



Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

Pastoral Research Office

Australian Catholic Bishops Youth Survey 2017



Report to the Archdiocese of Melbourne

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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 Melbourne Archdiocese.

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:

'This material was prepared by the ACBC Pastoral Research Office from data obtained from the Australian Catholic Bishops Youth Survey 2017.'

Demographic characteristics of respondents

The following tables provide a demographic overview of the **1,665 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 ($N = x,xxx$). 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	80	81
19-22 years	7	7
23-29 years	13	13
Total	100	100

$N = 1,665$. Missing = 0.

Table 2. Sex	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Female	53	57
Male	42	37
Prefer not to say	6	6
Total	100	100

$N = 1,179$. Missing = 486.

Table 3. Country of birth (only top five listed individually here)	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Australia	85	84
Philippines	2	These fields intentionally left blank
United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland)	2	
India	1	
Iraq	1	
Other country	10	
Total	100	

$N = 1,163$. Missing = 502.

Table 4. Mother's birthplace	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Australia	65	62
Another English speaking country	10	11
A non-English speaking country	24	25
Don't know	2	2
Total	100	100

$N = 1,176$. Missing = 489.

Table 5. Father's birthplace	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Australia	64	60
Another English speaking country	10	12
A non-English speaking country	25	26
Don't know	2	2
Total	100	100

N = 1,167. Missing = 498.

Table 6. Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Yes	3	4
No	97	96
Total	100	100

N = 1,168. Missing = 497.

Table 7. Current situation	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Studying at school	81	82
Studying at university	11	9
Studying at TAFE	3	5
Employed full-time	8	6
Employed part-time	39	40
Self employed	4	4
Unemployed	18	18
Involved in home duties	33	35
Other	3	3
Total	200	201

N = 1,173. Missing = 492. 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	97	96
Another Christian school	0	0
Government school	1	1
Another independent school	1	1
Home schooled	1	0
Other	1	1
Total	100	100

N = 941. Missing or N/A = 724.

Table 9. Previous type of school attended (if not currently attending school)	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Catholic school	68	66
Another Christian school	4	5
Government school	16	18
Another independent school	4	4
Home schooled	7	5
Other	1	3
Total	100	100

N = 231. Missing or N/A = 1,434.

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	3	3
Prefer not to say	2	2
Total	100	100

N = 539. Missing or N/A = 1,126.

Table 11. Type of Catholic organisation (if answer to previous question was 'Yes')	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Catholic School	59	62
Catholic Education or Schools Office	4	6
Catholic Healthcare Organisation	6	3
Catholic Social Service Organisation	2	5
Catholic Diocese	6	9
Catholic Parish	9	6
Other Catholic Organisation	15	10
Total	100	100

N = 54. Missing or N/A = 1,611.

Table 12. Are you a teacher in a Catholic school? (if answer to previous question was 'School')	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Yes	75	66
No	19	31
Prefer not to say	6	2
Total	100	100

N = 32. Missing or N/A = 1,633.

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

N = 1,180. Missing = 485.

Table 14. Type of disability (if answer to previous question was 'Yes')	Per cent - Diocese	Per cent - Australia
Sensory - affecting ability to hear or see	35	33
Physical - affecting mobility or dexterity	33	35
Intellectual - affecting ability to learn	54	47
Mental illness - affecting thinking processes	54	56
Neurological - affecting brain and central nervous system	44	30
Physical disfigurement	27	26
Immunological - organisms causing disease in body	33	25
Other	15	20
Total	296	271

N = 48. Missing or N/A = 1,617. Total exceeds 100% because respondents could choose more than one response.

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	24	23	15	63	67	25	25
I consider myself Catholic or Christian and go to church activities sometimes	33	26	29	17	15	27	25
My family is Catholic or Christian, but I don't practice or get involved in anything	24	23	26	11	7	23	21
I'm not sure what to think about the Catholic or Christian Faith	4	3	5	3	2	4	6
I follow another religion or belief	4	6	6	2	1	5	5
I don't identify with being Catholic or any other religion	8	13	13	2	3	11	14
Other	3	5	5	4	5	5	5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

N: Sex = 1,179, Age = 1,662.

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)	19	45	37
Service / outreach programs / immersions	28	36	35
Parish youth groups	29	19	52
Local events (rallies, camps, etc)	26	33	41
University chaplaincy initiatives	7	33	60
Social events / meeting new people	36	39	25
Youth Masses or liturgies	38	18	44
Community leadership (training or service)	20	40	40
Speakers & discussion initiatives (in parishes, pubs, other locations)	22	30	49
Prayer experience	38	17	45
Catholic school groups	39	20	41
Personal support services (counselling, mentoring, etc)	20	42	38
Vocation or discernment programs	9	34	58
Other initiative	10	19	71

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 Mass and liturgical gatherings 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.

I go to my local parish youth group every Saturday night in which we discuss Bible stories and relate them to our everyday lives. I find this very influential in my spiritual growth and benefit greatly because I can relate and see the connection between the Bible and our lives.

Having been a member of a parish youth group for some years up until last year, the youth group experience was a pivotal and life-changing part of my life which enabled me to deeply experience Jesus' mercy and forgiveness, and I was also fortunate enough to witness this in fellow members and friends. The youth group forged lifelong local friendships and lifelong Catholic ideals and values and instilled in me the importance of the Sacraments, of community and of a personal encounter of Jesus.

Youth group growing up was the highlight of my life. Having a very tough childhood filled with emotional abuse it was the place I could relax, be safe, find friends and loving leaders, and learn about my faith in a non-threatening way.

I was a leader at my youth group and although at times it was challenging, to journey with those people in faith was amazing and people able to connect with people or learn with people about certain issues was rewarding.

I was very lucky as a young person to grow up in a vibrant parish, with great religious priests and a very active youth group. This provided a great network for me to find stability and safety in my spiritual search during those turbulent years of adolescence.

My friend took me to her youth group once, and at first, I thought I wouldn't feel comfortable but I was amazed to see how everyone got involved. I continued to attend her youth group with her on many occasions after that.

Without the youth groups, I would not have made the choice to follow God. It would've been very easy to follow the path without Him but they opened my eyes and heart to Him. Youth rallies and Masses also helped regenerate my faith once I left school. They reminded me that I'm not alone and there are other young, practicing Catholics in Melbourne.

A Catholic camp called Don Bosco for Youth was very fun and I met new people. It still had Mass and prayer but not too heavily forced on us. It had stories and how they were a lesson in life. We sang songs. It was really inspiring a Youth group. It was really cool to meet new people and have fun, and also learn about Christianity a bit and learn some life lessons.

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.

World Youth Day in Rio opened my eyes to the hardships others face in the world and really highlighted for me my role as a Catholic to support the poor. The experiences of prayer, praise and worship available at WYD opened my experience of faith beyond the parish setting and lighted a fire within me that has called me to take on a significant role of evangelising young people in our secondary schools.

World Youth Day 2008 was very powerful for me. What was most important was the experience of credible, happy, faithful witnesses in the form of other young pilgrims, alongside experiences of prayer and clear teaching which challenged me to conversion.

World Youth day Sydney 2008 was particularly positive because of the workshops I was involved in, big youth Masses, the youth group I went with from St. Mary's Parish Greensborough. I learnt a lot about myself and my faith at WYD, Days in the Diocese 2007/2008 and the events leading up to WYD such as youth group activities, home stays and meeting lots of new people.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival—as it involved several social justice lectures which were about the call for Catholic people of today to work on modern issues, which gave me a clearer understanding of today's issues and my place in them.

The big events like WYD and the ACYF have always been really positive for me since attending my first WYD in Sydney as a teenager. They seem to have provided the motivation and inspiration to start or continue the smaller scale local initiatives back home. In recent years, as my faith has matured during my early and now mid-twenties, I've really appreciated attending events involving different prayer and reflection experiences.

Big events such as World Youth Day and the Australian Catholic Youth Festival allows us to experience the youth in the Church on a bigger scale and open our eyes to how alive the youth are in the Catholic Church today—something we don't necessarily see all the time in our local areas.

MASS AND LITURGICAL GATHERINGS:

School Masses and Parish Youth Masses were also positive experiences for participants in this group.

I had a very positive experience at high school. Predominantly worship through music and liturgy. I felt the common connection of music as a way into Catholicism quite strong, and a lot of my peers from a non-Christian background found a way into the faith via worship through music. Social tea after church on the first Sunday of every month was a great chance to catch up with the community and talk to people you might not usually converse with.

Youth masses help me realise that I am not only one who cares for my faith, I am able to connect with others who share the same faith as me.

Regularly attending Holy Hour at St. Patrick's and Mass for young adults provides an great opportunity to gather in faith as well as to form friendships that will help support us through life's triumphs and challenges. It's also re-affirms how strong the Catholic faith is amongst young adults and how it's our responsibility to ensure that it continues to grow in the future.

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. Youth Groups and their activities, including camps.
3. Music concerts and Praise and Worship

Holy Hour (Eucharistic Adoration) is successful because it supplies us what we need: to worship God, silently and personally. To feel His real presence and order our lives as worship does.

Youth Masses. Young people are craving that connection with God and others and youth Masses give them both. Also, anything involving Praise and Worship is always a hit because a lot of young Catholics enjoy this, but it's rarely offered.

Meaningful events such as Adoration, Mass, talks on matters of the faith. These are successful because they are substantial, lead us closer to Christ, and satisfy our desire for something more meaningful in such superficial modern times.

Gatherings during occasions such as Christmas and Easter. It is successful because lots of people come together to celebrate a common belief.

Youth Masses, guided retreats and guided Adoration (run by the Archdiocesan Office for Youth or certain orders e.g. Capuchins, MGLs); when pitched at a young adult audience, the small but strong young adult Catholic community tend to band together and feel more included in the life of the Church.

Weddings and Confirmations because it's a special day that brings family and friends together to celebrate a person's life.

Big events like Australia Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) are awesome and very engaging. On a more regular basis, youth groups are great. what makes ACYF so awesome is the atmosphere of people who are having fun in a Catholic context ... the fun, engaging and vibrant environment makes it great.

Small to medium prayer groups and youth groups allow you to feel connected and strengthened by others of the same faith, as they are living similarly/with similar life experiences to yourself, allowing for reflections, discussions and an opportunity to speak and be listened to.

The youth groups seem to be the most successful, they make the activities fun and they aren't stressing involvement from everyone, so they make everyone feel comfortable. With their prayer services, it's more of a relaxing, sing-along type thing that gets youth interested.

Youth masses, retreats, camps and opportunities for mission such as soup vans, visiting refugees, etc. They all involve either some element of action or a really clear sense of being involved and a part of something bigger than just you and me.

I would say that in my own personal experience, but also in my work with young people, I have seen that organised youth conferences or camps are successful, because they give young people a sense of connection with others but also gives them a deep encounter with Jesus Christ.

Usually large, well-promoted events that offer elements of interest are the best. These elements could be prayer, music, games, food or a social atmosphere.

Youth rallies—there is music, community atmosphere, great guest speakers that are relevant to the youth and food.

Youth music sessions and concerts, because it creates feelings of unity and joy.

I find that Church concerts are successful because many people enjoy listening to the beautiful music at church. This love of music is a common ground for many people.

Gatherings that put into practice praise and worship are very engaging and successful. This is because it really makes you have a religious experience with God, especially if you like to sing. Combining a hobby (such as singing) and the Church can really help strengthen our faith.

Evenings with praise and worship rallies, guest speakers and youth Mass, as they really help to deepen the faith and help lukewarm Catholics see other young inspired Catholics.

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. Sports
4. Family gatherings, birthdays and weddings

Music concerts—the mass of people and the excitement, quality entertainment. Sporting events—the passionate fans.

Parties and get-togethers with friends—good crowd and laughs make them successful.

Music events, political rallies and gatherings, picnics and outdoor gatherings. Music events such as concerts or festivals are such positive and happy events. There is so much scope for not only music ministry, but just coming together as young Catholics to enjoy and appreciate music of all genres.

Music concerts, cinema, parties. What makes them successful is usually that you're experiencing something with friends.

Events like concerts, rallies, festivals, panels with multiple speakers are fantastic, and successful, because they all bring people together to celebrate something, or discuss and learn something, or create a call for change and an awareness for people who otherwise might not know about it.

Outside the Church, having fun with friends, a gathering with friends. The open nature and informal laughs is thoroughly enjoyable.

Informal tend to be more successful and engaging, in my opinion, because people feel more at ease in an informal presence with other people and can open up to talk about certain issues and connect on a more level playing field.

I don't really attend any gatherings other than sports outside the Church. I think that these are successful because of the common interest for example, the yacht club.

Sporting events (participation, not spectating) are a good way to engage with all sorts of people/backgrounds/generations/etc., and learn how to communicate/work with others.

I am involved in sporting clubs, which are very successful. I suppose it is because they are groups of people with a common interest. They seriously try to achieve their goals, but also have social opportunities. The friendships and camaraderie are strong.

Gatherings where you can have fun with your friends and family without having any expectations for the night other than to having a good time.

Easter & Christmas are the two that are the most engaging and successful outside the Church when celebrating with family.

Anything that has to do with family or celebrating an achievement such as a birthday because it brings the family together and people want to partake in it which makes it more enjoyable when everyone commits.

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 attended Anglican Evensong and enjoyed the beauty of the music and liturgical expression. I have attended Jewish prayer and was moved by the sense of solemnity and reverence they have for the synagogue.

I have attended the synagogue, I appreciated this as many of the ceremonies are not as passive. The Rabi talks and requires participants to be completely involved in the conversation. I think ceremonies need to be less passive.

A service in a progressive Jewish synagogue with a female rabbi was so engaging and inspiring.

I have attended services in the Uniting and Anglican churches and I've got to say their number one trump card is that they treat women ministers better.

I have been to some Shabbats (Jewish Friday night ritual) and loved them—sharing food and prayers, very lovely events.

A Protestant service and rally. It was enjoyable, the fellowship was amazing and the praise and worship.

I have attended several Evangelical Christian Camps as a teenager and have led on several as an adult. I found these to be fantastic because an environment of positivity, and Christ-like love was encouraged, and the truth (at least as they believe it) was not watered down.

Some experiences of events that were not enjoyable:

I went to a Protestant ceremony once. It seemed unsatisfying and rather empty. Non-religious events were entertaining. You can immensely enjoy it but the novelty often wears off and you rarely go back.

I used to attend a Pentecostal church. Everyone was really friendly and wanted to know you, there was a real community there. I also enjoyed the music. Although I always get that something was missing. Upon reflection it was the Eucharist, Jesus cannot be replaced or forgotten.

Yes, I attended a Greek Orthodox wedding and christening. The actual ceremony was boring, as everything was in Greek and I didn't understand anything said.

Planetshakers (Pentecostal Church) I didn't like it because of the lack of a sacred character that would really lift my heart to prayer.

Yes, other Christian churches. I can see a resemblance but they are missing some very important things like Communion and the beautiful tradition of the Catholic Church.

Yes, I have attended many Christian (other denomination) religious events. I enjoyed the social contact, but at times felt frustrated when trying to find out the perspective of the church on particular issues that seemed unclear and the leaders were uncertain how to respond to social issues.

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	78	18	2	1	2
Friends	44	46	6	2	2
School / teachers	19	59	13	5	4
University / lecturers	6	18	36	3	37
Parish or church community	12	31	35	9	15
Church or religious leaders	14	29	34	9	15

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	5.9	5.9
Female	6.0	6.0
Male	6.1	6.0
Age 16-18 years	5.8	5.8
Age 19-22 years	6.7	6.6
Age 23-29 years	6.3	6.5

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

The staff took my feedback regarding the child safety policy on board in terms of introducing more strategic guidelines and implementation to parish life.

In my local parish, suggestions I made with regards to the music ministry were listened to and incorporated into the parish worship.

I have always found the Salesians very easy to talk to about all aspects of my life and faith. Along with the staff and sisters at my Brigidine High School

As a child, I had many questions about religion, which people from the Church have done well to answer. Regardless of whether I agree with what people from the Church say now, I appreciate the effort that some people make to listen and to respond.

At the Australian Catholic Youth Festival, I met several women religious who were willing to listen to my fears about my own faith and who had an open discussion with me.

With a school religion teacher, I have had immensely positive experiences with helping me deal with difficult issues.

Many of my parish priests, and church leaders I have worked with have been great in seeking out my opinion on how the Church (particularly their local church) has needed to reach out to young people.

My parish priest is always available to talk to me about matters of the faith and was very helpful when my husband and I were experiencing a miscarriage. While I was at university the Chaplain of my college helped me a lot whilst I was dealing with the results of my parents' divorce.

The Parish Priest at my local primary school St Finbar's was an inspiring man. He was gentle, an avid listener, and brought the community together by dropping in on everyone in the parish for a friendly chat. He didn't push his opinions on others, but encouraged us to live through the examples set in the gospel. He was a truly great man and one who I will never forget.

We recently moved to a new city (Melbourne) and the priests have made an effort to speak to myself and my husband. We felt very welcomed and happy to be part of the community.

I asked a priest for spiritual direction and he was most willing to meet with and help me on a consistent basis.

The new parish priest offered to help support our youth group, making us feel important and a vital part of the community—not excluded like before.

When I entered the World Youth Day 2011 song competition, my parish supported me and organised a professional recording session.

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.

Being subject to bullying within the Church from managers who don't agree with orthodox practice of Church teaching. I reported inappropriate bullying whilst the person was allowed to continue in their role, continuing bad behaviour. Plus, after my sister reported abuse by a priest, the priests who knew us ignored our family when my sister and our family were hurting.

I have had several incidents, particularly with clergy and religious, who have publicly and explicitly dismissed my comments because I was not a part of the official Church hierarchy.

Some parishioners thinking that youth groups and youth movements are pointless and have no benefit.

Indirectly- the shutting down of the John Paul II institute felt like the voices of young professionals simply weren't heard.

I grew up in a parish in Sandhurst where Church politics were rife. As one of the few young people in the parish I found it frustrating that many of the more liberal Catholics wanted to cater to young people but always seemed concerned with listening to those young people that didn't come to Mass and weren't engaged, rather than myself and some others who were.

A priest I had in primary school did not listen to questions/give time for questions to be asked. This made understanding the faith of Christianity harder when I was younger.

I contacted a parish to use their hall for a retreat of young people but they charged ridiculous rates, bombarded us with paperwork and overall were not very cooperative at all. In the end, I felt it would be easier to find another option.

My parish is full of older people, most of whom are snobby and think that anyone under the age of 25 is too young to know anything about life or faith and therefore don't need to be listened to.

Some clergy seem to think that if you are young and without obvious credentials then you have nothing to offer, so be quiet. This is not always true. Sometimes those without the obvious credentials have something very valuable to offer and the only way to see if they do is by letting them speak.

Frank discussion about complex issues are not encouraged. I have never felt comfortable mentioning complex ethical issues because the immediate response is a knee-jerk recitation of the Church's party line and no further discussion is welcome or listened to.

In the Church, I had room to speak but it would always be under the allocated 'youth' time. Youth should be involved in all aspects of the Church rather than needing to specifically have a youth time.

When applying for NET Ministry I was told I would be required to attend weekly counselling sessions because I identify as queer and to 'act on my urges is a sin'.

As someone that does not identify as heterosexual, I feel that I am not accepted or listened to by others that share my faith, on a micro and macro level.

Unacceptance of LGBTQI community and gay marriage.

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	36	36
Friendships and relationships	43	45
School or study	52	56
Work or employment	32	32
Environment	12	12
Spirituality and religion	15	17
Body image	48	51
Drugs or alcohol	57	53
Multiculturalism and ethnicity	16	13
Sexuality	41	38
Mental health	62	57
What to do with your life	28	32
Sport and health	8	8
Culture, the arts or music	4	5
Leadership in society	7	8
Social justice	15	15
Other	3	3
Total	481	480

N = 1,434. Missing = 231. 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.

We need to find ways to reach out to people who don't live the way we believe they should. We need to find the middle ground between telling people we believe what they're doing is wrong, and loving them. And we must start dealing with mental health in a better way. Mental health is a far bigger issue than I think anyone realises, and its tearing a generation of youth apart. I don't see much from the Church in this respect.

I believe the Church can help us by increasing and maintaining support provided through vital support services for issues like homelessness, employment and mental health. However, I really would like to see more support provided to us with things like support groups where we address the current issues facing Catholics and society as a whole, as well as those challenges we face in of ourselves and looking in to how we can strengthen our relationships with other people, our family but most importantly with God.

To provide a safe and inviting environment for young people to feel welcomed and safe to share ideas, perspectives or any worries that may be troubling them. The Church may be able to deliver words of advice or help direct an individual onto a more helpful path for their troubles.

I believe the Church gives you a place to be heard by others and also offers opportunities for support and guidance.

The Church can use their funds to promote and create awareness of the issues affecting young people by utilising social media and or communication services. I feel like young people are vulnerable to many issues in this world and too many are being brought up being affected by these issues and also having a negative effect on others.

When I am at Church or at youth-focused Church events, I struggle to identify any young people around me who have not or are not severely impacted by mental health issues, most notably anxiety and depression ... The church needs to step up in this realm. We need to give young people the love and support they obviously aren't getting elsewhere. So many of my friends and the young people I work for feel disconnected from everyone and everything. They don't know who they are, they don't feel loved and they carry so much emotional and spiritual baggage. We need to speak openly with young people about these issues and stop purporting the myth that 'good Catholics' or 'good people' don't struggle with anxiety and depression.

Continue giving words of hope, guidance, and advice to cope with such issues with a Catholic mindset. It would be nice if such words could be noted in some sort of magazine or website easily accessed by young people.

Similarly, there were an equally large number of respondents asking for more faith formation opportunities.

To be a supportive community and encourage friendships and relationships in light of Catholic values. Plus, mentoring programs to assist navigating the field of work and its conflicting values. Mostly providing the Sacraments and pastoral guidance on the tough issues of life.

I think that the Church could do more to foster development of faith and relationship with Jesus Christ, for example, Bible study groups at Church. In my opinion, a lot of the youth related activities are centred around social justice, but faith/apologetics is severely lacking. I believe young people need to be equipped to defend and teach the faith in today's increasingly secular society.

Courage to publicly defend Catholic values at school and societal level. From experience, faith formation of those wishing to enter the Church, as well as for those who are fallen-away Catholics, should always be taken seriously and could be a lot richer and effective.

Myself and many of my friends attended schools (Catholic ones) and universities where the teachings were directly opposed to that of the Catholic Church. Worse still they teach a philosophy and way of thinking which makes one confused as to what really is the truth. As a Catholic teacher I have found it very difficult to re-educate such students about the teachings of Christ and his Church.

Be faithful to Christ, and spread the Gospel uncompromisingly. Many of the problems young Australians face come from lack of proper formation of conscience, morality, and sense of responsibility, and these have their roots in aggressively secular values and attitudes that teach a spirit of entitlement and narcissistic hedonism. If the Church helped people to live their lives responsibly in Christ, not by lowering moral standards which represents false help, but by helping young people to reach objectively high standards of moral and spiritual excellence, the lives and more importantly souls of many young people would greatly benefit.

Teach us how we can use/apply the Gospel of the Lord in our daily lives and routine. What does it mean and how can we put into practice the Word of God and to apply it to others.

Providing experiences that will allow us to explore our faith and help us to understand its importance in the secular society we live in.

It can help us discover real joy and true peace of heart. This is what we are all searching for and crying out for and the Catholic Church has it. It can help guide us through life. Today's culture tells us to do anything, think anything, feel anything, be anyone, go anywhere etc. But this is all vague and doesn't help guide or form us at all. It's like because every option is now equal we have absolutely no idea where to go, what to do, because each path is the same. We need the Church to help us understand that there are moral absolutes. There are some paths that should not be recommended to anyone and that some paths can lead to something fulfilling and incredible that other paths do not from the first instance clearly lead. The Church can help me and my friends be better persons in today's world, tell us what a person is, what it means to be a good person. Tell us why helping someone really smile, and seeing value in their life and purpose in their family is more important than food. Tell us why some things are worth dying for and what they are.

I believe that by being more relevant to today's societal issues in publications and liturgical celebrations, the Church can help bring young people like myself and my friends together to discuss these issues and help each other answer some of life's questions and face challenges.

By teaching us proper faith in Catholic schools. By spreading a Gospel message that is sure of itself, and not compromised. By assuming an identity and practices that are not watered down to conform to the world. By treating young people like adults, not like children who can't handle the fullness of Catholicism.

Stand up for what is right. Provide as much access as possible to the Sacraments. Provide sound catechesis and apologetics. Stick with our rich tradition but provide explanations for why we have always done it that way.

Some respondents felt that the Church ought to be more open and inclusive, especially in terms of accepting different sexualities.

I am a practising Catholic with a faith leadership role within a secondary school. The younger people I work with feel the Church excludes them because of their sexuality and or/ attitudes towards sexuality. Having a Church that is open to all and supportive of different experiences of our young people will support their needs.

By being a support for everyone regardless of who they are. There are some in the Church who are homophobic and sexist, which for today's youth make it difficult to reconcile their faith with a Church that is increasingly at odds with our views.

By having a respected voice and opinion on modern issues. That don't necessarily follow what has been done in the past but provide a more progressive interpretation on how to live our lives.

I believe the Church plays a very important role in promoting fairness and equality across religion, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and opinion. It is not the Church's role to push political/social agendas of outdated conscience and morality (i.e. discouraging homosexual relationships, providing commentary as the 'conservative' side of gender and sexuality issues), but rather promote the macro ideals of 'love one another' and 'treat others the way you want to be treated' (+The Golden Rule), as a way of understanding relationships and where God is in every one of us.

In terms of sexuality, I do believe that we should accept transgender and gay people in the Church as we are called to show love and kindness to those around us, and not accepting these people for who they are is against this.

I would like to see the Church fully accept LGTBQA people and their relationships as equal and valid. I would like to see same sex marriage accepted and supported. I would like to see women empowered to have equal roles in the church. I would like the Church to consider that there are circumstances where abortion is the better choice.

Provide a loving, accepting environment for young people on every walk of life, help end stigma on mental health and sexuality/gender. There's a lot of hate and judgment going around parishes, people need to be taught more about love. I get that some things are not allowed by the Church, but hating the sinner and not the sin is a terrible way of life.

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 parishes and clergy on platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat. There were also suggestions of having a Youth Ministry app or a diocesan app to provide regular news, faith formation tools and other helpful information. Respondents also said that they would like parishes and dioceses to have better websites with clear information about Mass timings and youth events and activities.

Post about things that would interest us, answer questions if a platform was created, offer activities that would be fun and interesting for us to be involved in and then post about that to advertise. Use platforms that we are on—Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, etc.

The Church could have apps and more articles that are educational and catechetical available on social media. Also having priests willing to engage on social media, for example, offering an hour or two regularly to chat and answer questions over the messenger app.

I follow many Catholic pages on Facebook and Instagram and find it very helpful. I really like being able to follow where the Pope is and reading quotes from his sermons.

Have working websites and/or Facebook pages that are updated so we know Mass, confession times and activities happening at the parish.

Create online support forums for issues such as body image and spirituality/religion. Also creating mediums on which young people can discuss and organise events for social justice, the environment, sexuality, etc. For example, an event page on Facebook to organise a World Clean-up Day.

The Church should use social media more to promote the Church's teachings on issues such as same sex marriage, euthanasia, etc. They, and I mean the people in charge of Catholic Education in Melbourne, should be putting together Australian resources of a high quality, to support RE teachers in the classroom that upholds Church Tradition and the doctrines of the Church.

Frequently post educational links, latest news and promote events on Facebook. Perhaps create a phone app to study the Bible on the go and make podcasts/video clips easily accessible.

The Church should use social media as a new platform to promote traditional teachings, but perhaps in a way that is also accessible to those who are not as well-formed in their faith, by making the teachings and the reasons for them clear, and as simple as reasonably possible.

Sharing psalms every day, get people involved more, have a prayer of the day, explain a passage from the Bible and really get to the younger generation and tell them how much God can do for us as we grow up and why we need God in our lives.

Perhaps an email service whereby one can email a Priest, asking questions or expressing concerns. I believe videos explaining important concepts would also be very valuable!

Interactive platforms for discussion—podcasts or TV shows for particular dioceses.

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.

Better use of the internet and social media—for example, I have tried to find information about youth groups and activities for different parishes before but often websites are well out of date or difficult to use. Also, more proactive sharing of activities or events or groups will help make us aware of them.

Putting them on social media would help to notify/allow more people to know about when and where they are, along with what it is about.

Notifying the community through newspapers and social media about the activities and what they involve.

By providing activities for everyone. I've been to so many rallies and charismatic events and I also want to learn about my faith or have retreats that are about growing in faith and knowledge but I feel like my diocese doesn't really provide or promote this.

Making opportunities for camps or socialising activities more prominent and more well-known but have a major part of them not just be about religion. This is because it is easier to be interested in Christianity when it is talked about in smaller doses instead of a full-on thought provoking discussion.

I think we would be more involved if there was some attention paid to including non-Catholics. More dialogue and inter-denominational discussing would definitely encourage us to participate more with Catholic Church activities.

Have days specific to certain age groups, and the days could surround issues that target specific age groups. This way people will be more willing to attend if they are within the age range, and the topics, the day, and the activities are relevant.

Having the Church activities through schools. If it was done through school more people would know about it and be open to doing it.

You could connect through school more as I wouldn't be as likely to contribute out of school.

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: _____

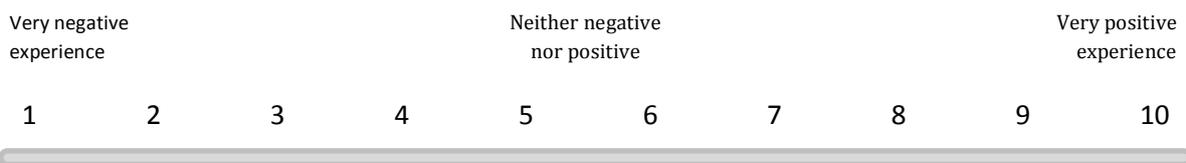
Q3. How old are you? _____ (Note, this survey is only for those aged 16-29)

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

