

## To parishes in the Archdiocese of Brisbane on the benefits of participation in the 2016 NCLS

Conducted by **NCLS Research**, partnering with more than 20 Christian denominations across Australia, the **2016 National Church Life Survey (2016 NCLS)** will involve almost 400,000 church attenders and 7,000 local church leaders. The 2016 survey project will again highlight and encourage growth in church vitality and community connection effectiveness in the Australian context.



The 2016 Survey is more than just counting numbers- it's about the life of our parishes – the priests and laity helping to increase vitality, growing in faith, building community, developing sustainable leadership and serving effectively in the local community. After 25 years of experience this credible Christian mission research will lead to practical applications in our local parishes.

### Three outcomes for all who participate in the 2016 NCLS:

- **To shape the future of each local parish**

The survey provides Mass attender (15years +) a professionally prepared tool to capture everyone's discernments about vision, direction and personal commitment to growth. Identifying the current strengths in a local church is an effective step toward planning for growth in vitality. Twenty minutes, every five years, is a very small sacrifice which will contribute invaluable information about local parish life.

- **To provide shape to the profile of our Archdiocese and the Australian Catholic Church**

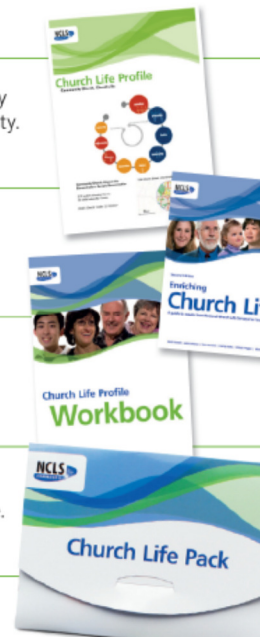
The NCLS is a unique opportunity for all parishes to contribute to an archdiocesan and national overview of the Australian Catholic church on a range of key issues such a personal spirituality, experience of community worship, effectiveness of leadership, mission outreach and social action.

- **To shape the national snapshot of the whole Australian Church**

Each *National Church Life Survey* creates an historical snapshot of Australian churches across all denominations, styles and sizes and contribute to the more accurate picture of the Australian Church. It is essential for civic and church leaders to better understand the place of Christian church organisations in the Australian society.

Churches receive a *Church Life Pack* of resources.

- Your unique **Church Life Profile** shows your survey results with a clear evaluation of your church's vitality. Online access to the Profile is included.
- **Enriching Church Life Book** explains the core qualities of church life and shows national trends.
- A **Workbook** with step by step processes to help you get the most out of your results in your mission planning.
- **Planning resources** for facilitators, including workshop outlines and multimedia resources online.



### Contact information about the 2016 NCLS for the Archdiocese of Brisbane

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Specialised enquiries: Chris Ehler, 2016 NCLS Project officer, Ph 0417702028

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Extensive information is available on the dedicated survey website:

[www.2016ncls.org.au](http://www.2016ncls.org.au)

## Commendations about NCLS Research and the five-yearly national church life surveys

**Archbishop Julian Porteous,  
Archdiocese of Hobart,  
Chair, Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research**

*The Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research recognises the important role that NCLS Research plays in Australian church life and Australian society, and values the way that research findings can inform pastoral practice and pastoral planning at all levels of leadership in the Catholic Church. I affirm that the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is pleased to be a partner in this valuable venture.*

**Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP,  
Catholic Archbishop of Sydney**

*The National Church Life Survey continues to go from strength to strength. As Archbishop of Sydney and, previously, as Bishop of Parramatta, I have found that the NCLS project offers snapshots of individual parishes and data for the whole diocese, indeed the whole of Australia, that informs my understanding of church life and of the views and experiences of church-attending people. I always study the NCLS profile of parishes before visiting them and I encourage parishes to participate because the detailed feedback they receive will assist them in strengthening their ministry and their mission.*

**Dr Bob Dixon, Director,  
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Pastoral Research Office**

*Building on 25 years of experience, the NCLS Research team combines sound survey methodology, brilliant technical skills, engaging design and an understanding of the mission of churches to produce extremely useful and informative print and online resources. Parishes that participate in the 2016 National Church Life Survey receive an invaluable aid to planning and self-understanding. I would certainly encourage every parish to take part.*

## Catholic membership of the NCLS Research Board of Governance

The **NCLS Research Board of Governors** includes representatives from the four major partners: Uniting Mission and Education - NSW & the ACT; Anglicare Diocese of Sydney; Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the Australian Catholic University.

Board members representing the **Australian Catholic Bishops Conference** are:

- Fr Brian Lucas – General Secretary, ACBC
- Dr Bob Dixon – Director, Pastoral Research Office, ACBC
- Mr Luke Kenny – Chief Executive Officer, Church Resources, ACBC

Board members representing the **Australian Catholic University** are:

- Professor Wayne McKenna – Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), ACU
- Professor James McLaren – Director, Institute of Religion and Critical Inquiry, ACU
- Professor Neil Ormerod – Professor of Theology, ACU