

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH CHURCH

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT—SAFEGUARDING IN OUR PARISH

The purpose is to assist parishes or entities within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne to monitor their compliance with the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Safeguarding Children and Young People Framework to ensure that child safety is embedded within the culture of the parish or entity and is reflected in the way in which the parish or entity conducts its ministry.

This also enables parishes or entities through their Safeguarding Committees to document their progress in relation to creating safe environments for children and young people and to facilitate their readiness to be audited by the Victorian Government Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) and / or Catholic Professional Standards Ltd (CPSL).

Requirements of the: National Catholic Safeguarding Standards/ Victorian Child safe Standards (2005 VIC)

Specifically, within a parish, the Parish Priest has a legal obligation under the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic) to ensure that safeguarding measures are in place to keep children and young people safe from abuse and harm.

The Parish is required to complete a self assessment tool by: November 2021.
The Parish or Entity Self-Assessment Tool requires parishes or entities to assess themselves against each indicator, using the Compliance Assessment Scale developed by CPSL.

In addition, for each indicator, the following questions will need to be answered:

- What is already in place? What evidence do we have of this?
- What more do we need to do?
- Who is responsible? What is the timeframe?

Fr Thomas has invited the following parishioners to form the Safeguarding Committee and thank them for their support in this Parish Process.

THE ROLE OF THE SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE Under the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, the parish, agency or entity leadership is required to establish a Safeguarding Committee to which provides advice to, and works with, the leadership of the parish, agency or entity to ensure policies, processes and practices are in place to protect children and young people.

MEMBERS OF THE SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE:

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| Gordon Veerasawmy: Safeguarding Officer |
| Carolyn Sombekke |
| Cathy Mason |
| Kathryn Wallace |
| Maree Wilson |
| Fr Thomas Kuruvila |
| Sue Nicholls |
| Charmaine Premaratne |
| Reno White |
| Mary Makarucha |