Impact and Context Report: Cork Centre of Mission

Church Army’s Research Team

## Introduction

This short report provides an overview of the work that’s been taking place at Cork Centre of Mission (CoM) throughout the financial year 2022-2023, then situates that work within its local context using national census data.

The first section of this report summarises data provided by Church Army evangelists in order to describe the activities undertaken by the CoM, as well as the CoM’s social impact and the ways in which people are exploring and developing faith through the work of the CoM.

The second section of the report uses data from the *Central Statistics Office’s* 2022 census of the Republic of Ireland to describe the population who live within the area local to the CoM.

## Section 1: Activities and impact

The data in this section of the report summarise the Centre of Mission’s activity between November 2022 and March 2023.

### CoM Activities

This year Cork CoM has facilitated over 491 hours of activity for approximately 990 people - an average of 41 hours per month. Activities coordinated by Cork CoM include:

* Alpha course
* Children’ group (Glow 10-12 y.o’s)
* One-to-ones
* Family Fun Days
* Family Fun Days/Messy Church
* Parent/Toddler group

## Growing faith

Growing faith can’t always be seen and is tricky to measure, but there have been some encouraging developments at Cork CoM, including:

* There have been three requests to assist with the baptism of an infant.
* There have been two requests for confirmation
* There are at least 75 people growing in faith
* There are at least 35 people actively exploring faith
* Two people have made a first-time commitment of faith and 13 people have made a recommitment of faith

### Food provision

Cork CoM have provided 90 food parcels over the course of the year. Details of this provision are given in the table below.

| Food provision | No. boxes/parcels/meals | Details |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Local community BBQ | 90 | A one off, but we provided and cooked meat for local community to come and join church for BBQ at one of our traditional settings. |

### Other essentials

As well as food, the CoM also provided the following essential items or services:

| Provision | No. Items/parcels | Details |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Toy Library | 115 | Monthly toy library after toddler group - 6 racks of toys which can be borrowed for a month. Advertised on FB and in toddler group |

### Volunteers

There are 28 volunteers at Cork CoM. The church backgrounds of these volunteers are shown in the table below:

| Church background | % |
| --- | --- |
| Regular church-goer | 80% |
| Occasional church-goer | 15% |
| Historical church-goer | 0% |
| Never church-goer | 5% |

## Section 2: Local context

This section of the report describes, at a high level, the characteristics of the area in which the CoM operates. Since many Centres of Mission are set up via a partnership between Church Army and a host diocese, each CoM’s area of operation is compared to the population profiles of the local diocese as well as the nation as a whole.

The tables and figures in this section describe the CoM’s area of operation in terms of:

* Age
* Ethnicity
* Religion
* Self-reported general health
* Household composition

All the data in this section of the report were collected in the *Central Statistics Office’*s 2022 census of the Republic of Ireland.

### Methodology

Researchers consulted the lead evangelist at each CoM in order to determine the specific geographical areas in which the CoM operates. These might include, for example, the specific estate on which a CoM runs its activities, or a particular area of housing inhabited by regular attendees of the CoM’s activities. The population characteristics of these areas were approximated via a weighted summation of the populations of the small areas of statistical geography (i.e. output areas) that intersected the area described by the lead evangelist. The weights for this summation were the respective relative intersections of each small area with the area under consideration.

### Age

[Figure 1](#fig-age) and [Table 1](#tbl-age) respectively show the ages of the population at the local, diocesan and national level.

The population local to Cork CoM is slightly younger than the national population, and home to more 0-9 and 30-44 year olds.

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| Figure 1: Population ages in 10 year bands |

Table 1: Population ages in 10 year bands

|  | CoM | Diocese | Republic-of-ireland |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 0-9 years old | 14% | 12% | 12% |
| 10-19 years old | 14% | 14% | 14% |
| 20-29 years old | 10% | 12% | 12% |
| 30-44 years old | 25% | 21% | 22% |
| 45-59 years old | 19% | 20% | 20% |
| 60-69 years old | 10% | 10% | 10% |
| 70+ years old | 9% | 11% | 10% |

### Ethnicity

[Figure 2](#fig-ethnicity) and [Table 2](#tbl-ethnicity) show, at a very high level, the self-reported ethnicity of the population across each geography.

White people are equally prevalent between the local and the national population. Locally, 1 in 20 people are Asian.

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| Figure 2: Population ethnicities |

Table 2: Population ethnicities

|  | CoM | Diocese | Republic-of-ireland |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| White (Irish) | 77% | 79% | 77% |
| White (other) | 11% | 10% | 10% |
| Asian | 5% | 2% | 3% |
| Not stated | 3% | 5% | 6% |
| Other | 4% | 3% | 4% |

### Religion

[Figure 3](#fig-religion) and [Table 3](#tbl-religion) show the religious beliefs of the population across each geography.

At the very high level of the CSO census variables, religious affiliation is very similar across the local, diocesan and national populations. 70% of the local population are Catholic.

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| Figure 3: Population religions |

Table 3: Population religions

|  | CoM | Diocese | Republic-of-ireland |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Catholic | 71% | 71% | 69% |
| No religion | 16% | 16% | 15% |
| Other religion | 9% | 8% | 10% |
| Not stated | 4% | 6% | 7% |

### General health

[Figure 4](#fig-general-health) and [Table 4](#tbl-general-health) show the self-reported general health of the population across each geography.

Self reported general health outcomes are slightly better in the local area than in the diocese or the nation; 60% of local people rate their overall health as ‘very good’.

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| Figure 4: Population self-reported general health |

Table 4: Population self-reported general health

|  | CoM | Diocese | Republic-of-ireland |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Very bad | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Bad | 1% | 1% | 2% |
| Fair | 8% | 9% | 9% |
| Good | 30% | 31% | 32% |
| Very good | 60% | 58% | 57% |

### Household composition

[Figure 5](#fig-household-composition) and [Table 5](#tbl-household-composition) give a summary of the prevalence of different kinds of household across all geographies.

The composition of households in the local area is broadly similar to that of the whole of the Republic of Ireland, except that couples with children account for a slightly larger share of households, whereas one person households and non-family households account for a smaller share.

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| Figure 5: Population household distribution overview |

Table 5: Population household distribution overview

|  | CoM | Diocese | Republic-of-ireland |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Couple w/ children | 41% | 36% | 36% |
| Couple (no children) | 21% | 21% | 21% |
| One person | 20% | 24% | 23% |
| One parent family | 12% | 11% | 11% |
| Non-family households | 6% | 8% | 8% |
| Multiple families | 1% | 1% | 1% |

## Local Deprivation

[Figure 6](#fig-deprivation-map) shows a map of relative deprivation of the local area. Small areas that are coloured in red are in the 5% most deprived areas nationally, those coloured orange are in the 10% most deprived, and those coloured yellow are in the 20% most deprived. Transparent areas are outside of the 20% most deprived areas in the nation.

Relative deprivation data is sourced from the 2017 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMD). If you would like to know more about NIMD, you can find out about it [here](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/NIMDM17-%20with%20ns.pdf).

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| Figure 6: fig-cap: Map of local deprivation (NIMD2017) |