as Catholic
- 2011 census, 21.4% of the Watson population identified as Catholic
- 2021 census, 14.5% of the Watson population identified as Catholic

## ■ Fall in Mass attendance by those who still identify as Catholic

- 2006, 26% of Watson 'Catholics' attended mass in 2006
- 2011, 25.3% of Watson 'Catholics' attended Sunday Mass regularly
- 2016, 22.6 % of Watson 'Catholics' attended Sunday Mass regularly
- 2021, 19.6% of Watson 'Catholics' attended Sunday Mass regularly

## ■ Implication for Evangelisation in Watson

- There are about **900+** people who had identified as Catholic within the past decade, but no longer do so
- And about **1300** people who identify as Catholic but don't attend Mass
- You are not engaging in dialogue with someone who doesn't speak your 'language'

# Blackfriars Parishioners – The Good News

## **A vibrant Parish - Very high levels of parishioner involvement**

- There are about 330 Mass goers ... roughly 300 adults
- About 170 adults actively involved in parish activities over the past 3 years, e.g.:
  - ALPHA & Divine Renovations
  - Advent & Lenten Discussion Groups in past 4 years
  - Archdiocesan Ministry (e.g., Ministry to the Newly Married, Marriage ALPHA)
  - Ecumenical Groups (Christian Economists, Nativity Festival, Prayer for Christian Unity, etc.)
  - Lay Ecclesial Movements (e.g., Dominican Laity, Teams, Focolare, Chemin Neuf, St Vincent de Paul)
  - Parish Ministry (e.g., Acolyte, Lector, Music Ministry, Catechists)
  - Parish Workers (e.g., Church/Grounds Maintenance, Office support, Flowers, Washing Altar Linens)
  - Parish Pastoral Council & Parish Renewal Team
- Many parishioners are involved in 2 or more ministries

**A fantastic base to start from**



# Parish Ministry, Social & Fellowship Groups

## *in a vibrant parish*

### *Parish Social & Fellowship Groups*

Craft Group  
Cards for Fun Group  
Luncheon Group

### *Parish Ministries*

Acolytes & Lectors  
Mass projectionist Ministry  
Emergency Ministers of the Eucharist  
Presentation of Offertory Gifts Ministry  
Music Ministry  
Liturgy Committee & Altar Society  
Welcoming Ministry & After Mass Coffee/Tea/Sausage Sizzle Ministry  
Church & Building Maintenance Teams  
Parish Office Support  
etc

### *Parish Prayer, Meditation & Faith Education Groups*

Catechetics (Parish School of Religion)  
Dominican Library  
Blackfriars Meditation Group  
Holy Mary Mother of God Prayer Group  
Pray the Rosary Group  
Weekly Reader Formation  
Parish Lenten & Advent Discussion Groups

### *Parish Groups & Ecclesial Movements which are well established*

St Vincent de Paul  
Dominican Laity  
Christian Meditation  
Music Ministry  
Etc.

### *Ecclesial Movements / Groups which have members in Blackfriars Parish*

Teams – Equipe Notre Dame  
Focolare Movement (Work of Mary)  
L'Arche  
Chemin Neuf  
Ministry to the Newly Married  
(list not exclusive)

### *Leadership, Evangelisation & Ecumenical*

Parish Pastoral Council  
Parish Renewal Team  
Parish ALPHA Team  
Christmas Nativity Expo Team  
Christian Economists Group  
Ecumenical Fellowship Groups  
Archdiocesan Ministries

# National Centre for Pastoral Research

Detailed analyses of census data

<https://ncpr.catholic.org.au/>



# Census Data: 2011 → 2016 → 2021

Allows us to see trends over time

---

- Snapshot
- Family profile
- Ethnic profile
- School profile
- Disability profile



# Census Snapshot for Watson Parish

	2011	2016	2021	Comment
<b>Total population</b>	<b>11,168</b>	<b>11,744</b>	<b>13,303</b>	20% increase
Catholic population	2,391	1,920	1,925	20% decrease
Catholics as % of population	21.4	16.3	14.5	32.4% decrease in numbers professing the Faith
At same address as previous census	56.8	58.0	56.4	About 8% turnover each year
Catholics aged 0-14 (%)	17.3	19.4	19.3	Stable
Catholics aged 65+ (%)	19.7	19.9	19.5	Stable
Catholics born in Non-English Speaking Countries (%)	17.2	17.3	14.2	Reflects fall in overseas students during Covid ?
Catholic families	876	728	727	17% decrease
Catholics living alone	288	248	255	13% of Catholic population
Males per 100 females	88.3	81.1	78.8	Men deserting Church faster than women
Severe disability - need assistance with core activities (%)	5.1	5.5	6.1	Over 20% of our Catholic community in Watson have a severe disability or are a carer. Are these people even on our horizon.
Provide unpaid assistance to persons with disability (%)	12.6	12.6	14.9	
Catholic students attending Catholic schools (%)	54.2	65.6	57.7	
Catholics with university degree (%)	35.4	40.6	45.2	
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling (%)	64.6	65.2	73	Watson Catholic families are roughly 30% better off than Australian families as a whole
Median Family Incomes (at least 1 partner Catholic)	\$121,000	\$140,000	\$175,000	

There are **1,300** former Catholics we can reach out to

This high turnover (80 parishioners every 3 years) → ongoing need for renewal

Do we cater for the **250** Catholics living alone?

Do we cater for the **400** Catholics impacted by severe disability?

Parish Profile presentation (pdf file) can be downloaded from { [cg.org.au/Watson](https://cg.org.au/Watson) }

# Family Profile of Watson Parish

(Major implications for Outreach & Evangelisation)

Families or households in which at least one partner is Catholic	Blackfriar's Parish Watson			Australia	NCLS
	2011	2016	2021	2021	2016
Total Number of Families	876	728	727		% Attend Mass
	% of all families				
Married	45.8%	49.3%	45.2%	49.3%	63.0%
De facto relationship	20.4%	19.3%	18.0%	17.7%	4.0%
Divorced or separated	10.7%	9.6%	11.6%	11.7%	8.0%
Widowed	6.2%	6.5%	7.0%	6.1%	10.0%
Never married (excluding 'de facto')	16.9%	15.3%	18.2%	15.2%	15.0%
Inter-Church Families (only one partner is Catholic)	58.7%	58.7%	63.7%	58.1%	
Single Parent Families	10.3%	9.8%	12.5%	11.3%	

## Parish profile mirrors Australian society

- Fall in number of Catholic families due to abandoning the faith (they no longer identify as 'Catholic')
- Perceived Church attitude to sexuality a major cause

De facto & divorced families less likely attend Mass ... feel unwelcome ... Pope Francis emphasises 'Mercy'!

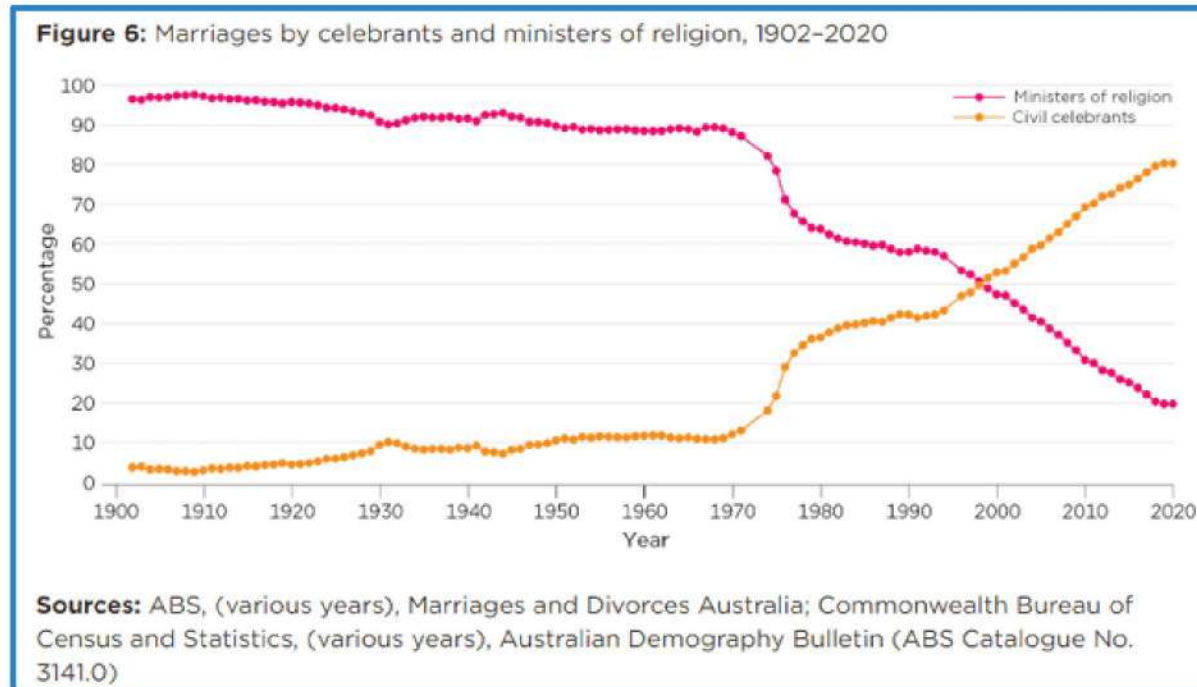
90% of 'singles' are over 35 years, 68% live alone

All Parish activities should have ecumenical focus, lest both partners reject faith in Christ



# Decrease in Religious Weddings

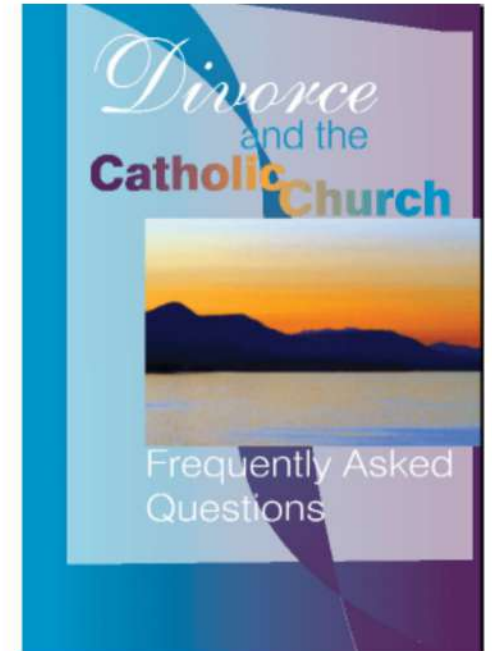
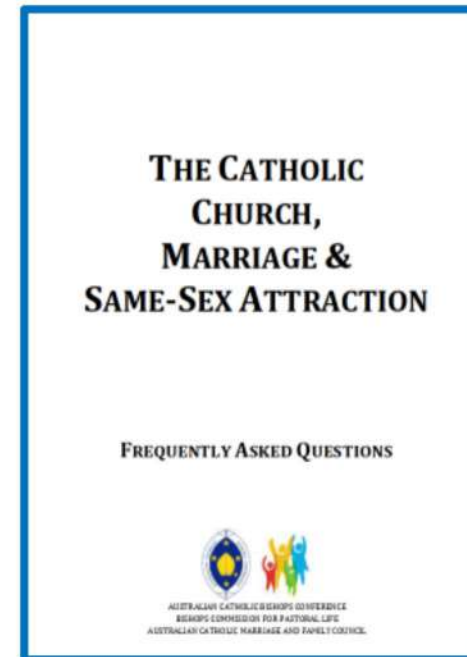
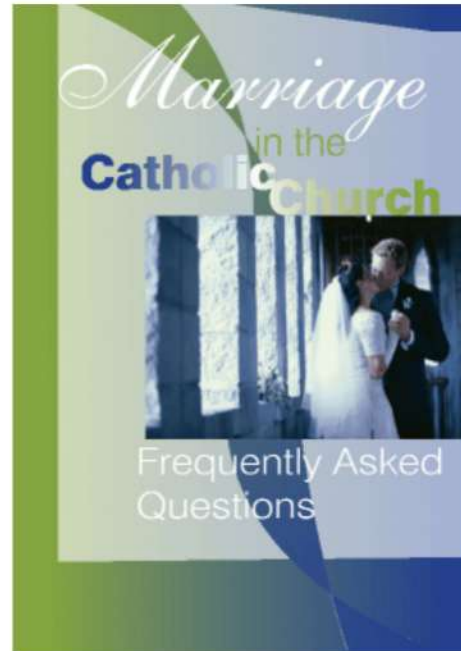
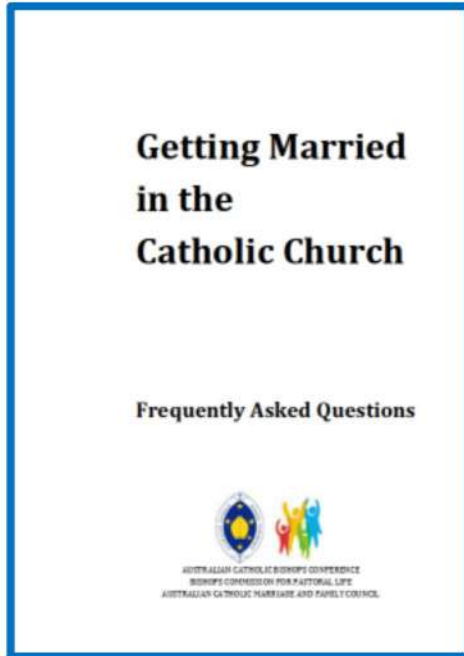
ABS 'Marriages and Divorces in Australia' (various years)



- Only 20% of marriages are 'Church Weddings'
  - Preparation for marriage used to be a key for opportunity for evangelisation
  - Now that possibility is disappearing
- Points to continuing falls in Mass attendance
- Emphasises need for evangelisation programs at a Parish level
  - like Marriage ALPHA
  - Ministry to the Newly Married



# Authoritative Resources on Marriage



**Download from:** Australian Catholic Marriage & Family Council *(an advisory to the Australian Catholic Bishops)*

<https://www.acmfc.org.au/publications/>

<https://www.acmfc.org.au/publications/>

# Ethnic Profile - Countries of Origin

Birthplace, Indigenous Status & Language	2011	2016	2021
Born overseas in English-speaking country %	5.4%	5.6%	5.2%
Born overseas in non-English-speaking country (%)	17.2%	17.3%	14.2%
Speak language other than English at home (%)	17.5%	19.4%	16.3%
Not proficient in English (%)	1.6%	2.4%	1.4%
Immigrants from non-English-speaking countries arriving in Census year or previous 3 years	55	66	17
Catholics of Australian Indigenous origin	39	37	58

These parishioners seem to be absent from our pastoral & decision-making structures

One Filipino is worth 3.3 Anglos ...

Comparative Mass Attendance	% Watson Population	% of Rosary Mass Goers	Rate of Mass Attendance c.f. Australian born
Australian born Catholics	70.3%	56.9%	
Filipino born Catholics	3.8%	10.2%	3.3
Indian & Sri Lankan born Catholics	1.8%	5.5%	3.8
Vietnamese born Catholics	1.0%	3.8%	4.7
African (excl. Sth Africa) born Catholics	0.4%	1.2%	3.7
Other Asian (excl. Hong Kong & Sth Korea)	1.3%	4.3%	4.1

# Parishioners with a Disability @ Blackfriars

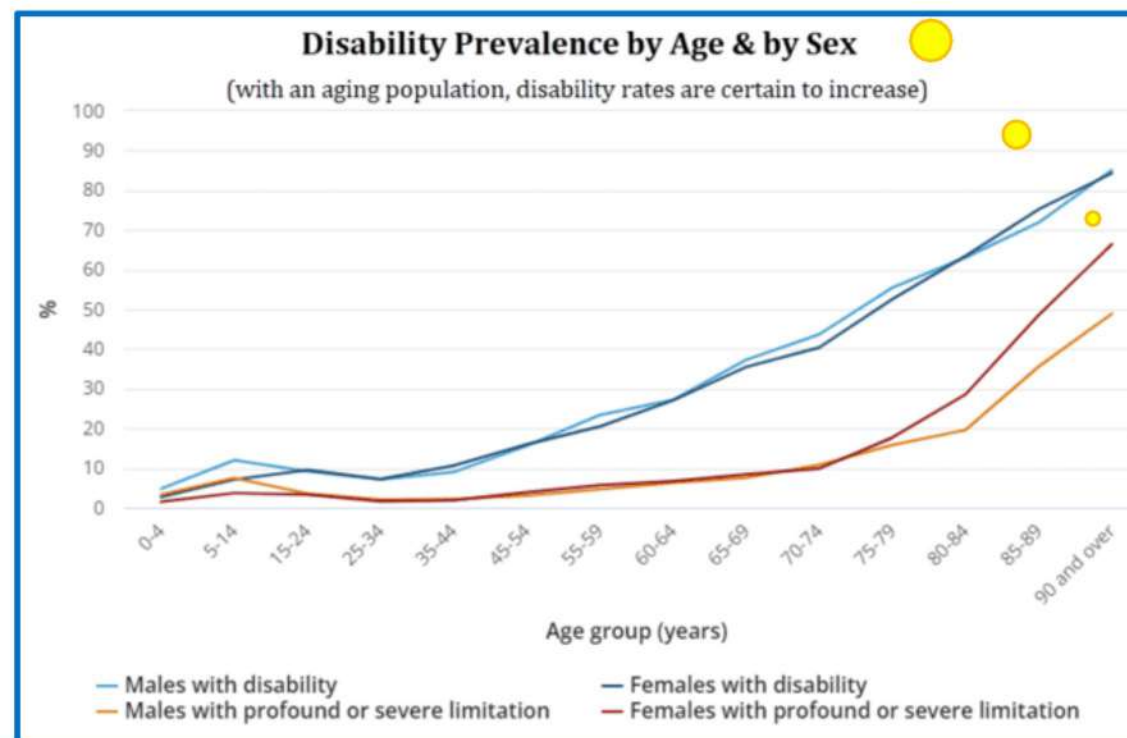
Disability	2011	2016	2021	Australia 2021
Need assistance with core activities (%)	5.1%	5.5%	6.1%	6.7%
Provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability (% of Catholics aged 15+)	12.6%	12.6%	14.9%	13.5%

NOTE: This table refers to severe disability where the person needs help or assistance with self-care, communication or mobility.

Based on ACT wide data, a further **8%** of parishioners are likely to have physical or intellectual disabilities that affect their daily lives.

Have we really tried to make Blackfriars Parish 'Disability Welcoming'?

Already 20% of parishioners are over 65. As our parish ages, numbers with serious disability will rise





# Australian Catholic Disability Resources

 **Catholic Australia**

BISHOPS CONFERENCE

## Key Documents - Disability Projects Office

### International Day of People with Disability

- Tips for celebrating the day (PDF 50kb)
- Prayer for the 2021 International Day of People with Disability (PDF 364kb)
- Prayer Service for the International Day of People with Disability (PDF 443kb)
- Pope Francis' Message 2021 (PDF 197kb)
- #IamChurch campaign (External site)
- Liturgy Notes (PDF 68kb)

### Celebrating the Sacramental Life from Birth to Death

- Celebrating the Sacramental Life from Birth to Death
- Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with People with Disability (PDF 269kb)

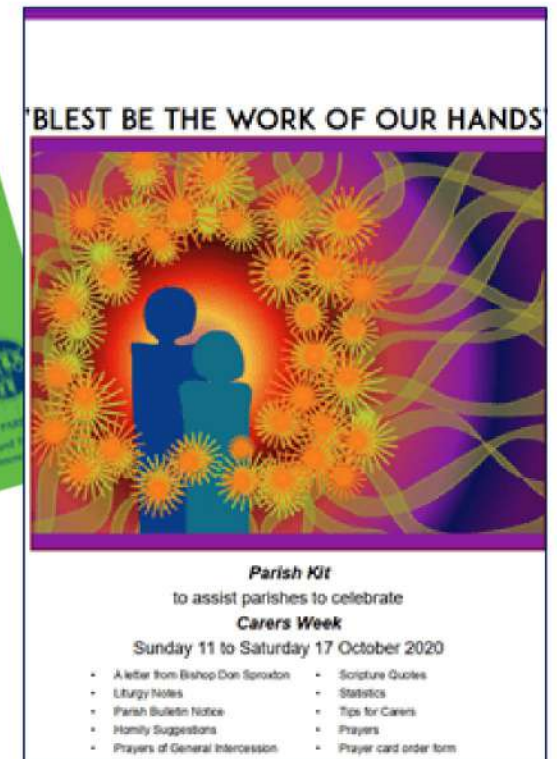
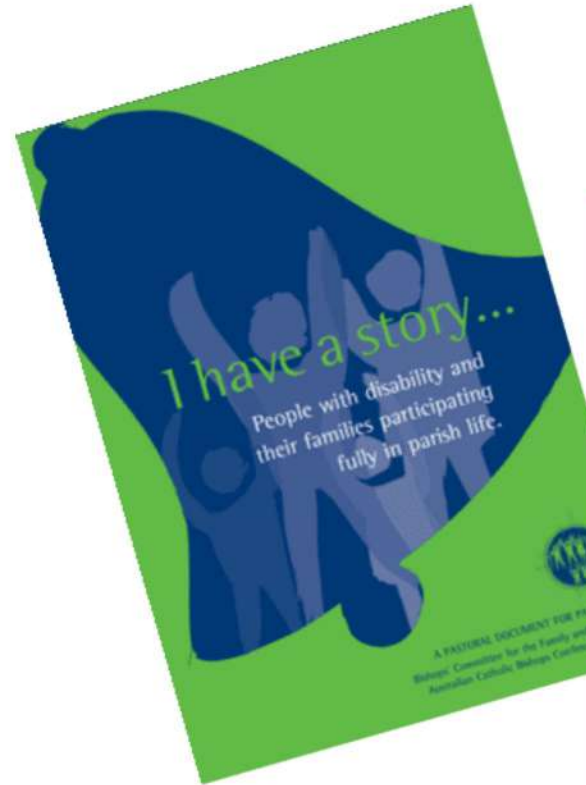
### Carers Week 2020

- Carers Kit (PDF 2.8mb)
- Carers Prayer Card (PDF 553kb)

### Mental Health Awareness 2017

- ACBC Disability - Mental Health Card (PDF 487kb)
- Mental Health Parish Kit (PDF 760kb)
- Mental Health Tips For Parishes (PDF 689kb)
- Mental Illness and Outreach. Guidelines for Parishes (PDF 19mb)

<https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Key-Documents-Disability-Projects-Office>



# Catholic Schooling Profiles

Primary & Secondary Schools	2011	2016	2021	Australia 2021
Catholic primary students attending Catholic schools (%)	53.2	62.4	61.7	55.5
Catholic primary students attending Government schools (%)	37.1	29.1	30.6	38.4
Catholic secondary students attending Catholic schools (%)	55.4	70.4	52.3	55.3
Catholic secondary students attending Government schools (%)	36.5	26.4	37.9	33.4
Primary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic (%)	26.7	29.3	32.4	36.6
Secondary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic (%)	34.4	32.8	37.2	41.3

The Parish School of Religion sees only 5 to 8 of these 56 children each year

## ECUMENICAL IMPLICATION

In accepting 60+ non-Catholic students, we implicitly accept responsibility to support their faith journey

- Issues Covered
- Results Dashboard
- Core Qualities Revealed About Our Parish
- Parishioners' Priorities
- Beliefs profile (Australia-wide NCLS Survey - 2014)
- Youth profile (Australia-wide Bishops Conference Survey 2017)
- Attitudes Towards Evangelisation

Blackfriars missed the 2021 NCLS.  
However, the basic trends  
& the Implications for  
Parish life still hold



# NCLS: 60 Issues Across 9 Topics

## **The People of this Church**

- Age
- Gender
- Education
- Marital status
- Employment
- Country of birth
- Country of birth - Mother
- Country of birth - Father
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- Language spoken at home
- Church background
- Frequency of attendance
- Length of time attending
- Lives in this parish

## **What People Value and Prioritise**

- What we value
- What should get priority in next 12 months

## **People's Gifts and Skills**

- Our gifts and skills
- Are gifts and skills used well
- Preferred levels of involvement

## **How People Relate to God**

- Growth in faith
- Private devotional life
- Importance of God
- Preaching helpful
- Music appreciated
- Sense of God's presence
- Growth in understanding of God
- Challenged to take action

## **How People Relate to Each Other**

- Sense of belonging
- Involvement in church group activities
- Welcome of new arrivals
- Ease of making friends
- Follow up of those drifting away
- Satisfaction with what is offered for own age
- Satisfaction with what is offered for children aged under 12 years
- Satisfaction with what is offered for youth aged 12-18 years
- Being Catholic an important part of who I am

## **How People Relate to the Wider Community**

- Involvement in church activities that reach out to wider community
- Involvement in community service/action beyond the church
- Informal ways of helping people
- Readiness to share faith
- Inviting others to church
- Leaders keep a focus on the community
- Caring for the earth

## **Vision, Innovation and Leadership Culture**

- Clear and owned vision
- Confidence in church to achieve vision
- Leadership and ministry roles
- Formal roles in the Church
- Priest's style of celebration
- Leaders encourage gifts and skills
- Leader takes account of ideas
- Leaders inspire to action
- Leaders encourage innovation
- Church ready to try something new
- Support for new initiatives
- Clear systems for operating

# 2016 NCLS Results Dashboard

Watson Parish  
Denomination: Catholic

50% of all  
Mass  
goers

Roughly 165 of  
these 343  
would still be  
parishioners  
in 2024

## Who Took Part?

These results are based on 322 adult attenders aged 15 years and over and 21 children\* aged 8 to 14 who completed the 2016 National Church Life Survey at our church.

*NB: If fewer than 10 child surveys returned, no results displayed.*

## Our Gifts and Skills

- Communication 29%
- Education 25%
- Don't know 22%
- Leadership/Management 21%



## How We Relate to God

- Growth in faith over last year 32%
- Private devotions at least weekly 68%
- God is most important reality 44%
- Worship challenges me to act 39%



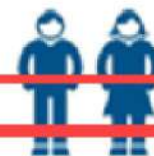
## How We Relate to Community

- Volunteer in community activity 16%
- Helped others in 3 or more ways 65%
- Feel at ease sharing faith with others 63%
- Serve in welfare or justice activity 43%



## Our People

- Average age 58 years
- Female 61% Male 39%
- Tertiary education 58%
- Non-English speaking background 30%



## What We Value and Prioritise

- Value: Celebrating the Eucharist 63%
- Value: Traditional style of worship or music 32%
- Prioritise: Strong sense of community 26%
- Prioritise: Supporting social justice and aid 25%

## How We Relate to Each Other

- Strong sense of belonging 65%
- Easy to make friends 58%
- Involved in small groups 7%
- Satisfied with children's activities 41%



## Our Vision and Leadership

- Aware and strongly committed to vision 8%
- Ready to try something new 38%
- Leaders help us use our gifts/skills 27%

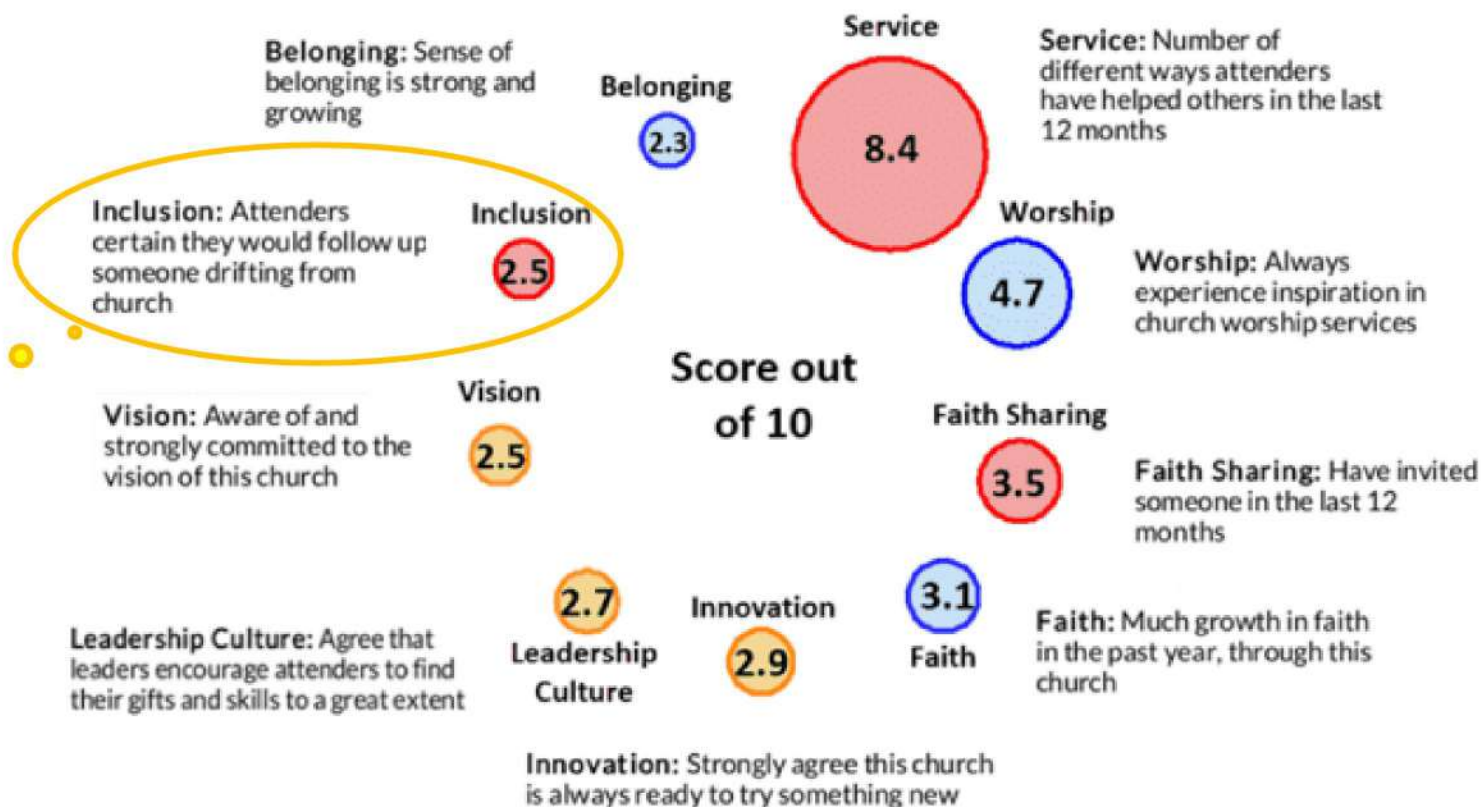


But 68% won't  
follow-up a  
person 'drifting'  
from the Faith



# NCLS: Blackfriars 'Core Qualities' in 2016

A single indicator of responses has been chosen for each core quality area. The order of the core qualities in the circle of strengths is based on ranking the indicator scores from highest to lowest.



After 5 'ALPHAs' & other Renewal activities I expect there has been substantial improvement

Core Qualities in 2016: Headline Indicator Scores out of Ten

Faith	Worship	Belonging	Vision	Leadership Culture	Innovation	Service	Faith sharing	Inclusion
3.1	4.7	2.3	2.5	2.7	2.9	8.4	3.5	2.5

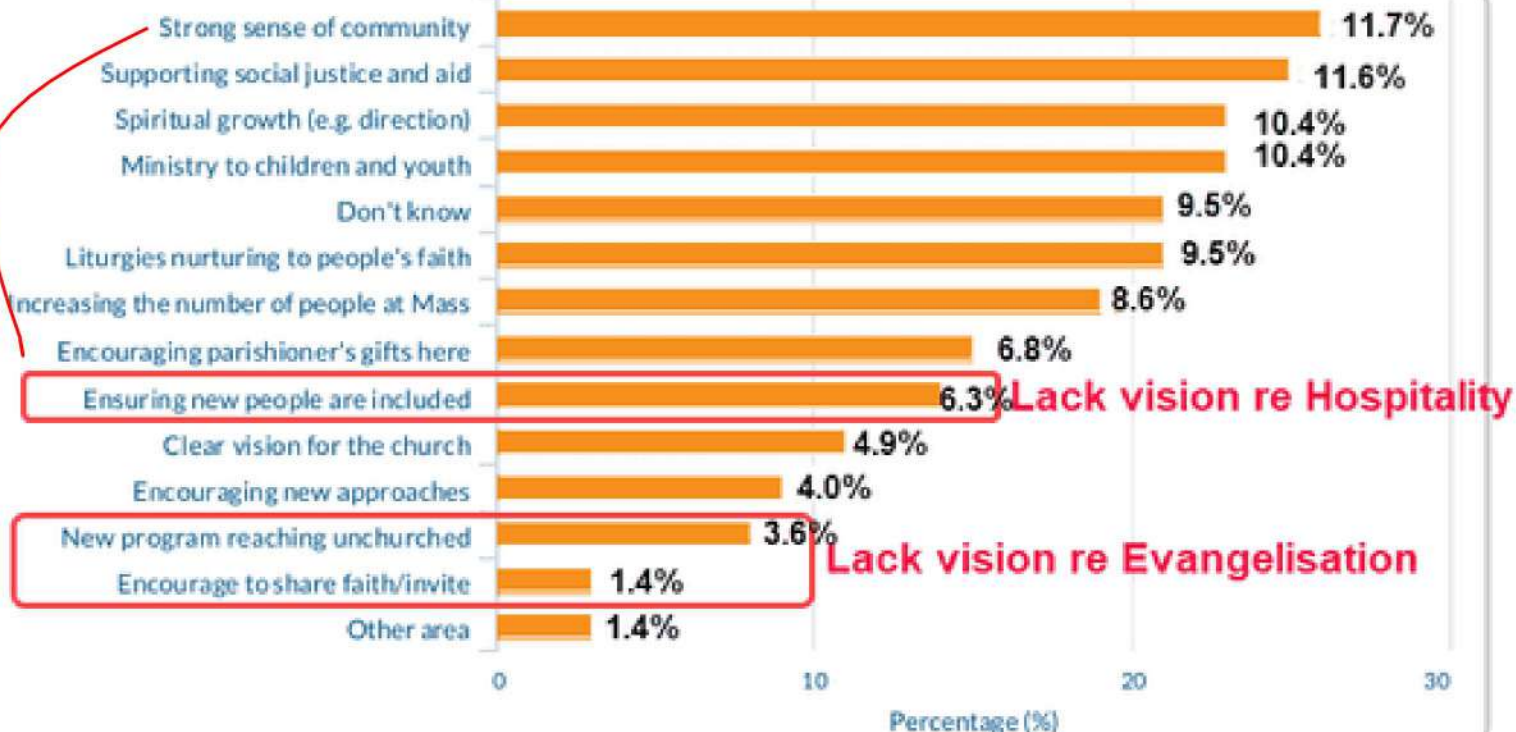


# NCLS Blackfriars Parishioner Priorities

## FUTURE PRIORITIES

Over the next 12 months most attenders would like priority given to:  
'Building a strong sense of community' and 'Supporting social justice and aid'.

How do we interpret this difference?



NOTE: Respondents were able to state up to 3 priorities

# Mass attenders' views of key Catholic Doctrinal & Moral Teachings

ACBC Pastoral Research Office: What do Mass attenders believe? 2011 NCLS



Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

**Pastoral Research Office**

Sample size <b>2,545</b> Mass Goers Australia wide	15-34 (%)	35-59 (%)	60 & over (%)	All Mass Goers
<b>Understanding of Key Church Doctrines</b>				
<b>Understanding of God</b>				
There is one God, three divine persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit	76	83	87	84
God exists, and is a divine person, but not Father, Son and Holy Spirit	3	1	3	3
God is the name we give to a higher power in the universe, the mysterious and creative source of life	12	9	5	7
We and the universe are in God, part of God, identified with God	5	3	3	3
God is not 'out there', but is found only within each person	2	2	2	2
We cannot know for sure if God exists	1	1	1	1
God does not exist	0	-	-	0
<b>Virginity of Mary</b>				
Mary gave birth to Jesus without having had sexual intercourse	74	72	78	75
Mary's virginity is not meant to be taken literally	26	28	22	25
<b>Eucharist: the consecrated bread and wine ...</b>				
... truly become the sacred Body and Blood of Christ	81	90	92	90
... remain bread and wine	19	10	8	10
<b>Resurrection</b>				
Christ was raised by God's power from death to life - really, bodily, physically	69	70	73	71
Christ's rose from the dead, not literally, but in the Christian community's faith in God's power to give life	23	26	23	24
Christ did not rise in any sense	1	0	0	0
Don't know	6	3	3	4

Sample size <b>1,674</b> Mass Goers Australia wide	15-34 (%)	35-59 (%)	60 & over (%)	All Mass Goers
<b>Agreement with Important Church Moral Teachings</b>				
<b>Abortion</b>				
Always morally wrong	41	48	55	51
Justified only in extreme circumstances	38	37	33	35
Justified widely but not always	18	14	11	13
Never wrong	2	2	1	1
<b>Premarital sex</b>				
Always morally wrong	33	34	50	42
Not wrong if in a committed relationship	47	57	47	51
Never wrong	20	9	3	8

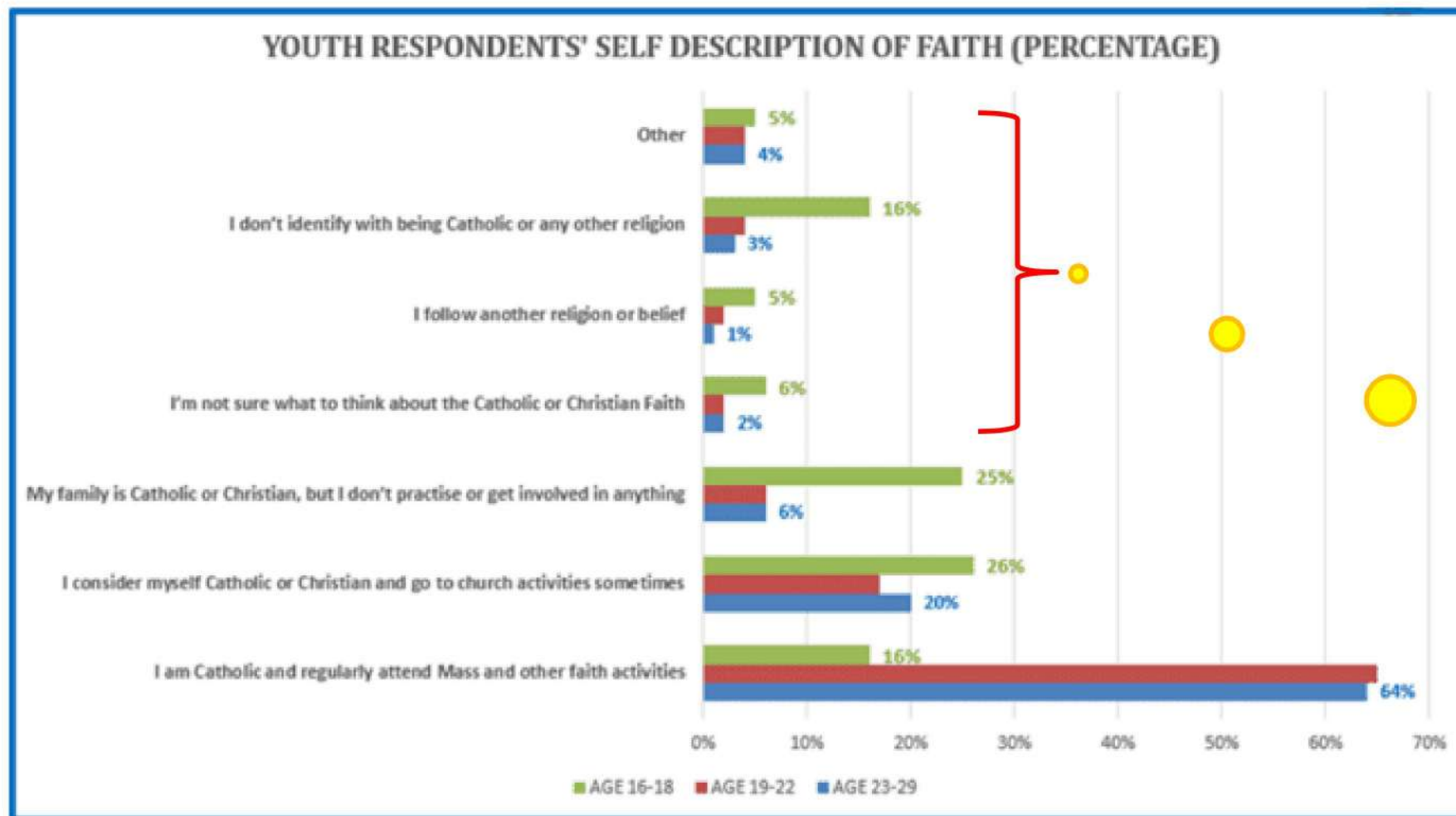
- ❑ 4 NCLS Surveys: 1996, 2001, 2006 & 2011
- ❑ Reasonably consistent percentages across time
- ❑ Marginal 'improvement' over time
  - ❖ Probably due to drop in Mass goers

<https://ncpr.catholic.org.au/what-do-mass-attenders-believe/>



# Youth Respondents Self Description of their Faith (%)

National Report on the Australian Catholic Bishops' Youth Survey 2017



- ❑ Survey size: 15,000, from every diocese (311 from Canberra-Goulburn)
- ❑ Demographic similar to ACT except for family income & family tertiary education

This suggests that about 32% of 16 to 18 years olds (almost all from Catholic Secondary Schools) are verging on atheist or agnostic. As we will see, it's not quite that bad.

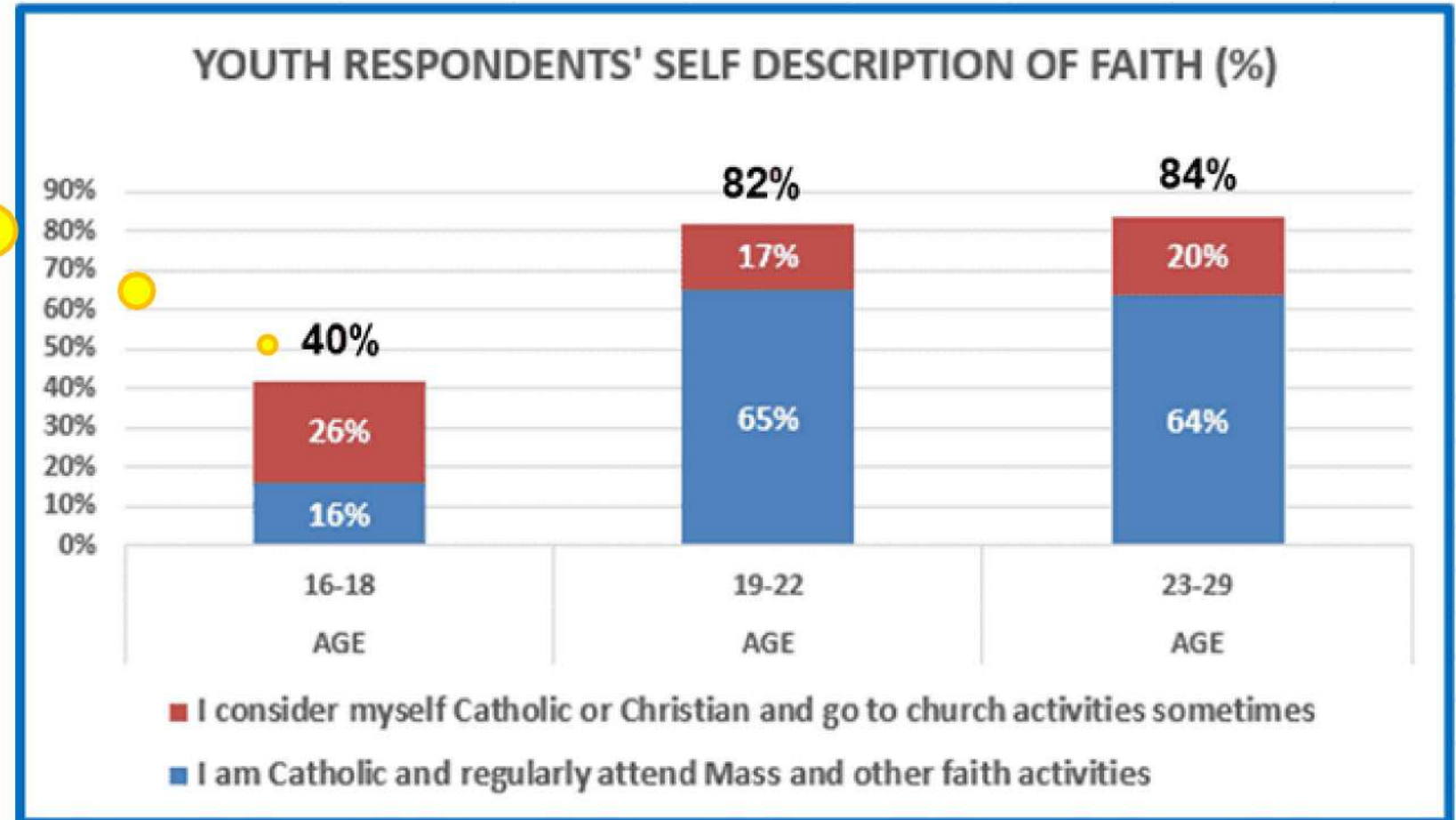


# Youth Respondents Self Description of their Faith (%)

National Report on the Australian Catholic Bishops' Youth Survey 2017

- ❑ 60% of this 16-18 age group are not practising, agnostic or atheist
- ❑ In 2024 this cohort is now aged 23 to 25 years

- ❑ This data raises questions for catechesis in :
  - Rosary School,
  - Parish School of Religion
  - Youth ministry



# The New Evangelisation



And he said to them,

**"Go into all the world and proclaim  
the good news to the whole creation".**

[Mk

16:15]



# And that Good News is ... ??????

- God loves us ... **IMMENSELY ... INFINITELY**
- God has loved us from all eternity
- From eternity all of us, indeed every aspect of creation, have existed in God as *logoi* within the *LOGOS*, as *words* within the *WORD* ...

*"God the Father ... chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love" [Eph 1-4]*

*"You have been saved, not by anything you have done but by the free gift of God". [Eph 2:8]*

***We are God's work of art created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning God had meant us to live it. [Eph 2:10]***



# We are God's 'Work of Art' ... !





Archbishop Christopher Prowse  
Archbishop of Canberra & Goulburn

*Evangelisation is at the heart of the Church's deepest identity. My prayer is this new initiative – **Belong** – brings forth a new missionary impulse inspired by the Holy Spirit.*

***Belong** represents a new pastoral initiative for evangelisation. It is with hope that I write to invite all the faithful to hear the Gospel anew and be invited afresh into participation in the life and mission of our Catholic Church.*



# What is Evangelisation?

- **Witness ... initial act of evangelization**

- *Evangelisation is not so much what we do, but who we are*
- *Evangelisation is God's initiative. It is His Love that evangelises us, that witnesses and speaks through us and that opens the heart of the evangelised.*
- *"Through this wordless witness these Christians stir up irresistible questions in the hearts of those who see how they live: ... What or who is it that inspires them? ... Such a witness is already a silent proclamation of the Good News ...." [Evangelii Nuntiandi (1975) 29]*

- **From Witness to Proclamation**

- *"The Good News proclaimed by the witness of life sooner or later has to be proclaimed by the word of life. There is no true evangelization if the name, the teaching, the life, the promises, the kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God are not proclaimed." [EN 34]*

- **Evangelising society's structures**

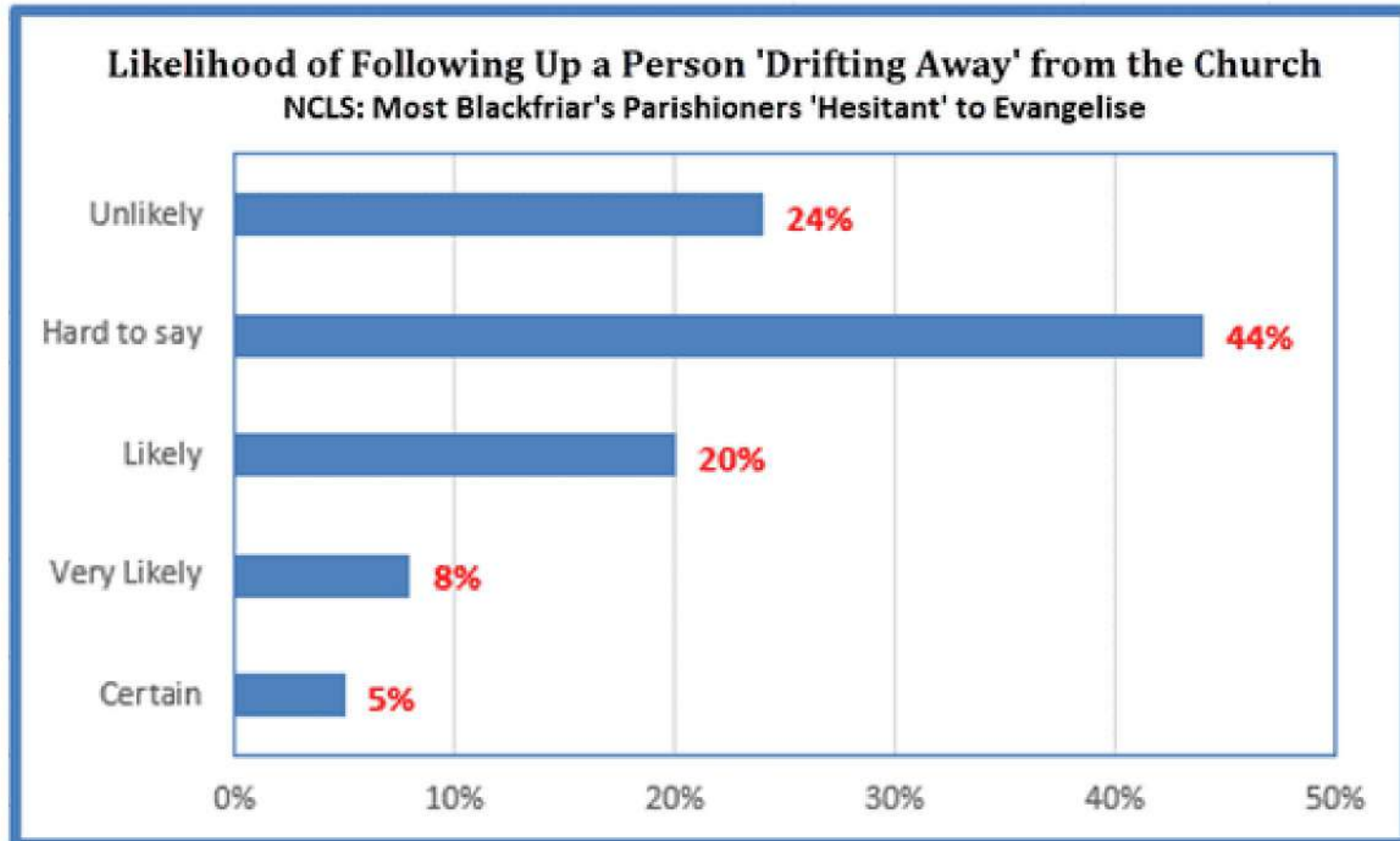
- *"It is a question not only of preaching the Gospel ... but also of affecting and as it were upsetting, through the power of the Gospel, mankind's criteria of judgment, determining values ... and models of life, which are in contrast with the Word of God and the plan of salvation." [EN 32]*

- **The Evangelising Community** [Evangelii Gaudium (2013) 24]

- *knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first*
- *has an endless desire to show mercy, the fruit of its own experience of the power of the Father's infinite mercy*
- *is supportive, standing by people at every step of the way, no matter how difficult or lengthy this may prove to be*
- *is always concerned with fruits of new life, however imperfect or incomplete these may appear.*
- *celebrates every small victory, every step forward in the work of evangelization*
- *The Church evangelises and is herself evangelised through the beauty of the liturgy, which is both a celebration of the task of evangelisation and the source of her renewed self-giving.*



# Parishioners' Attitudes Towards Evangelisation

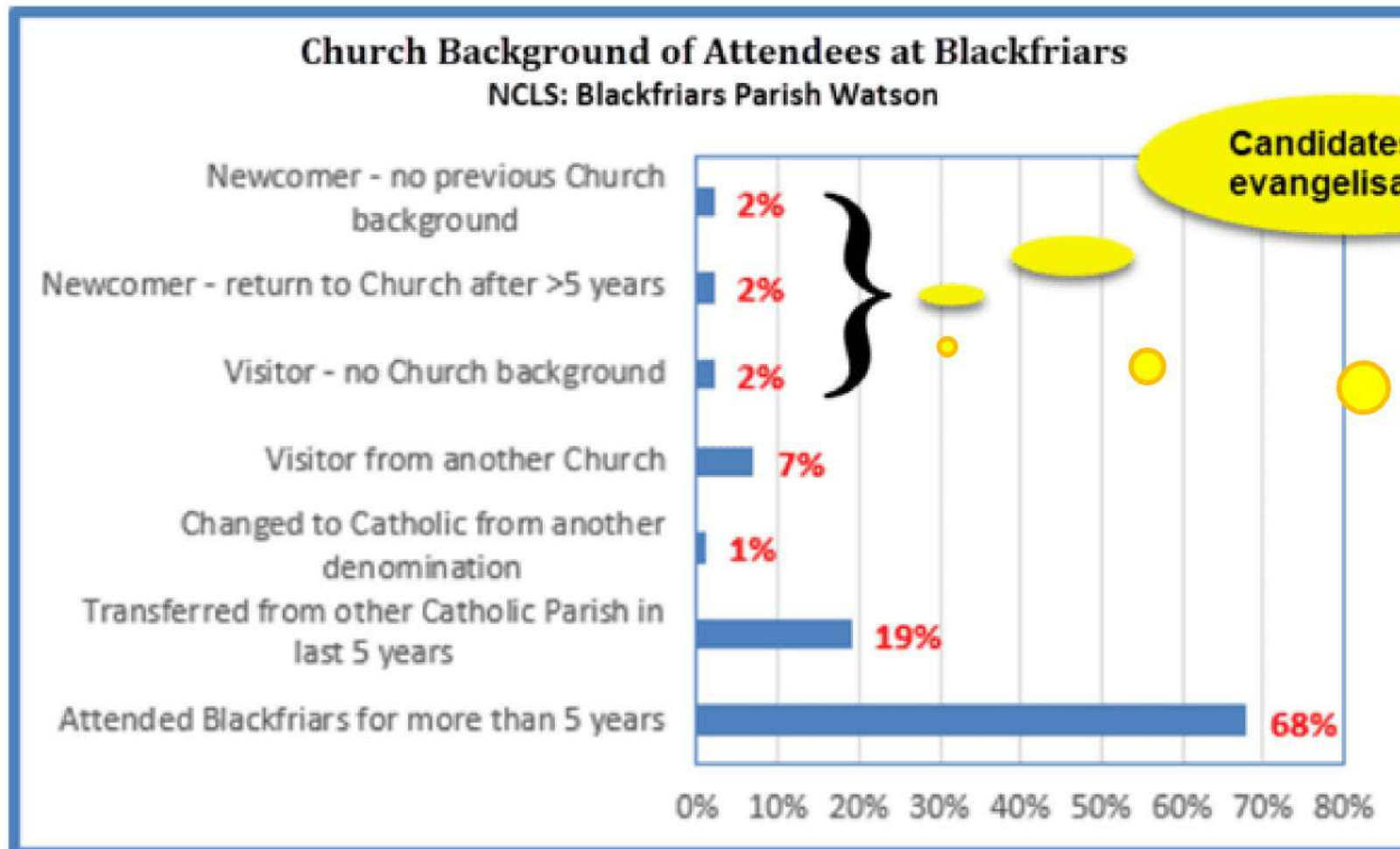


68%

33%

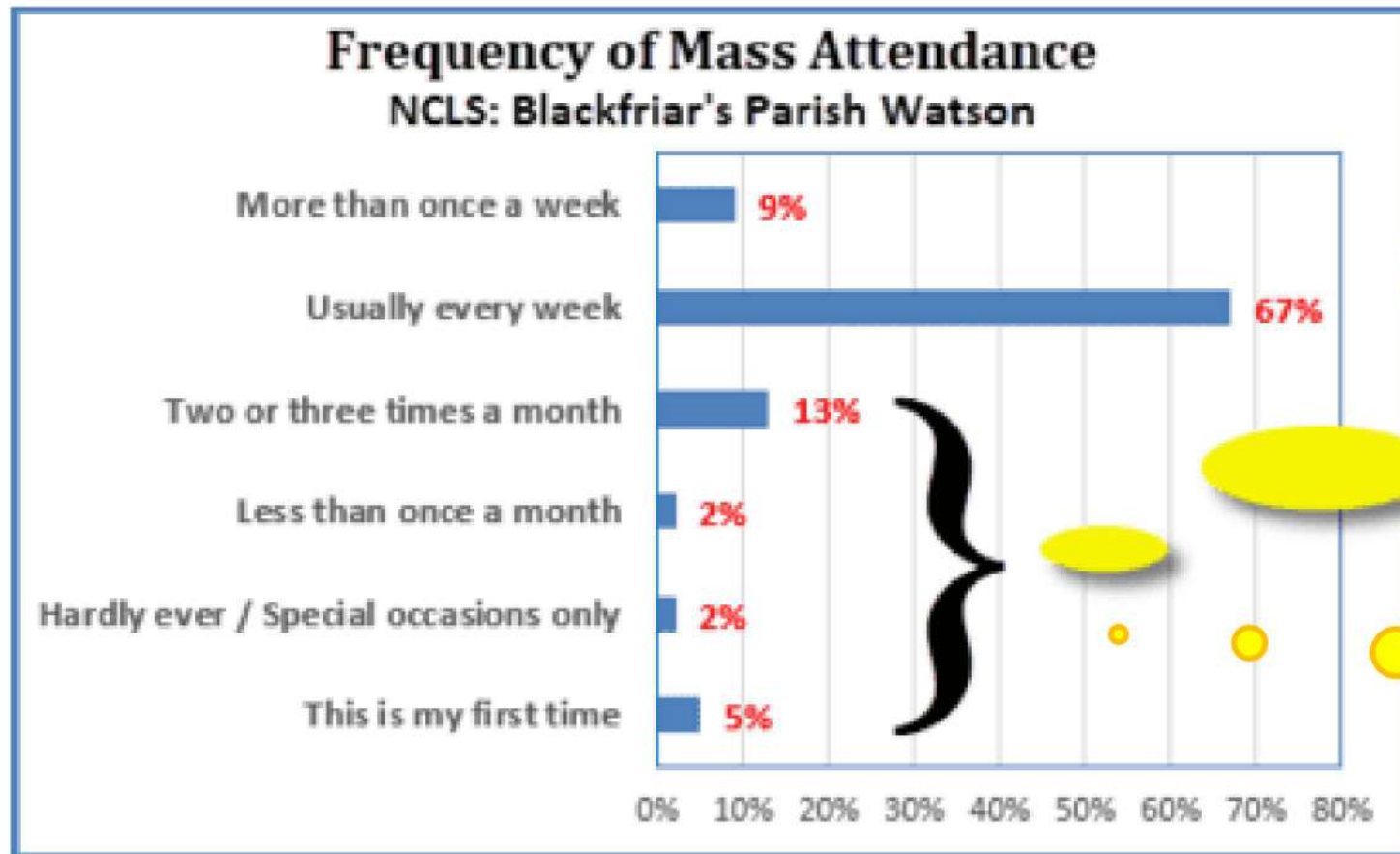
Hopefully, the ALPHA & Divine Renovations programs {etc} have changed the Parish attitudes to evangelisation

# Opportunities (close to home) for Evangelisation





# Opportunities (close to home) for Evangelisation

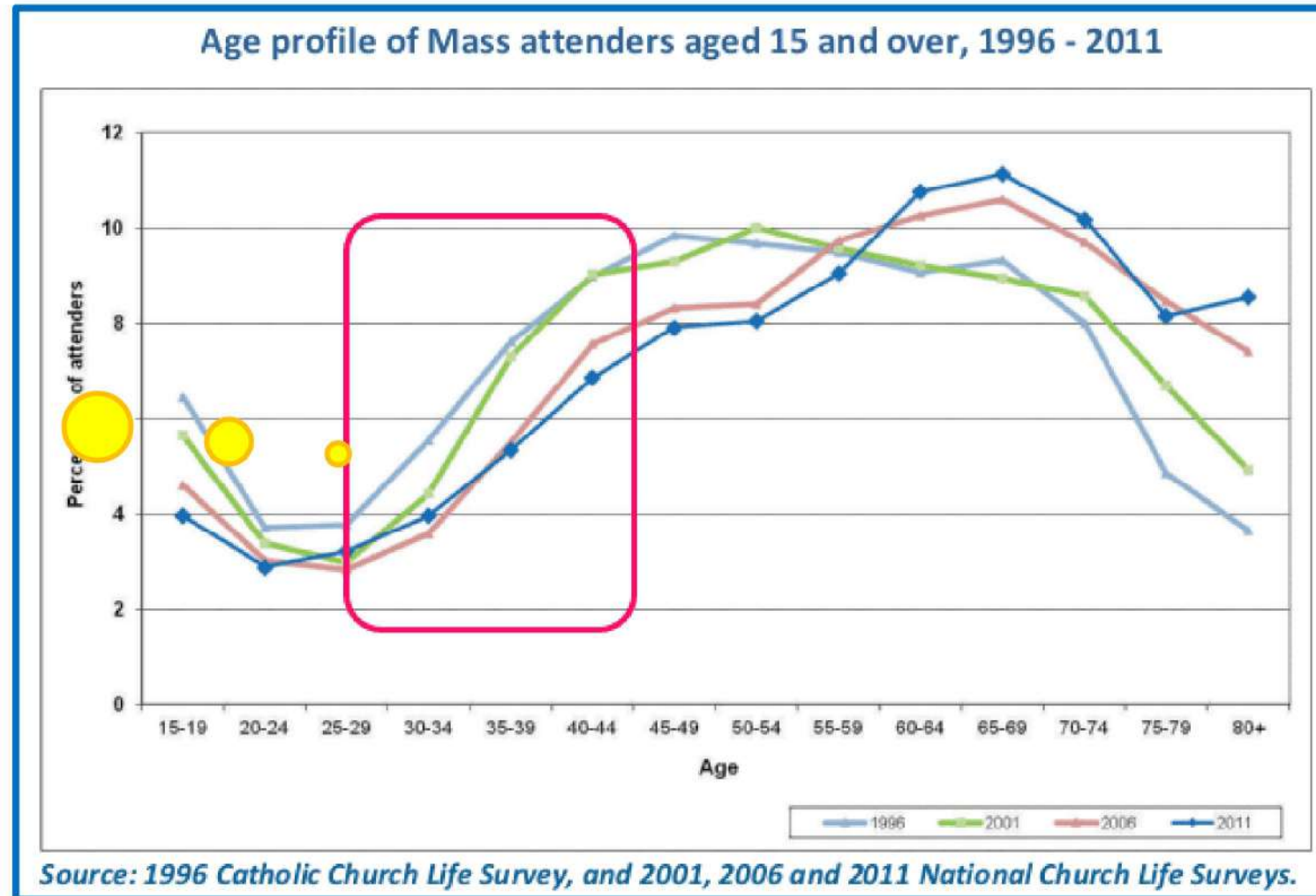


**Also Candidates  
for evangelisation**

Again, hospitality is crucial for  
engaging with these people  
still clinging to the Faith

# People Between 25 & 45 Open to Evangelisation

Aging data, but consistency over 15 years suggests people in their 30's are very open to evangelisation



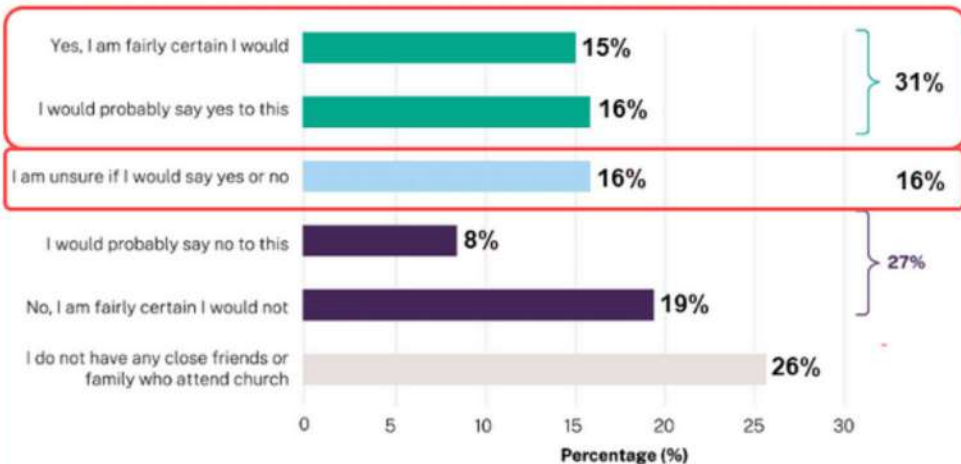


# The Vineyard is Ripe for Evangelisation

2021  
Australian  
Community  
Survey

## Three in ten Australians would go to church if invited by close friends or family

Q. Apart from such special occasions as weddings, funerals, etc., would you go to a Christian church service if invited by close friends or family?



Source: 2021 Australian Community Survey by NCLS Research (n=1,286)

© NCLS Research ncls.org.au

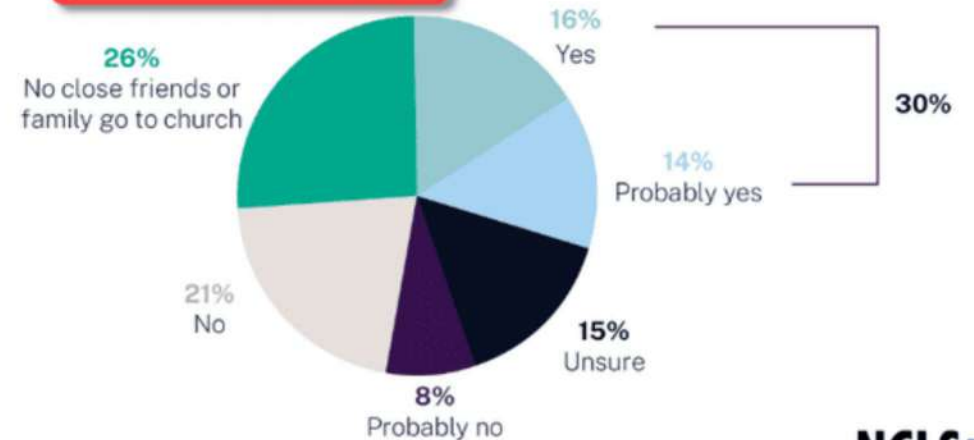
NCLS  
research

2021  
Australian  
Community  
Survey

## Three in ten Australians likely to go to a Christmas service in 2021 if invited.

3 in 10 Australians are likely to go to a Christmas service this year, or related event at a church if invited by close friends or family.

Another 15% are unsure.



Source: 2021 Australian Community Survey run by NCLS Research (n=1286)

©NCLS Research

NCLS  
research

# Some Concluding Thoughts

## Downloads

Store / Downloads



## ➤ The ACBC & Various Dioceses have done oodles of research

- On Parish Renewal – What works & what doesn't
- On Pastoral Strategies – What works & what doesn't
- On Evangelisation ... on Youth ... on Marriage & Family ... Etc

## ➤ Some Obvious Needs

- Evangelisation Circles, ALPHA etc important to awaken parishioners to their vocation
- Crucial importance of welcoming & hospitality
- Ministry to the elderly, widowed, infirm & 'in care'
- Ministry to 'singles' over 35
- Ministry to 'de facto' & newly married couples
- Invitations to ALL WATSON for Easter & Christmas services
- Invitations to ALL WATSON for ALPHA & related programs
- Reach out to **50+** Catholic children/year not at Catholic schools
- Ecumenical engagement on evangelisation of inter-church families
- Consider joint inter-church engagement generally on evangelisation focussed on the 'unchurched' not on 'poaching' parishioners