



23 April 2024

To – Clergy and Parish Leaders

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Re: Demographic Mass Attendance Count

As you are well aware, it is my intention that moving forward as a Diocese we continue to develop a stronger focus on Mission and Evangelisation, and that this will underpin all that we do as a Church in the name of Jesus Christ.

In order for us to better develop our priorities and strategic direction into the future, particularly at this time when we are undertaking to appoint a new Director for Mission and Evangelisation, it will be beneficial for us to have a clearer picture of the demographics of our worshipping communities.

Although we have data from the 2021 National Count of Attendance that was undertaken by the National Centre for Pastoral Research, the Council of Priests felt that it was timely that we undertake another Mass Count this year, as the data from 2021 would be reflective of a time that Parish communities were still rebuilding from the effects of COVID on their Mass attendance.

I am therefore seeking your assistance in undertaking a demographic Mass attendance count at all Masses over the four weekends in May this year. It is my desire that this will include not only Parish Masses, but also Masses that are celebrated for our ethnic communities. I acknowledge that this is only a couple of weekends away, however the Council of Priests felt that it was timely that accurate data be ascertained. As such, I would appreciate your co-operation in ensuring that this Mass Count is undertaken at all weekend Masses throughout the Diocese in May.

Please refer to the information/directions from Christopher Voigt in the attached.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Maitland - Newcastle