



Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

Pastoral Research Office

Australian Catholic Bishops Youth Survey 2017



Report to the Diocese of Ballarat

Stephen Reid
Trudy Dantis
Annemarie Atapattu

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Report prepared by: Pastoral Research Office
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
Australian Catholic University
Locked Bag 4115
Fitzroy 3065
Victoria Australia

Telephone: +61 (0)3 9953 3457
Email: office@pro.catholic.org.au
Web: www.pro.catholic.org.au

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Introduction

In January 2017, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) received notification that in 2018 there will be a Synod of Bishops in Rome, the theme of which is: *Young people, Faith and Vocational Discernment*. A Preparatory Document for the Synod was issued, which included around 18 questions, particularly focusing on analysing and understanding the situation of young people in the country. The target age of young people considered by the Synod is 16 to 29 year olds.

The ACBC chose, therefore, to undertake an online survey of Australian young people so as to provide some preliminary information to assist them with their response to the Synod. The purpose of the survey was to help the ACBC understand the world of young people, particularly young people of the Catholic faith and those who have some connection with the Church, however tenuous that link may be.

In particular, the survey sought to:

1. Study the interactions between young people, the Church and society.
2. Examine the level of participation of young people in religious practices and other Church activities and their experiences of these.
3. Explore ways in which the Church might better engage with young people.

Young people in the target age group were invited to participate in the online survey. Invitations using a survey link were distributed via national and diocesan youth departments, Catholic parishes, Catholic schools, and other Church agencies which connect with young people.

It is anticipated that the results of the survey will benefit the bishops and the Church in Australia, and more widely, dioceses, parishes, youth agencies and young people, by contributing to an understanding of young people in contemporary Australian society and the contribution they can make to the Church in Australia.

The survey was launched on 24 May 2017 and closed on 2 July 2017, a period of almost six weeks.

Overall, some 15,000 Australian young people responded by completing or partially completing the survey.

About this report

This report provides a summary of results from the young people who responded to the survey from the Ballarat Diocese.

Most tables show results for respondents from your diocese, together with a comparison to all respondents to the survey ('Australia'). This report also contains a more detailed commentary of young peoples' responses to some of the open-ended questions in the survey.

Because this was a voluntary activity that, with the exception of some secondary school students, respondents did in their own time, it is likely that there are some biases in the results. It is likely that the survey under-represents young people who are connected only marginally with a Catholic organisation, parish or school, and over-represents those young people who are highly involved or those who have a 'vested' interest in the

Church. It is also likely that the responses represent those young people who enjoy reading and doing surveys and does not represent well the opinions of those who do not enjoy such activities. In reading through this report, those possible biases should always be kept in mind.

Due to the strict timeline only a basic analysis of the survey results for your diocese has been done. If a more detailed and comprehensive report is required please contact Stephen Reid at the ACBC Pastoral Research Office to discuss options. (Generally, further analysis will be based on a low-cost fee-for-service arrangement.)

A copy of the paper version of the survey can be found at the back of this report.

An important note about copyright

All figures and quotes in this report have been derived from the Australian Catholic Bishops Youth Survey 2017. To cite or reference any part of this report, please attribute the source of the material as follows:

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Demographic characteristics of respondents

The following tables provide a demographic overview of the **234 young people** who responded to the survey from your diocese, along with a comparison to all of the Australian young people who responded to the survey - just over 15,000 in total.

NOTE: The number of respondents to the question is indicated below (N = xxx). Not all respondents answered every question, so numbers differ from table to table.

Table 1. Age	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
16-18 years	81	81
19-22 years	4	7
23-29 years	15	13
Total	100	100

N = 234. Missing = 0.

Table 2. Sex	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Female	88	57
Male	8	37
Prefer not to say	4	6
Total	100	100

N = 192. Missing = 42.

Table 3. Birthplace	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Australia	94	84
Another English speaking country	1	
A non-English speaking country	5	
Total	100	

These fields intentionally left blank

N = 186. Missing = 48.

Table 4. Mother's birthplace	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Australia	93	62
Another English speaking country	3	11
A non-English speaking country	2	25
Don't know	2	2
Total	100	100

N = 191. Missing = 43.

Table 5. Father's birthplace	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Australia	89	60
Another English speaking country	6	12
A non-English speaking country	3	26
Don't know	2	2
Total	100	100

N = 190. Missing = 44.

Table 6. Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Yes	4	4
No	96	96
Total	100	100

N = 189. Missing = 45.

Table 7. Current situation	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Studying at school	85	82
Studying at university	9	9
Studying at TAFE	5	5
Employed full-time	7	6
Employed part-time	55	40
Self employed	4	4
Unemployed	12	18
Involved in home duties	38	35
Other	3	3
Total	218	201

N = 191. Missing = 43. Total exceeds 100% because respondents could choose more than one response.

Table 8. Current type of school attending (if currently attending school)	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Catholic school	98	96
Another Christian school	1	0
Government school	1	1
Another independent school	-	1
Home schooled	1	0
Other	-	1
Total	100	100

N = 163. Missing or N/A = 71.

Table 9. Previous type of school attended (if not currently attending school)	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Catholic school	55	66
Another Christian school	11	5
Government school	17	18
Another independent school	-	4
Home schooled	17	5
Other	-	3
Total	100	100

N = 29. Missing or N/A = 205.

Table 10. Are you employed in a Catholic organisation? (if employed full or part time)	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Yes	10	12
No	86	83
Not sure	4	3
Prefer not to say	1	2
Total	100	100

N = 114. Missing or N/A = 120.

Table 11. Type of Catholic organisation (if answer to previous question was 'Yes')	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Catholic School		62
Catholic Education or Schools Office	Results to this question cannot be reported due to low numbers of respondents.	6
Catholic Healthcare Organisation		3
Catholic Social Service Organisation		5
Catholic Diocese		9
Catholic Parish		6
Other Catholic Organisation		10
Total		

Table 12. Are you a teacher in a Catholic school? (if answer to previous question was 'School')	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Yes	Results to this question cannot be reported due to low numbers of respondents.	66
No		31
Prefer not to say		2
Total		100

Table 13. Do you have a disability?	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Yes	6	5
No	90	89
Prefer not to say	4	6
Total	100	100

N = 190. Missing = 44.

	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Table 14. Type of disability (if answer to previous question was 'Yes')		
Sensory - affecting ability to hear or see		33
Physical - affecting mobility or dexterity		35
Intellectual - affecting ability to learn	Results to this question cannot be reported due to low numbers of respondents.	47
Mental illness - affecting thinking processes		56
Neurological - affecting brain and central nervous system		30
Physical disfigurement		26
Immunological - organisms causing disease in body		25
Other		20
Total		

The faith of the young people

In order to understand the background and faith of the young people who responded to the survey, a question was asked about how they considered their own faith. The young people could select from six options or an 'Other', which allowed them to describe their faith in their own words. Table 15 below shows the results by sex and age group.

Table 15. Respondents' self-description of faith	Female	Male	Age 16-18	Age 19-22	Age 23-29	Total - Diocese	Total - Australia
I am Catholic and regularly attend Mass and other faith activities	11	69	9	80	53	18	25
I consider myself Catholic or Christian and go to church activities sometimes	30	13	31	-	29	30	25
My family is Catholic or Christian, but I don't practice or get involved in anything	36	-	35	20	3	29	21
I'm not sure what to think about the Catholic or Christian Faith	8	-	9	-	-	7	6
I follow another religion or belief	3	6	3	-	3	3	5
I don't identify with being Catholic or any other religion	6	13	8	-	6	7	14
Other	6	-	5	-	6	5	5
Total (%)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

N: Sex = 192. Age = 232.

Participation in Catholic groups, organisations and events

Respondents were asked the extent to which they had been involved in various Catholic groups, organisations or church activities, and their level of interest in those activities. The following table provides a summary of those responses.

Table 16. Participation in Catholic groups, organisations and activities	Yes	No, but would like to	No, not interested
Big events (World Youth Day, Youth Festival, conferences)	20	39	42
Service / outreach programs / immersions	17	33	50
Parish youth groups	21	19	60
Local events (rallies, camps, etc)	22	33	44
University chaplaincy initiatives	6	31	63
Social events / meeting new people	32	43	26
Youth Masses or liturgies	34	17	49
Community leadership (training or service)	16	42	42
Speakers & discussion initiatives (in parishes, pubs, other locations)	19	28	54
Prayer experience	29	18	53
Catholic school groups	34	20	47
Personal support services (counselling, mentoring, etc)	22	40	38
Vocation or discernment programs	9	34	58
Other initiative	12	18	70

Each row adds to 100 per cent.

Respondents were also asked to comment on one or two experiences of participating in the above-mentioned events and initiatives that had been particularly positive for them. Youth groups, youth festivals and mission and outreach opportunities were the top three positive experiences as indicated by their responses.

YOUTH GROUPS

Participating in youth groups was enriching because young people could make new friends, discuss issues and explore their faith in a comfortable environment. Youth camps were also an enjoyable experience.

Youth communities and groups—They have provided me with friends that share my beliefs and a safe space to live out my faith freely and learn more about it.

As a youth leader for my diocese youth group, I see the fruits in the importance of having a group for younger teenagers. I feel like there would be a great benefit for the Church to have an option to have a universal program and implement youth groups, such as the Alpha Program.

Youth Masses where young people have actually been involved in arranging the Mass have been wonderful opportunities for youth to explore more traditional forms of liturgy and to explore the musical heritage of the Church. Youth groups are integral in allowing young Catholics to talk about their faith openly with peers without the pressure to keep it a secret that comes with secular society.

Catholic school groups—it is a community that is similar to you but still can encourage you to try new things and be spiritual.

YOUTH FESTIVALS

Youth Festivals were popular for the opportunities they provided to meet other young people and listen to engaging speakers. Some of the festivals mentioned were World Youth Day and the Australian Catholic Youth Festival.

I went to and the Australian Catholic Youth Festival two years ago, and it was probably the best experience of my life! It was so wonderful to be with so many Catholics, and it was so fun, informative and positive! It was so encouraging and all in all, a beautiful experience!

I attended World Youth Days in Madrid and Krakow, and the experience was amazing. My group had to commit to three hours of Eucharistic Adoration each week for many months before we went, and it really built prayer-discipline in me.

World Youth Day 2016—The reason for going and my journey prior and after WYD. Discovering some answers to my prayers that I could be called to live a life dedicated to Jesus. The companionship and sharing this amazing experience with millions but especially with the pilgrimage group I've come to call family.

World Youth Day and the Australian Catholic Youth Festival are both great events. ACYF 2013 was the first major Catholic event I participated in and really made me realise how important my faith is and got me interested to learn more about my faith!

MISSION AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Activities and programs based on mission, outreach and service were inspiring as they provided young people with new experiences and the opportunity to help and serve others.

Last year I participated in a 5-month Mission School down in Tassie and it really was transformative, and I grew so much in terms of ministry.

Volunteering at a Catholic hospital is a very positive experience.

Opportunities to assist and participate in fundraisers, gives a sense of community and social justice.

I had the blessing of attending the Immaculata Mission School in Tasmania on January 2017. This was the greatest decision I have ever made because I met the most beautiful-minded people and enriched my love for God. I attended the mission school to selfheal and establish a greater relationship with the Lord. Throughout the mission school I began to acquire a sense of purpose in my life, and the path God was directing me on.

Working with the Young St Vincent de Paul Society has been great.

Based on participants' responses, the following gatherings, organised or informal, are the top three most engaging and successful **within** the Church.

1. Mass and Liturgical Gatherings
2. Fun, informal activities – parties, picnics, etc.
3. Youth groups and their activities

Mass ... The Mass is the Source and Summit of our faith life. We need to work to restore the beauty and dignity in the liturgy where it has been lost.

School liturgies and Masses—as they are with people within the school community and are targeting an adolescent age range so are more engaging.

I think Easter and Christmas are one of the most engaging events in the Church. They're successful because they include a wide-range of people and more people participate in these events.

Balls and other formal parties organised by parishes and other Catholic organisations are always very engaging and successful. I believe a large part of what makes them successful is that rather than having programs and schedules like other events (e.g. we have to say this prayer, then play this game, then watch this movie) people are instead just able to mingle in a relaxed and free environment and can develop a community based on genuine friendship as a result.

Family activities—it brings together the whole community and not just regular Church visitors.

Informal gatherings—because people feel comfortable and are more likely to get involved because there is less pressure.

Charity Balls, Festivals and youth events—they're fun and high energy, they give the opportunity to go with friends and meet new like-minded people. A time for Adoration/prayer is always appreciated and usually, in my opinion, the highlight of such gatherings.

Youth groups—seeing other young people who have to same religion as you, meeting new people, finding out new things—just good, honest fun.

Youth Groups, Youth Masses and the Australian Catholic Youth Festival are pretty amazing! I think it is really encouraging, and super important for young Catholics to be with others who encourage them in their faith, not detract from it.

Retreats and festivals are successful because they go over an extended amount of time and you get a lot out of these events and a positive experience of faith. Youth groups are also positive because they provide a consistent encounter like the Eucharist that strengthens young people in the Church.

Theology on Tap is successful because it brings together people of all ages in a relaxed atmosphere to learn about their faith.

Based on participants' responses, the following gatherings, organised or informal, are the top four most engaging and successful **outside** the Church.

1. Organised social events - Concerts, parties, music festivals
2. Coffee shops, Cafes, informal social gatherings
3. Family gatherings, birthdays, weddings
4. Sports

Most of the events I attend are apart from the Church but I think events that have a lot of publicity are more successful and events that have something for everyone—food for the foodies, music for the musos, kid's activities, etc.

Ones where there is a lot of interest and participation from the public. It makes it more diverse and enjoyable. For example, festivals that celebrate different aspects of different cultures.

Parties with friends that allow you to express yourself fully without being judged. Also, this includes most social settings not involving the Church. We are free to be ourselves without the traditional expectations of the Church, which are largely based on outdated practices.

Music Concerts—Everyone has a connection to everyone in the audience, they all share a passion for the performer.

Parties and casual get-togethers. I think a lot of the success of, for example, a barbeque is that it is a highly social environment.

Social events—because while practicing your faith is important, sometimes just spending time amongst other Catholics without putting your faith on the forefront and just letting it work through your own actions in the way you socialize and connect with others can be just as powerful.

Fundraisers for the poor and homeless through various Catholic organisations that focus on creating a better wellbeing for all people in the earth.

Pub trivia with my mates—it is successful because everyone enjoys being together and enjoys the activity we are doing.

Catching up with friends is always fun! :)

Christmas celebrations with the family. Also, Easter celebrations.

Where I live in remote Australia, sport is the most common gathering. I would say that local sporting events are incredibly successful in that they have managed to motivate an enormous number of people to serve at them, week in, week out, as well as the players and the spectators. They have really managed to 'sell the vision' well, as well as enculturate children from a young age to grow up playing, and wanting to play, a sport.

Sporting groups—playing sports together is a great bonding experience.

To understand the experiences of participants at **non-Catholic religious events**, respondents were asked to indicate whether they had attended such events and whether they found it enjoyable.

Some experiences of enjoyable events:

I have been at carol services at other Churches e.g. Anglican, Lutheran and they have a really nice, friendly atmosphere. People join together to sing and then there is a nice supper with many Christmas treats!

I used to attend Protestant churches regularly, and really loved the hospitality they had, especially food after services! I would never go to a Protestant Church that didn't have food afterwards, because otherwise, how would I make new friends? I liked the music, and the emphasis on the kerygma.

My grandmother is not Catholic and I had to go church with her, it was much more enjoyable because it was a smaller church and everyone knew everyone.

I have attended Church of Christ services, and I enjoyed the music and the friendly open way the service was conducted. It was a friendly and accepting community and made it easy to want to go.

We have had to attend other Christian churches for praise and worship events, and we love it.

Some experiences of not-enjoyable events:

I have attended a Christian service, and the musicians used electric guitars and a drum kit in their Church. I didn't like how much it differed from the traditional Mass. Mass is supposed to be about praising God and receiving the Eucharist. It is not supposed to be like a rock concert. I felt that that was really disrespectful to God, and left as soon as I could.

Protestant Church services—There is a lot of passion and joy within the services and the people there. But that also leaves a lot of room for them to put themselves into the worship, and less room for God. Especially when it becomes too charismatic.

I went to a Protestant school with a praise and worship session every week. The effort they put into it and the high energy is great. However, the message is usually all the same—Jesus died on the cross for you, say this little prayer in your heart to accept him as your Lord and Saviour—delivered along with some tears. That can be unenjoyable after hearing it constantly at every youth rally or session you go to.

Influencers on young peoples' lives

A question was asked about the extent to which the respondents had been influenced by people or groups of people around key decisions and directions in life. Table 17 shows the degree to which such people had been influencers.

Table 17. Influencers on the young peoples' key decisions and directions in life

	Has influenced a lot	Has had some influence	Has not influenced	Has discouraged	Not sure / Don't know
Family	80	17	1	2	1
Friends	52	41	5	1	1
School / teachers	30	50	16	3	1
University / lecturers	7	18	32	4	39
Parish or church community	9	27	39	11	14
Church or religious leaders	9	20	44	11	16

Each row adds to 100 per cent.

Young peoples' experience of being listened to

An important reason for undertaking the survey was to provide a forum for young people to voice their opinions, thoughts and concerns; that is, to listen to young people. Respondents were asked to rate their experience of being listened to by people from the Church, using a scale from 1 to 10, where '1' was 'Very negative' and '10' was 'Very positive'. The survey defined the term 'Church' as its people, practices and organisations, including schools. The following table shows a comparison of the mean scores between females and males, and between the different age cohorts. The scores for all Australian respondents are also shown.

Table 18. Mean scores (on a scale of 1 to 10) of respondents' experience of being listened to by people from the Church

	Mean score - Diocese	Mean score - Australia
Total	5.5	5.9
Female	5.4	6.0
Male	4.5	6.0
Age 16-18 years	5.5	5.8
Age 19-22 years	4.8	6.6
Age 23-29 years	6.0	6.5

The participants' responses revealed that there were three main factors that contributed to the **positive experiences** of young people—the positive attitude of the clergy, the experience of talking to people who valued their story, and the welcoming and supportive attitude of parishioners. Below are some positive experiences of being listened to that were shared by participants.

I'm part of a youth group where I'm listened to for my ideas and when I need to talk to the Church office about things that are happening.

The priests in my diocese are always willing to listen, as well as the people who work for the diocese.

At school, within the Catholic community, the staff are trustworthy and caring and are always willing to listen to the most serious or minor concern.

Priests, sisters and consecrated men and women in the Ballarat Diocese are so wonderful and generous with their time, they are so kind, helpful and joyous. They are some of the most wonderful people I have ever met! They are amazing listeners, and they really live out the message of God! :)

Affirmations from parishioners about how good it is to have the youth sing at Masses.

It was amazing our new, young Parish Priest supported our wish to start a choir for more traditional sacred music in the Mass.

I've written several times to my bishop and each time received a very warm and personal response from him. It's wonderful, knowing that you can connect with the man who stands in for Christ in your diocese.

The dialogue I have had with Catholics about rights of asylum seekers and refugees has been on the whole inclusive and positive.

The three main factors that contributed to the **negative experiences** of young people were a negative personal experience with a church member, an occasion where their comments were ignored by the group and the seemingly close-minded, biased attitudes of people. Below are some negative experiences of being listened to that were shared by participants.

Some Teachers in Catholic schools often teach ideologies contrary to the teaching of The Church such as the 'importance' and necessity of contraception. Often, they don't want to listen when you try to point out the fallacy, and disregard what you have to say.

Our current priest and the liturgy committee constantly stop any new developments in the parish, whether it's a choir for Mass or a youth group, or a prayer day for families and mothers. They don't want anything to change.

I love our parish and want to see it flourish, but I feel like often ideas or ministries or growth fall on deaf ears with many parishioners who, on a practical level, don't seem to care.

I would not say that I have had many negative experiences, but I find not many people in the Church want to hear what I am saying or care, and I find as soon as people see that I am young no one wants to listen because they think I am only here because my parents make me, which can be very frustrating.

Clergy and Parish Councils are scared of tradition. Many people (particularly looking at liturgy) will only push their (often liberal ideas) which are not what my generation are looking for. Furthermore, there is an utter disregard for magisterial documents in their entirety rather a preference for whatever suits the purposes of the liberal in charge. Young people want an experience that is distinctly other in their worship, polyphony, chant, rubrics are all very important. I know of people who have been excluded by the dominant liberal culture for years.

In homilies, and in experiences with religious clerics or practising Catholics, the subject of women's rights and occasionally of other faiths like Islam has been horribly treated. Views, over the course of my entire life, have been rigid, overwhelmingly restrictive, hypocritical and oppressive on the subject of women's rights.

Prejudice against LGBTQA community.

Issues facing young people today

A question asked respondents to consider some of the main issues facing young people in Australia today. Table 19 below shows the results.

Table 19. Main issues facing young people in Australia today	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Family life	37	36
Friendships and relationships	46	45
School or study	52	56
Work or employment	27	32
Environment	9	12
Spirituality and religion	10	17
Body image	55	51
Drugs or alcohol	57	53
Multiculturalism and ethnicity	9	13
Sexuality	43	38
Mental health	66	57
What to do with your life	32	32
Sport and health	10	8
Culture, the arts or music	4	5
Leadership in society	6	8
Social justice	18	15
Other	2	3
Total	482	480

N = 211. Missing = 23. Total exceeds 100% because respondents could choose more than one response.

When asked to indicate ways in which the Church could help them and their friends in today's world, many respondents believed that the Church could provide guidance, help and counselling for young people in dealing with personal problems and relationship issues. Also, more involvement opportunities for youth as well as better faith formation. Some respondents also believed that the Church should be more inclusive and open.

Listen, add guidance, information sessions, make contemporary services to address new issues like body image, divorce and family break ups.

Providing ways of resolving disputes/issues, giving advice for a positive and optimistic outlook on life, promoting self-worth and good values.

Continue to support. Listen to those young people who are active in the parish life—listen to why they are still engaged. Whatever you do, don't dismiss their views. Invest more in beauty— music, iconography, etc.

I think things like Catholic Youth Groups and the Australian Catholic Youth Festival are simply incredible! They are really great for making good Catholic friends and strengthening the Catholic faith in those whose faith is lukewarm. Three cheers for the Youth Group Ballarat! You guys are amazing.

Advertising youth groups throughout school communities to bring youth further into the Church community.

Work or Employment—any business owners to help job seekers (especially for first timers) by sharing knowledge on what employers look for, give opportunities for work placement (potentially lead to attaining the job) and training for those wanting to work in their field/area of expertise.

Spirituality/Religion—more reaching out to youth groups in country areas and forming up potential leaders. ... Sexuality - more chastity speakers and promotion on the real meaning and beauty of our sexuality.

One of the most important things I think the Church could do to help myself and my friends would be to stand strongly behind its own teachings. It's common to see Catholics fighting to stay true to Catholic doctrine despite societal pressures to do otherwise. During these times, we need the Church to stand with us and yet so often weak leaders within the Church back down and won't stand up for the beliefs they expect the faithful to uphold.

Informing young people of Church teachings especially in Catholic high schools and Church parishes. Teaching young Catholics apologetics and how to defend our faith and what we stand for. Providing more spaces where young Catholics can live out their faith freely and where they can learn more about their faith and Catholic morals.

Talks / faith development on some of the awesome teachings that the Church has, such as on human love and sexuality, mission and evangelisation, salvation, scriptures, etc. Also, more opportunities to serve in ministry and ministry training—not just youth ministry but also women's, men's, family, parish, etc.

Be more open about people's sexuality and accepting that the LGBTQTI community deserves the same rights and privileges as everyone else

Spread awareness of diverse cultures and beliefs. Keep an open mind and extend help to those who need it regardless of religion, sexual orientation, sex, culture and beliefs.

I believe fervently that we must see women at the helm of congregations and in the papacy (the name would evidently have to change to incorporate women). In a world that denigrates women, that abuses them, that undervalues them, that gravely under-represents them in roles of leadership, that places definitions on their purpose, their lives, I cannot expect for the Catholic Church to be validating my place, or my friends' places, in the world without the Church's commitment to gender equality in their own organisation.

Young people were also asked to indicate how the Church could use social media and technology to connect with them better. In response to this, there were several suggestions of a greater presence of the Church on platforms such as Facebook, Snapchat, YouTube and Instagram. Respondents also said that they would like parishes and dioceses to use social media to advertise youth activities and events and provide more faith formation resources.

Just getting on social media! Almost all youth have at least one form of social media and having 'accounts' and 'posting' on social media apps and pages (Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram and Twitter).

Instagram is great, as well as YouTube! YouTubers such as That Catholic Couple and Fr. Mike Schmitz are incredible! It's more relatable.

Parishes could get on Facebook and advertise Mass, Adoration and Confession times, as well as any other activities the parish is running.

It can allow people to have a greater awareness of mission schools or other activities occurring. It can also enable people from different locations to communicate with one another.

They could create a fun Instagram page which isn't completely focused on Christianity, rather what it means to be a Christian. For example, cool quotes and social justice images along with images from fundraisers, etc.

I love Cradio, a Catholic on-line radio station based in Australia. It has great talks and testimonies on lots of different topics. What I'd like to see is more ministry-training available remotely, so those in remote Australia (like myself) can access those tools (through video, podcasts, etc.).

I wish Australia could start a TV channel or a phone app of prayer, saints and Catholicism.

Providing accessible Catholic resources on social media platforms that give young people assurance of their faith and better help them know it and understand it's teachings. Producing articles on Catholic teachings on current social issues in society that provide you people with a sound understanding of where the Church stands (for example gay marriage, abortion, contraception, IVF, sex in marriage, substance abuse and paedophilia) and apologetics on the issues so young people when confronted can defend their stance with confidence. Just more of a Catholic presence to counteract the massive load of loud anti-Church voices out there.

Respondents who were not involved in church activities were asked to indicate ways in which the Church could connect better with them. In response to this, most suggested advertising youth events and activities through emails or on social media platforms such as Facebook as a means of direct communication. Another frequent suggestion was to plan fun and interesting events and activities for young people and advertise them widely through schools and parishes so that young people of other faiths might hear about them and have the opportunity to participate in them.

[Advertise] over social media or create events that are not directly associated with Church activities

[Advertise] through Social Media, Email, SMS.

By making it compulsory for every parish to provide a space for growth of faith for young people in the Church (community, youth groups, discussion groups, youth Masses, and outreach in Catholic schools).

Organise fun activities once a week as an opportunity to catch up with friends and learn about Catholic values.

I don't know a lot of groups or churches that I can attend in my area. Making this better known so that young people can participate in those gatherings.

By offering support systems for younger people without forcing certain beliefs on them.

Please provide something fun like a movie night after Mass or a youth group or something.

Come to school and talk about events.

APPENDIX 1 – Copy of Survey (Paper Version)

Australian Catholic Bishops Youth Survey 2017



Thanks for participating in this survey. Pope Francis wishes to hear from young people and so the Australian Catholic Bishops have developed this survey to provide him with feedback. Your thoughts will contribute to a national submission that will be considered by Pope Francis as part of the **General Synod on Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment** to be held in Rome in October 2018.

What's a Synod? A Synod is a special meeting of Church members including: bishops, priests, religious sisters and brothers, men and women. But it's more than a meeting – it's a journey and a way for the Pope to hear from the whole church on issues. After the Synod the Pope usually writes a special document for the whole of the church.

Who: This survey is for **Australians** aged between **16 and 29 years**. Note: if you are under 18, you may wish to discuss the survey with your parents.

How: This survey should only take about 10-20 minutes. There are no right or wrong answers, so just answer each question as honestly as you can. If you do not want to answer a question, just move onto the next one. In each question, simply tick the box which best represents your response or write your comments, and then move onto the next question.

Can I withdraw from the survey? Participation in this survey is completely voluntary. You are not under any obligation to participate. If you agree to participate, you can withdraw from the survey at any time up until you hand in the survey.

Questions: If you have any queries about this survey, please contact Stephen Reid, ACBC Pastoral Research Office (E: synod2018@catholic.org.au).

Results: The results from the survey may be summarised and appear in publications or may be provided to other researchers in a form that does not identify you in any way. Your privacy is important to us. Please go to the ACBC website to view the ACBC privacy policy to find out how we handle your information:

www.catholic.org.au/acbc-privacy/australian-catholic-bishops-conference-privacy-policy

Ethics: This survey has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at Australian Catholic University (Review no. 2017-110E). If you have any complaints or concerns about the conduct of the project, you may write to the Manager of the Human Research Ethics Committee, care of the Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research).

Manager, Ethics
c/o Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research)
Australian Catholic University
North Sydney Campus
PO Box 968
NORTH SYDNEY, NSW 2059
Ph.: 02 9739 2519 Fax: 02 9739 2870
Email: resethics.manager@acu.edu.au

End date: This survey will close at midnight on Sunday 2 July 2017.

This is an opportunity to make your voice heard. Thank you for participating.

By completing the questions below you are consenting to participate in this survey.

Q1. Which diocese do you belong to? _____

Q2. If you do not know which diocese you are located in,
please just write in your postcode: _____

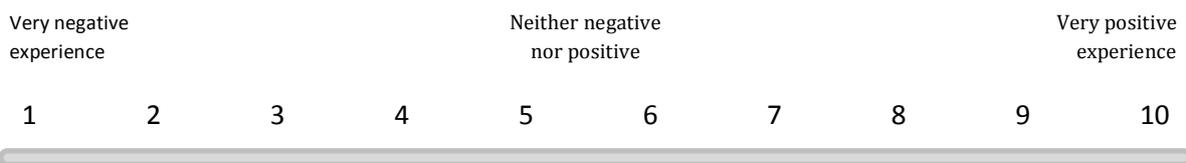
Q3. How old are you? _____ *(Note, this survey is only for those aged 16-29)*

Q4. Which **ONE** of the following best describes you?

- I am Catholic and regularly attend Mass and other faith activities
- I consider myself Catholic or Christian and go to church activities sometimes
- My family is Catholic or Christian, but I don't practice or get involved in anything
- I'm not sure what to think about the Catholic or Christian Faith
- I follow another religion or belief
- I don't identify with being Catholic or any other religion
- Other (please describe in just a few words): _____

Definition: *in this survey you will find the term 'Church' used throughout. By this we mean its people, practices and organisations, including schools.*

Q5. On a scale of 1 to 10, rate your experience of being listened to by people from the Church. *(Write an X on the bar, or skip to the next question if you are unsure.)*



Q6. Would you like to share briefly one positive and one negative experience of being listened to by people from the Church?

Positive experience:

Negative experience:

Q7. What do you consider are some of the **main** issues facing young people in Australia today?

	Please select up to 4 issues
Family life	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friendships and relationships	<input type="checkbox"/>
School or study	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work or employment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spirituality and religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Body image	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drugs or alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/>
Multiculturalism and ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexuality	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental health	<input type="checkbox"/>
What to do with your life	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Culture, the arts or music	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leadership in society	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social justice	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (describe briefly): _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q8. In what ways do you believe the Church can help you and your friends in today's world?

Q9. From your experience, how could the Church use social media and technology to better connect with you?

Q10. Below is a list of some of the opportunities for young people to participate in Catholic groups, organisations or church activities. Please indicate your level of participation. *(If you are unsure, just leave it blank.)*

	Yes, I have participated in this event	No, I've not participated but would be open to it	No, and not interested
Big events (World Youth Day, Youth Festival, conferences)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service / outreach programs / immersions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parish youth groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local events (rallies, camps, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
University chaplaincy initiatives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social events / meeting new people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth Masses or liturgies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community leadership (training or service)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speakers & discussion initiatives (in parishes, pubs or other locations)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prayer experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Catholic school groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal support services (counselling, mentoring, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vocation or discernment programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other initiative not listed above (describe briefly): <hr/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q11. Thinking further about the above-mentioned events and initiatives you've participated in, would you like to comment on one or two which have been particularly positive experiences for you and why?

Q12. What types of gatherings, organised or informal, are the most engaging and successful **within** the Church? In your opinion, what makes them successful?

Q13. What types of gatherings, organised or informal, are the most engaging and successful **outside** the Church? In your opinion, what makes them successful?

Q14. If you, or your friends, are not involved in church activities, how could we connect with you? *(Please skip this question if you are currently involved in church activities.)*

Q15. Have you ever attended a religious event that wasn't Catholic? What was or wasn't enjoyable? *(Please skip this question if you haven't attended a non-Catholic religious event.)*

Q16. To what extent have the following groups of people influenced key decisions and directions in your life?

	Has influenced me a lot	Has had some influence	Has not influenced me at all	Has discouraged me	Not sure / Don't know
Family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
School / teachers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
University / lecturers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parish or church community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Church or religious leaders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (describe): _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (describe): _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

About you

These last few questions help us to find out whether different groups give different sorts of answers. For example, do females and males think differently about certain things?

Q17. Are you:

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

Q18. In which country were you born?

- Australia
- Chile
- China (not including Hong Kong or Taiwan)
- Croatia and other Former Yugoslavia
- Egypt
- Germany
- Hong Kong
- Hungary
- India
- Indonesia
- Iraq
- Ireland (including Northern Ireland)
- Italy
- Korea, Republic of (South)
- Lebanon
- Malaysia
- Malta
- Mauritius
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- North America
- Philippines
- Poland
- South Africa
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan (including South Sudan)
- United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland)
- Vietnam
- ...Other country (please name): _____

Q19. Where were your parents born?

	Australia	In another English speaking country	In a non-English speaking country	Don't know
Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Father	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q20. Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

- Yes
- No

***If you selected 'Yes' to the question above, please answer Q21 and Q22.
If you selected 'No' to the question above, please skip to Q23.***

Q21. If you attend Mass, is it at a local parish or an Aboriginal and Islander Catholic Ministry?

- A local parish
- An Aboriginal and Islander Catholic Ministry
- I don't attend Mass

Q22. Do you know about the local Aboriginal and Islander Catholic Ministry?

- Yes, and I am involved in it
- Yes, but I don't have anything to do with it
- No, I haven't heard of it before now
- Don't know

Q23. Which of the following best describes your current situation? *(Click all that apply.)*

- I am studying at school
- I am studying at university
- I am studying at TAFE
- I am employed full-time
- I am employed part-time or casually
- I am self-employed
- I am unemployed
- I am involved in home duties
- Other (please describe) _____

If you selected 'I am studying at school', please answer Q24.

If you did not select 'I am studying at school', please skip to Q25.

Q24. What type of school do you currently attend?

- A Catholic school
- Another Christian or church-run school
- A government school
- Another type of independent or private school
- I am home-schooled
- Other (please describe) _____

Q25. What type of school did you **MOSTLY** attend when you were younger? *(If you attended more than one type of school, select the type you spent the most time in.)*

- A Catholic school
- Another Christian or church-run school
- A government school
- Another type of independent or private school
- I was home-schooled
- Other (please describe) _____

In Q23, if you selected 'I am employed full-time' OR 'I am employed part-time or casually', please answer Q26.

If you did not select 'I am employed full-time' OR 'I am employed part-time or casually', please skip to Q29.

Q26. You indicated in a previous question that you are employed. Are you employed in a Catholic organisation (i.e. school, parish, hospital)?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say

If you selected 'Yes', please answer Q27.

If you did not select 'Yes', please skip to Q29.

Q27. Please select the type of Catholic organisation you are **MOSTLY** employed in. (If you are employed in more than one sector, select the one you spend most time employed at.)

- Catholic School
- Catholic Education / Schools Office
- Catholic Healthcare Organisation
- Catholic Social Service Organisation
- Catholic Diocese
- Catholic Parish
- Other Catholic Organisation

If you selected 'Catholic School', please answer Q28.

If you did not select 'Catholic School', please skip to Q29.

Q28. Are you a teacher in a Catholic School?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Q29. Do you have a disability?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

If you selected 'Yes', please answer Q30 to Q32.

If you did not select 'Yes', please skip to Q34.

Q30. How would you describe your disability? (Choose more than one option if appropriate.)

- Sensory (it affects my ability to hear or see)
- Physical (it affects my mobility or dexterity)
- Intellectual (it affects my ability to learn)
- Mental illness (it affects my thinking processes)
- Neurological (it affects my brain and central nervous system)
- Physical disfigurement
- Immunological (certain organisms cause disease in my body)
- Other (please describe briefly) _____

Q31. In what ways do you contribute to your Catholic community?

Q32. How does your Catholic community welcome you?

Q33. This question has been omitted from the paper version of the survey.

Q34. Would you like to add any further comments?

You have now completed the survey. Thank you for your response. Please keep the forthcoming Synod in your prayers.

Please visit the Year of Youth website: youth.catholic.org.au/year-of-youth, where you can find out more about this exciting initiative happening in 2018.

APPENDIX 2 – Ethics Approval

2017-110E Ethics application approved!

Pratigya Pozniak on behalf of Res Ethics

Wed 5/10/2017 11:01 AM



To: Trudy Dantis <Trudy.Dantis@acu.edu.au>; Stephen Reid <Stephen.Reid@acu.edu.au>;

Cc: Res Ethics <Res.Ethics@acu.edu.au>;

Dear Applicant,

Principal Investigator: Mrs Trudy Dantis

Co-Investigator: Mr Stephen Reid

Ethics Register Number: 2017-110E

Project Title: Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Youth Survey 2017

Date Approved: 10/05/2017

Ethics Clearance End Date: 31/12/2017

This is to certify that the above application has been reviewed by the Australian Catholic University Human Research Ethics Committee (ACU HREC). The application has been approved for the period given above.

Researchers are responsible for ensuring that all conditions of approval are adhered to, that they seek prior approval for any modifications and that they notify the HREC of any incidents or unexpected issues impacting on participants that arise in the course of their research. Researchers are also responsible for ensuring that they adhere to the requirements of the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research, the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research and the University's Code of Conduct.

Any queries relating to this application should be directed to the Ethics Secretariat (res.ethics@acu.edu.au). It is helpful if you quote your ethics approval number in all communications with us.

If you require a formal approval certificate in addition to this email, please respond via reply email and one will be issued.

We wish you every success with your research.

Kind regards,

Kylie Pashley
on behalf of ACU HREC Chair, Dr Nadia Crittenden

Senior Research Ethics Officer | Research Services Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) Australian Catholic University

THIS IS AN AUTOMATICALLY GENERATED RESEARCHMASTER EMAIL

