

## CENSUS ANALYSIS

The Pastoral Research Office of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference, auspiced by the Australian Catholic University in Fitzroy, has in January released the 2011 census data for each of Australia's 1300+ parishes, including for St. Brendan's Parish in Flemington and Holy Rosary Parish in Kensington. The data relate to all Catholic people living within the parish boundaries. All averages are medians, not means.

### **St. BRENDAN's PARISH, FLEMINGTON – 2011 Census Details**

The data show that while the overall population of Flemington has increased almost ten per cent from 12,800 in 2006 to 14,019 in 2011 as a result of the apartments being built in the area, the Catholic population has remained stationary at 3,464 in 2011 compared to 3,466 in 2006. This implies the percentage of Catholics has decreased from 27.1% to 24.7% to be slightly below the Australia-wide figure (25.3%). Catholics have become more residentially stable with 58.3 per cent living at the same address as in 2006 (53%).

The average median age is 37. Whilst those under 14 have increased (15.8%), the proportion of those aged over 65 has decreased slightly (now 14.7%). There are many more Catholic females in the parish, and the imbalance has worsened (now 84.9 males per 100 females) – the gender imbalance is at all age levels except those aged under 20, and especially pronounced for those aged over 70. The number of disabled Catholics needing assistance with their core activities has decreased slightly to 6.1 per cent.

In terms of religious affiliation, the largest group is now not the Catholic group, but the 'no religion' group who represent 29.9 per cent of the total Flemington population. Those who did not state any religion has declined (11%). The other groups comprise the Anglican (6.01%), Orthodox Christian (4.47%) and other Christian (6.87%). The non-Christian group is growing to be a high 17.02 per cent.

**Marital Status and Family Formation:** The Catholic marital status profile has remained essentially the same as in 2006 – almost half, including children (44.3%) have never married, 38.4 per cent are married while almost one in ten (9.8%) is divorced or separated while 7.4 per cent are widowed.

However, there has been significant change regarding families, defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as consisting of two or more people one of whom is at least 15 years, but not so much regarding households which has a broader definition incorporating persons living on their own. There has been a 7.5 per cent decline in Catholics living alone in the parish from 560 in 2006 to 518 in 2011. The number of families has jumped appreciably from 1,093 in 2006 to 1,151 in 2011, an increase of 5.3 per cent. Exactly half of the marriages are between a Catholic and a non-Catholic. Almost a quarter (24.5%) of Catholics are in unregistered relationships. The number of one parent families has increased significantly to be 15.6 per cent of all families, well above the Australian average of 11.9 per cent. Over half of Flemington's Catholics (55.8%) own or are in the process of owning their own house or apartment but this is well below the national average (71.4%).

**Employment, Occupation and Family Income:** The most important, perhaps stunning, change since 2006 in St Brendan's Flemington has been the large increase in average annual family income. It increased by almost a third (31%) from \$82,946 in 2006 to \$108,666 in 2011 – this average does not include single people living on their own. This average median family income compares with \$88,486 for the archdiocese and \$86,401 for all Australia. Flemington has moved well away from its working

class origins of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Having said that, there is a small group of mainly one parent families whose income level is low. Of the 180 one parent Catholic families, 16.1% receive less than \$400 per week, and another 24.4 % who receive \$400 – \$799 per week. These one-parent families on incomes of less than \$800 per week comprise 6.3 per cent of all Catholic families in the parish.

Income obviously relates to occupational status and labour participation as well as education as we shall see. Labour force participation for males is 69 per cent and 60 per cent for females. The percentage of Flemington Catholics now working in professional and managerial positions increased significantly from 46.8 per cent in 2006 to 50.3 per cent in 2011. The number of those in blue collar occupations has declined slightly. Also unemployment has declined slightly from one in 20 to one in 25. However, youth (aged 15 – 24) unemployment has increased significantly from 8.4 per cent to 12.3 per cent over the 5-year period.

**Education:** Flemington's Catholics are becoming educated to a higher level, much more so than at the archdiocesan or national level. Those with a university degree represent 34.4 per cent of Catholics in 2011 as compared to 29 per cent in 2006, the females (37.1%) more so than the males (31.1%). Men are much more likely to have a certificate (16.1% to 7.7% for the females), but men are more likely to have a postgraduate degree (8.1% to 5.3%).

The rise in the number of families has impacted upon the schooling figures in increasing their number and accompanied by a rise in the percentage attending Catholic schools. In percentage terms, the percentage of Catholic children attending Catholic primary schools has jumped from 51.7 per cent in 2006 to 59.6 per cent in 2011 with a smaller increase at secondary level (57.1% to 59.6%). Amongst those children who are not Catholic but are attending Catholic schools, at primary level the percentage has decreased (34% to 30.5%) but increased at secondary level (31.5% to 34.0%) as Catholic secondary schools become more popular.

Almost all Catholics aged 15 - 17 in the parish are attending an educational institution (95.8% as against 88.8% in 2006) as against archdiocesan (89.9%) and national (87.2%) levels. The same strong patterns are also seen in the 18-19 age group (72.2% attending) and the 20-24 age group (48.8%).

**Overseas Birthplace and Language Profile:** Whilst Catholic migrants from English-speaking countries are less likely to live in Flemington, those from non-English-speaking countries are more likely to do so though the proportion has declined very slightly (27.0% in 2006 to 26.7% in 2011). In the last three years, 109 Catholic immigrants/refugees have arrived to live in the parish. About a third of Flemington's Catholics (32.4%) speak a language other than English, and 7.6 per cent of parishioners are not proficient in English (9.0% in 2006). Few Aboriginal Catholics live in the parish.

The largest overseas birthplace groups are, in order, Italy (218, 6.3% of total Catholic population), Viet Nam (154, 4.4%), Latin America (85, 2.5%), the Philippines (51, 1.5%), the U.K. (43, 1.2%) and Ireland (inc. Northern Ireland) (38, 1.1%) – over half the Irish have arrived in the last three years.

The language profile perhaps gives a clearer picture. Italian remains the no. one language with 367 speakers (46.6% aged 65+ and 42.8% aged 30 – 65), followed by Vietnamese (224 speakers, 21.3% aged 65+, 46.9% aged 30 – 65), Spanish (105 speakers, 13.3% aged 65+, 50.5% aged 30 – 65), the Chinese languages (89 speakers, 19.1% aged 65+, 42.7% aged 30 – 65), Maltese (48 speakers, 45.8% aged 65+, 68.4% aged 30 – 65), the Filipino languages (38 speakers, 7.9% aged 65+, 65.8% aged 30 – 65) and Croatian (38 speakers, 36.8% aged 65+, 47.4% aged 30 – 65).

In summary, St Brendan's parish in Flemington is changing, not in actual numbers, but now has a greater no. of families with school-age children. The educational and employment profiles of Flemington's Catholics are improving with the result of, on average, significantly higher incomes. However, there are significant employment and income issues amongst many one-parent Catholic families in the parish and amongst our young people in the parish who are not attending educational institutions.

## **HOLY ROSARY PARISH, KENSINGTON – 2011 Census Details**

The census data show that the overall population of Kensington has increased exactly fifteen per cent from 8,853 in 2006 to 10,186 in 2011 as a result of the apartments being built in the area. The Catholic population has likewise increased, but at the lower rate of 4.7 per cent from 2341 in 2006 to 2,451 in 2011. This implies the percentage of Catholics has decreased from 26.4% to 24.1% to be slightly below the Australia-wide figure (25.3%). Catholics in Kensington are reasonably mobile (but less so than in the past) with only 44.4 per cent at the same address as compared to 2006 (39.7%).

The average median age is 33 and those under 14 have increased very appreciably (16.0% compared to 11.9% in 2006). The proportion of those aged over 65 has decreased slightly (now 9.6%). There are more Catholic females in the parish (now 88.5 males per 100 females) – the gender imbalance is at all age levels except those aged under 20, pronounced for those aged over 70. In 2006, there were 173 Catholics over 70 whereas in 2011 the number is 161. The number of disabled Catholics needing assistance with their core activities has remained the same at 4.4 per cent.

In terms of religious affiliation, the largest group is now not the Catholic group, but the 'no religion' group who represent 36.0 per cent of the total Kensington population. Those who did not state any religion has declined (11.7%). The other groups comprise the Anglican (7.10%), Orthodox Christian (2.49%) and other Christian (6.87%). The non-Christian group is growing to be 10.58 per cent.

**Marital Status and Family Formation:** The Catholic marital status profile has remained more or less the same as in 2006 – over half, including children (51.1%) have never married, 34.1 per cent are married while almost one in ten (10.2%) is divorced or separated while only 4.6 per cent are widowed.

There has been significant change regarding families, defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as consisting of two or more people one of whom is at least 15 years, but not so much regarding households which has a broader definition incorporating persons living on their own. There has been a five per cent increase in Catholics living alone in the parish from 391 to 411. The number of families has increased a little from 803 in 2006 to 831 in 2011, an increase of 3 per cent. Well over half (59.1%) of the marriages are between a Catholic and a non-Catholic. One third (34.8%) of Catholics are in unregistered relationships. The number of one parent families is at 10.11 per cent of all families, just below the Australian average of 11.9 per cent. Slightly over half of Kensington's Catholics (51.2%) own or are in the process of owning their own house or apartment but this is well below the national average (71.4%).

**Employment, Occupation and Family Income:** The most important change since 2006 in Holy Rosary parish, Kensington has been the large increase in average annual family income. It increased by a quarter (25.24%) from \$97,879 in 2006 to \$122,588 in 2011 – this average does not include single people living on their own. This average median family income compares with \$88,486 for the archdiocese and \$86,401 for all Australia. Kensington, like Flemington, has moved well away from its working class origins of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There are 84 one parent families – 20.23% receive less than

\$400 per week, and another 21.43 % who receive \$400 – \$799 per week. These one-parent families on incomes of less than \$800 per week comprise 4.2 per cent of all Catholic families in the parish.

Income obviously relates to labour participation and occupational status as well as education. Labour participation rate is high, at 77.7 per cent for males and 71.7 per cent for females. The percentage of Kensington Catholics now working in professional and managerial positions increased very slightly from 54.5 per cent in 2006 to 54.9 per cent in 2011. The number of those in blue collar occupations has declined slightly. Unemployment is very low at 3.6 per cent. And youth (aged 15 – 24) unemployment has decreased remarkably from 10.6 per cent to 1.5 per cent over the 5-year period though the numbers are very small because almost all Kensington young people are studying.

**Education:** Even more than Flemington’s Catholics, Kensington’s Catholics are becoming educated to a much higher level, much more so than at the archdiocesan or national level. Those with a university degree represent 41.5 per cent of Catholics in 2011 as compared to 38.2 per cent in 2006, the females (43.3%) more so than the males (39.48%). Men are slightly more likely to have a certificate (11.2% to 9.3% for the females), and women are very slightly more likely to have a postgraduate degree (7.1% to 6.8%).

In percentage terms, the percentage of Catholic children attending Catholic primary schools has remained the same, 70.8 per cent in 2006 to 70.5 per cent in 2011 with a very small decrease at secondary level (61.9% to 60.2%). Amongst those children who are not Catholic but are attending Catholic schools, at primary level the percentage has decreased (29.5%) but increased at secondary level (23.5% to 29.8%) as Catholic secondary schools become more popular.

Every Catholic aged 15 - 17 in the parish is attending an educational institution (100 per cent in both 2006 and 2011) as against archdiocesan (89.9%) and national (87.2%) levels. The same strong patterns are not seen in the 18-19 age group (51.4% attending) and the 20-24 age group (42.6%).

**Overseas Birthplace and Language Profile:** Like Flemington, in Kensington Catholic migrants from English-speaking countries are less likely to live. The proportion from non-English-speaking has risen very slightly (21.5% in 2006 to 22.5% in 2011). In the last three years, 73 Catholic immigrants/refugees have arrived to live in the parish, including from Ireland and South Korea. Over a quarter of Flemington’s Catholics (27.14%) speak a language other than English, and 4.4 per cent of parishioners are not proficient in English (4.7% in 2006). Few Aboriginal Catholics live in the parish.

The largest overseas birthplace groups are, in order, Italy (92, 3.8% of total Catholic population), Viet Nam (56, 2.3%), Latin America (53, 2.2%), the U.K. (53, 2.2%) the Philippines (47, 1.9%), and Ireland (inc. Northern Ireland) (35, 1.4%) – over half the Irish have arrived in the last three years. The language profile perhaps gives a clearer picture. Italian remains the no. one language with 162 speakers (38.3% aged 65+ and 47.5% aged 30 – 65), followed by Vietnamese (95 speakers, 11.6% aged 65+, 49.5% aged 30 – 65), Spanish (59 speakers, 15.3% aged 65+, 52.5% aged 30 – 65), the Chinese languages (55 speakers, 9.1% aged 65+, 41.8 % aged 30 – 65), the Filipino languages (36 speakers, 0.0% aged 65+, 72.2% aged 30 – 65), Croatian (34 speakers, 0.0% aged 65+, 82.4% aged 30 – 65), Indonesian/Malay (33 speakers, 0% aged 65+, 78.8% aged 30-65) and Maltese (32 speakers, 62.5% aged 65+, 37.5% aged 30 – 65),

In summary, Holy Rosary parish in Flemington is changing with an increase in actual numbers, with a small increase in the no. of families with school-age children. The educational, labour participation and employment profiles of Flemington’s Catholics are improving with the result of, on average,

significantly higher incomes. There seems to be small but significant issues with educational participation of 18+ year olds, and a very small group of one parent families with income issues.

## **THE TWO PARISHES IN COMPARISON**

The following points of comparison about Holy Rosary, Kensington and St. Brendan's, Flemington can be made based on the 2011 census information:

- The overall population has since 2006 increased in both Flemington (14,019, +10%) and Kensington (10,186, +15%) – the Catholic population of Flemington has remained the same (3,464 Catholics) while the Kensington Catholic population has increased by 110 to 2,451 in 2011. The largest religion group in both areas has become the 'no religion' category, and Flemington has a significant non-Christian presence.
- The Kensington Catholics are younger with a median average of 33 years compared to 37 years. In both parishes there are many more females than males, especially in Flemington (84.9 males per 100 females).
- The number of those aged under 14 has increased very appreciably in both parishes (16% in both parishes), reflecting the long term rise in the number of families with children. The number and proportion of those aged over 65 has declined in both parishes.
- The profile for marital status and family formation has remained essentially the same though the number of one-parent families has increased in Flemington many of whom have significant income problems. – some are on incomes of less than \$400 a week.
- The number in unregistered relationships, especially in Kensington, is quite high. The majority of married Catholics, especially in Kensington, are married to partners who are not Catholic.
- The levels of education, employment status, both male and female labour participation and family income have very considerably increased with the indices for Kensington being higher than for Flemington, especially in family median income which is much higher than the Australian norm. The higher income figure is partially a result of younger age group, more university graduates, higher levels of labour participation for both males and females and higher occupational level, especially in the number in managerial and professional positions, in Kensington – just over half the working Catholics in both parishes are in such positions.
- The overseas-birth and language profiles are very similar, except that Flemington has a higher proportion of people born overseas and speaking a language other than English. The number not able to speak English has declined in both parishes. The top six languages in both parishes are, in order: Italian, Vietnamese, Spanish, Chinese, the Filipino languages and Croatian.
- The participation rate of children attending Catholic schools is high, most especially in Kensington. There seems to be an issue with Catholics aged 18 – 24 with educational participation but no issue with youth unemployment.