**Catholics in Britain Survey 2019**

**User Guide**

**February 2022**

**Background**

The project involved planning and carrying out a new survey of Catholics living in Britain. The overall aim was to conduct a wide-ranging survey of Catholic adults living in Britain, which asked about many aspects of Catholics’ lives, including their socio-demographic circumstances, religious engagement, views of the Catholic Church’s leadership and institutions, and their opinions on socio-political issues and voting behaviour. The funding for the project was provided by an Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) research grant (‘Roman Catholics in Britain: Faith, Society and Politics’; AH/S003258/1). Dr Ben Clements (University of Leicester) was the principal investigator and Professor Stephen Bullivant (St Mary’s University) was the co-investigator.

**Questionnaire details**

A full copy of the questionnaire is provided. In developing the survey’s themes and questions, particularly useful were, firstly, the surveys administered by D’Antonio et al. (2013) as part of their series of studies of Catholics in the U.S. undertaken since the 1980s, and, secondly, the Pew Research Center’s recent study of Catholics in the U.S. (2015).[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Details of the sample**

The survey of Catholic adults aged 18 and over living in Britain (England, Wales, and Scotland) was administered online by the survey research organisation Savanta ComRes, a member of the British Polling Council. The fieldwork was undertaken between 21st October and 7th November 2019. Respondents were first asked a screening question on religious identity, in order to sample only those individuals who self-identified as Catholic. This screening question used the long-running British Social Attitudes survey question for religious identification: ‘Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion? If yes, which?’. The interview was immediately terminated for those respondents who self-identified with another religion or did not self-identity with any religion. The total number of individuals in the survey sample is 1,823. Post-fieldwork, the sample was weighted to make it nationally representative of Catholic adults in Britain (in terms of age, sex, and region; calibrated according to Catholic subsamples in pooled data from the 2015-17 waves of the British Social Attitudes survey series). Weights were also generated to allow for separate analysis of the sample based on those living in Scotland (following the same procedure using pooled Catholic subsamples from the Scottish Social Attitudes surveys) or in England and Wales.

**Structure of the dataset**

This is a cross-sectional dataset with 1,823 observations. Further details on the variables in the dataset can be found in the accompanying Codebook. The dataset is available for download in SPSS format.

**Ethical considerations**

The project was given ethical approval by University of Leicester Ethics Sub-Committee of Science and Engineering and Arts Humanities. The dataset is embargoed for publication reasons until August 2022.

1. D’Antonio, W. V., M. Dillon and M. L. Gautier (2013), *American Catholics in Transition: Persisting and Changing* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield); Pew Research Center (2015), ‘Survey of U.S. Catholics and Family Life’, available online at: <https://www.pewforum.org/2015/09/02/u-s-catholics-open-to-non-traditional-families/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)