

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Notes:

- Total and Catholic population figures are from the 2021 Australian Census, obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The Melbourne Archdiocese population figures include national figures for people whose usual residence could not be determined. They represent less than 0.1 per cent of the Archdiocese's total.
 - The Catholic population figures for the five Eastern Rite dioceses and eparchies and the Military Ordinariate appear in parenthesis to indicate that they are not part of the overall population totals: the people they represent have been counted in the Catholic population of the diocese in which they usually reside.
 - The Catholic population for the Military Ordinariate relates to individuals living within the designated geographical area, whether or not they are Defence Force personnel. At the last Census, in 2021, Defence Force personnel located 'off-base' were included within the parish or diocese in which the military base was geographically located.
 - Figures for parishes, personnel, seminaries, and health and aged care facilities were supplied by the respective dioceses and are correct as at 31 December 2025.
 - Educational institution figures for geographical dioceses were provided by the National Catholic Education Commission.
 - Previous years' figures for the Ukrainian Eparchy incorrectly included two language schools and their students.
 - Previous years' figures for the Maronite Diocese incorrectly included four primary and four secondary schools in addition to four combined schools.
 - Where other figures vary significantly from previous years, they have been confirmed by dioceses.
- ¹ *Diocesan Priests* includes all priests and bishops, both active and retired, who belong to the diocese, and priests from overseas who are working in the diocese.
- ² *Religious Seminaries* includes seminaries and residential training centres for candidates for the priesthood.

Populations, Parishes, Priests & Deacons

Ecclesiastical Divisions	Total Population	Catholic Population	Parishes	Diocesan Priests ¹	Religious Priests	Permanent Deacons
Province of Sydney	7,794,486	1,744,491	378	581	438	70
Sydney	2,582,298	590,175	126	210	238	16
Armidale	187,686	37,973	24	34	11	1
Bathurst	245,232	62,141	17	21	6	4
Broken Bay	998,724	205,207	26	43	60	8
Lismore	543,186	97,971	22	39	4	4
Maitland-Newcastle	772,347	147,073	37	47	13	11
Parramatta	1,304,175	322,448	45	79	65	22
Wagga Wagga	219,967	58,388	32	47	8	0
Wilcannia-Forbes	105,894	25,271	20	21	6	0
Wollongong	834,977	197,844	29	40	27	4
Canberra & Goulburn	734,694	151,053	52	58	29	9
Province of Melbourne	6,503,474	1,335,755	280	394	256	27
Melbourne	4,962,398	1,038,276	194	280	236	19
Ballarat	450,401	89,124	23	49	7	0
Sale	680,681	123,748	26	30	11	6
Sandhurst	409,994	84,607	37	35	2	2
Hobart	557,572	71,045	27	45	12	3
Province of Adelaide	2,014,099	315,027	86	101	88	20
Adelaide	1,615,557	253,871	56	69	60	13
Darwin	230,861	39,006	16	9	26	4
Port Pirie	167,681	22,150	14	23	2	3
Province of Perth	2,662,287	496,958	158	225	97	20
Perth	2,114,911	411,173	106	180	76	14
Broome	35,998	7,454	9	8	3	0
Bunbury	388,460	56,960	27	21	13	6
Geraldton	122,918	21,371	16	16	5	0
Province of Brisbane	5,156,129	961,462	201	232	115	32
Brisbane	3,815,443	684,423	93	132	82	26
Cairns	290,875	55,137	23	16	7	6
Rockhampton	465,676	93,451	30	32	5	0
Toowoomba	286,096	59,025	37	32	9	0
Townsville	298,039	69,426	18	20	12	0
Eastern Catholic	0	0	102	123	30	23
Chaldean Diocese	-	[14,104]	6	13	0	11
Maronite Diocese	-	[47,016]	18	36	22	2
Melkite Eparchy	-	[3,094]	13	24	0	5
Syro-Malabar Eparchy	-	[10,305]	55	28	8	0
Ukrainian Eparchy	-	[2,882]	10	22	0	5
Other	0	0	12	43	1	9
Military Ordinariate	-	[2,615]	0	6	1	8
Personal Ordinariate OLSC	-	-	12	17	0	1
Prelature of Opus Dei	-	-	0	20	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	25,422,741	5,075,791	1,296	1,802	1,066	213

Religious Institutes & Clergy

Ecclesiastical Divisions	Religious Brothers	Religious Sisters	Seminaries for		Candidates for	
			Diocesan	Religious	Diocesan	Religious
Province of Sydney	187	1,108	4	2	92	1
Sydney	123	536	2	1	58	1
Armidale	3	20	0	0	4	0
Bathurst	0	42	0	0	4	0
Broken Bay	5	27	0	1	3	0
Lismore	5	68	0	0	0	0
Maitland-Newcastle	0	99	0	0	0	0
Parramatta	25	154	1	0	15	0
Wagga Wagga	0	62	1	0	5	0
Wilcannia-Forbes	0	17	0	0	0	0
Wollongong	26	83	0	0	3	0
Canberra & Goulburn	0	55	0	0	6	0
Province of Melbourne	147	665	1	12	26	44
Melbourne	141	610	1	12	20	44
Ballarat	0	40	0	0	2	0
Sale	0	2	0	0	0	0
Sandhurst	6	13	0	0	4	0
Hobart	3	36	0	0	2	0
Province of Adelaide	20	208	0	1	2	0
Adelaide	18	159	0	1	1	0
Darwin	2	40	0	0	0	0
Port Pirie	0	9	0	0	1	0
Province of Perth	28	275	2	0	28	0
Perth	27	246	2	0	26	0
Broome	1	9	0	0	0	0
Bunbury	0	11	0	0	2	0
Geraldton	0	9	0	0	0	0
Province of Brisbane	63	455	1	0	18	0
Brisbane	56	344	1	0	15	0
Cairns	4	14	0	0	0	0
Rockhampton	0	50	0	0	2	0
Toowoomba	0	17	0	0	0	0
Townsville	3	30	0	0	1	0
Eastern Catholic	0	33	0	0	36	0
Chaldean Diocese	0	4	0	0	4	0
Maronite Diocese	0	18	0	0	11	0
Melkite Eparchy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syro-Malabar Eparchy	0	2	0	0	21	0
Ukrainian Eparchy	0	9	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	2	0
Military Ordinariate	0	0	0	0	0	0
Personal Ordinariate OLSC	0	0	0	0	2	0
Prelature of Opus Dei	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	448	2,835	8	15	212	45

Health and Aged Care

Ecclesiastical Divisions	Hospitals	Nursing & Convalescence Homes	Children's Welfare
Province of Sydney	11	109	90
Sydney	7	42	8
Armidale	0	1	0
Bathurst	0	4	0
Broken Bay	0	14	38
Lismore	1	7	3
Maitland-Newcastle	1	18	25
Parramatta	0	7	0
Wagga Wagga	2	13	0
Wilcannia-Forbes	0	0	0
Wollongong	0	3	16
Canberra & Goulburn	2	0	0
Province of Melbourne	18	156	13
Melbourne	14	144	13
Ballarat	2	4	0
Sale	1	2	0
Sandhurst	1	6	0
Hobart	4	24	31
Province of Adelaide	3	8	2
Adelaide	3	4	1
Darwin	0	1	1
Port Pirie	0	3	0
Province of Perth	7	10	5
Perth	4	5	5
Broome	0	0	0
Bunbury	2	4	0
Geraldton	1	1	0
Province of Brisbane	17	16	127
Brisbane	12	8	127
Cairns	0	0	0
Rockhampton	3	4	0
Toowoomba	0	0	0
Townsville	2	4	0
Eastern Catholic	0	4	2
Chaldean Diocese	0	0	0
Maronite Diocese	0	4	2
Melkite Eparchy	0	0	0
Syro-Malabar Eparchy	0	0	0
Ukrainian Eparchy	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Military Ordinariate	0	0	0
Personal Ordinariate OLSC	0	0	0
Prelature of Opus Dei	0	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	62	327	270

Educational Institutions – Schools

Ecclesiastical Divisions	Primary	Secondary	Combined	Special	Total
Province of Sydney	440	134	32	15	621
Sydney	110	37	12	4	163
Armidale	19	3	2	-	24
Bathurst	25	5	4	-	34
Broken Bay	36	11	4	3	54
Lismore	34	12	-	-	46
Maitland-Newcastle	44	11	1	2	58
Parramatta	58	27	-	3	88
Wagga Wagga	24	5	-	-	29
Wilcannia-Forbes	18	1	-	-	19
Wollongong	29	13	2	2	46
Canberra & Goulburn	43	9	7	1	60
Province of Melbourne	413	86	23	8	530
Melbourne	258	54	11	5	328
Ballarat	51	11	1	-	63
Sale	39	6	1	-	46
Sandhurst	41	10	2	2	55
Hobart	24	5	8	1	38
Province of Adelaide	71	7	35	6	119
Adelaide	55	2	25	5	87
Darwin	8	4	5	1	18
Port Pirie	8	1	5	-	14
Province of Perth	110	20	27	5	162
Perth	76	17	14	3	110
Broome	5	-	7	1	13
Bunbury	22	2	4	-	28
Geraldton	7	1	2	1	11
Province of Brisbane	196	66	37	14	313
Brisbane	106	36	23	9	174
Cairns	20	7	2	1	30
Rockhampton	31	10	-	1	42
Toowoomba	21	5	6	1	33
Townsville	18	8	6	2	34
Eastern Catholic	1	0	4	0	5
Chaldean Diocese	-	-	-	-	-
Maronite Diocese	-	-	4	-	4
Melkite Eparchy	1	-	-	-	1
Syro-Malabar Eparchy	-	-	-	-	-
Ukrainian Eparchy	-	-	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL	1,231	313	158	48	1,750

Educational Institutions – Students

Ecclesiastical Divisions	Primary	Secondary	Total
Province of Sydney	143,859	146,767	290,626
Sydney	43,365	47,353	90,718
Armidale	3,992	2,152	6,144
Bathurst	6,223	4,371	10,594
Broken Bay	12,034	14,451	26,485
Lismore	9,958	9,325	19,283
Maitland-Newcastle	11,580	9,893	21,473
Parramatta	23,671	27,231	50,902
Wagga Wagga	4,864	4,020	8,884
Wilcannia-Forbes	1,712	880	2,592
Wollongong	11,974	14,423	26,397
Canberra & Goulburn	14,486	12,668	27,154
Province of Melbourne	120,209	113,017	233,226
Melbourne	80,783	77,265	158,048
Ballarat	10,344	8,542	18,886
Sale	10,942	9,526	20,468
Sandhurst	10,198	9,494	19,692
Hobart	7,942	8,190	16,132
Province of Adelaide	31,109	29,069	60,178
Adelaide	26,006	24,411	50,417
Darwin	2,627	2,716	5,343
Port Pirie	2,476	1,942	4,418
Province of Perth	37,959	39,162	77,121
Perth	29,488	32,163	61,651
Broome	928	375	1,303
Bunbury	5,623	4,590	10,213
Geraldton	1,920	2,034	3,954
Province of Brisbane	83,821	80,836	164,657
Brisbane	53,028	51,914	104,942
Cairns	6,555	5,645	12,200
Rockhampton	10,037	10,651	20,688
Toowoomba	6,427	5,309	11,736
Townsville	7,774	7,317	15,091
Eastern Catholic	2,303	1,969	4,272
Chaldean Diocese	-	-	-
Maronite Diocese	2,005	1,969	3,974
Melkite Eparchy	298	-	298
Syro-Malabar Eparchy	-	-	-
Ukrainian Eparchy	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL	419,260	410,820	830,080

Source: Enrolments (Head Count) and schools data is from 2025 Non-Government School Census (August Census) data, provided by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and State and Territory Catholic Education Commissions. The data presented is for all Catholic Schools recognised by an Ecclesiastical Authority.

Notes: The counts of Maronite and Melkite schools and students are not included in the count of their respective dioceses in the Melbourne and Sydney Provinces.

Special schools including Special Assistance Schools - provide alternative educational settings for students with high-level needs and cater for students with medical conditions, physical or cognitive disability, as well as students who are at risk, have social-emotional and/ or behavioural difficulties, are on remand or in the social justice system, or whose needs are better met by flexible learning structures.

School count includes main campus locations only.