



# SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

July 2022

CDOC Safeguarding Newsletter for priests, religious, Nominated Parish Safeguarding Contacts & anyone else in parishes and communities who have responsibility for staff and volunteers. Please circulate, thank you.

## Parish Safeguarding Reviews

Some parishes have not confirmed dates for their review yet. Could those parish communities please email me a convenient date to complete their review. Once a date is confirmed I will then send the information regarding the framework of the review. Those to attend are the priest/s, and anyone in the parish who has delegated responsibility for Safeguarding i.e., NPSC – Nominated Parish Safeguarding Contact.

## Review Reports

For those reviews held in May and June, the reports from these reviews will be ready shortly.

## Bishop Michael– Safeguarding

In July we did a video shoot with Bishop Michael, to update the CDOC Safeguarding Video. He delivers a powerful message regarding safeguarding as well as a huge thanks and acknowledgment to all volunteers and helpers in our diocese. This video will be available on the new safeguarding website. It can also be used for new volunteers that are considering committing to roles in the parish communities and it will be played at the start of every safeguarding workshop.

## Nominated Parish Safeguarding Contact (NPSC). Does the parish know who that is?

Does the parish or community know who the safeguarding person is for the parish? If the poster is on a church notice board, the reality is it may now just have blended in with the other posters and not noticed any more. Is the information on the poster somewhere other than a public space so that someone who wishes to raise a concern could record the contact details in private? i.e. can they take a record or photo of the contact details away from a public place? If the parish newsletters have the biggest outreach, then please regularly promote the contact details of the NPSC for any safeguarding concerns via this platform.

Suggested content for the newsletter or another platform could be something as in the box below:

### **EXAMPLE Safeguarding News – Who do you contact in our parish community if you have a safeguarding concern?**

Our parish community recognises and upholds the dignity and rights of everyone. We value and encourage the participation of children and vulnerable adults as well as all people to be involved in activities that enhance spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual, and social development. We all have a responsibility to safeguard everyone who worships in our parish community with a particular focus on children and vulnerable adults through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment that supports their best interests and prevents abuse.

Our parish community has a Nominated Parish Safeguarding Contact. For (NAME OF PARISH/ENTITY) that person is: Name/phone/email.

## Safeguarding Website

Gradually the resources are being developed for the safeguarding website for our diocese. The link to this is available to all parishes and entities to include on their own websites etc. The priority was those role descriptions where police vetting is required. These roles have been developed in collaboration with ministry leaders. It is not mandatory that you use these role descriptions, if the parish/entity already have their own. However under the National Safeguarding Guidelines it is a requirement that we provide volunteers and ministries, clear expectations of the role, who the person is responsible to and what the role involves. This is best practice at the induction stage. It's a positive sign for new volunteers or enquiring volunteers to have a starting point when making enquiries about roles in a parish/community.

You will find some of these role descriptions at this link [Safeguarding – Parish Resources \(chchcatholic.nz\)](https://www.chchcatholic.nz/safeguarding-parish-resources) and click into Volunteer/ministry role documents. This area of the website will grow and offer a comprehensive list of role descriptions for a variety of roles

## Safeguarding Sunday Mass

Bishop Michael is eager to have a Mass dedicated to Safeguarding. Resources are being developed and information regarding this will be rolled out soon.

## Safeguarding in the PEWs

**How do we ensure the people who don't volunteer so have not attended the safeguarding workshop develop a "safeguarding lens"?**

Dedicated work around safeguarding practices in parishes to date has been instrumental in getting volunteers and ministers to the safeguarding workshop. A big thank you for that. The next message that must be delivered is how do we get everyone who worships to understand their responsibility with regards to safeguarding. A Mass dedicated to safeguarding will be instrumental in communicating the message to all parishioners, with some resources, prayers, and readings to highlight how safeguarding aligns with our Gospel values.

## Printable Version of Purple Safeguarding Poster

A printable version of the Purple Safeguarding Poster is available by clicking into the Volunteer/ministry button and scroll to the bottom to print off poster. [Safeguarding – Parish Resources \(chchcatholic.nz\)](https://www.chchcatholic.nz/safeguarding-parish-resources)

## SCCANZ Kickstart

### September 27 2022, Christchurch

There are now 10 priests and 5 parish leaders attending the next SCCANZ kickstart date in September in Christchurch. If there are priests/religious or people in roles of responsibility in your parish/entity then they too are required to complete this online safeguarding course. Parish/community pays \$150 per person. The kickstart date will take people through most of module 1 then people finish that and module 2 in their own space within 3 months.

Register to attend this day with me on [cward@cdoc.nz](mailto:cward@cdoc.nz)

## Parish/Entity Feedback and Input

I acknowledge the dedicated time and commitment in working towards implementing safeguarding cultures into our parishes and entities. It is a big task to get it embedded into the heart and spirit of our dioceses.

**Thank you.**

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any requests regarding any safeguarding information or with any "website content" you would find helpful to have regarding safeguarding topics.

## Safeguarding - What's working well in other parishes for your parish to consider?

Several parishes decided to bring their leaders and coordinators together to attend a meeting on several items. One of the items was Safeguarding. The purpose of the discussion was to share the message that safeguarding does not just sit with the priest and the NPSC (nominated parish safeguarding contact). It was felt that the shared responsibility of safeguarding needed to be communicated to all who are responsible for creating a safeguarding culture, particularly those in leadership roles. These meetings achieved what they set out to do and created the opportunity to discuss how to spread that responsibility to all in the parish framework and allowed discussions for leaders to understand their responsibility and how to take on this responsibility in collaboration with the parish priest/s.

What good leadership looks like with regards to a safeguarding culture could look like the following:

1. Ensure that all those in the team or group they coordinate has signed the Code of Conduct and understand the Code of Conduct.
2. Safeguarding is a regular topic on any meeting agenda.
3. All members know what to do if a concern or complaint is raised to them.
4. All new volunteers are inducted into their roles.
5. All members of the group have attended a Safeguarding Workshop.
6. All leaders and their members understand that they can and must raise issues and concerns regarding any issues regarding harm. Harm being emotional, physical, sexual and psychological.
7. Record keeping of all members of the group or team is provided to the parish/community delegated authority.
8. If a ministry requires a police vet, the leader ensures the members of their group are police vetted.
9. Everyone in the group know who their parish/entity Nominated Parish Safeguarding Contact is.
10. Members of the group are aware of policies, guidelines, and procedures around safeguarding.

**If you wish me to facilitate a meeting with your leaders to support the safeguarding culture being nurtured in your parish, please contact me.**

## Safeguarding in Ireland

Since approx. 2006, the Catholic Church in Ireland have been implementing their One Safe Church safeguarding practices and procedures, <https://safeguarding.ie/> . In 2017, NZ started safeguarding practices. There is still a lot to learn. To see what safeguarding in a diocese looks like 17 years on, I am visiting Meath Diocese in Ireland, that I have been directed to by the Irish NOPS, where a culture of safeguarding looks good in practise, so that we at CDOC can benefit from what has worked best for other parishes and communities and gain from their learnings.

God bless you and your work.

***Matthew 25:40 'whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers you do unto me'***

Slainte!

Clodagh Ward

