



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

National Centre for Pastoral Research

Absent from the Table: Australian Catholics who do not regularly attend Sunday Mass

INFORMATION LETTER TO PARTICIPANTS

Title of project: Absent from the Table: Australian Catholics who do not regularly attend Sunday Mass

Names of investigators: Dr Trudy Dantis (Principal Investigator)
Dr Stephen Reid
Ms Leith Dudfield

Dear Participant,

You are invited to participate in this research project which is aimed at investigating why Catholics do not participate in regular weekly Sunday Mass (Sunday Mass includes the Saturday Vigil). The project will provide in-depth information about contemporary religious practices and beliefs of Catholics in Australia.

The survey will cover matters such as:

- Your faith and beliefs
- Previous Mass attendance patterns
- Current Mass attendance patterns
- Your involvement in other religious practices

The participants in this study will include Catholics within Australia aged 18 years and over who do not attend Sunday Mass on a regular weekly basis. Regular weekly attendance is defined as physical attendance at Sunday Mass three or more times a month, including the Saturday vigil celebrated in many parishes. The findings of this research project will offer a number of benefits to the Catholic community in Australia including:

- Identifying the factors that influence a Catholic's decision not to attend Sunday Mass;
- Exploring other ways in which they engage with the Church and why;
- Gaining a greater understanding of the attitudes of non-attenders towards the Eucharist; and,
- Exploring the implications of this phenomenon for the wider Catholic community and the Church at large.

You are under no obligation to accept this invitation to participate in the survey. If you decide to participate, you have the right to:

- Ask any questions about the study at any time during participation
- Decline to answer any question
- Choose to withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason
- Be given access to the research findings when the project is concluded
- Preserve your confidentiality with regard to participation in this project.

The survey is anonymous and only aggregated results will be published. No identifiable information will be collected about participants.

This study has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of the Christian Research Association. In the event that you have any complaint or concern about the way you have been treated during the study, or if you have any query that the researcher has not been able to satisfy, you may contact the Chair of the Ethics Committee, Dr Neville Carr, via email at: secretary_hrec@cra.org.au. Any complaint or concern will be treated in confidence and fully investigated, and the participant will be informed of the outcome.

For more information on the project, please contact Dr Trudy Dantis, Director, National Centre for Pastoral Research: trudy.dantis@catholic.org.au



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Dr Trudy Dantis, Director

