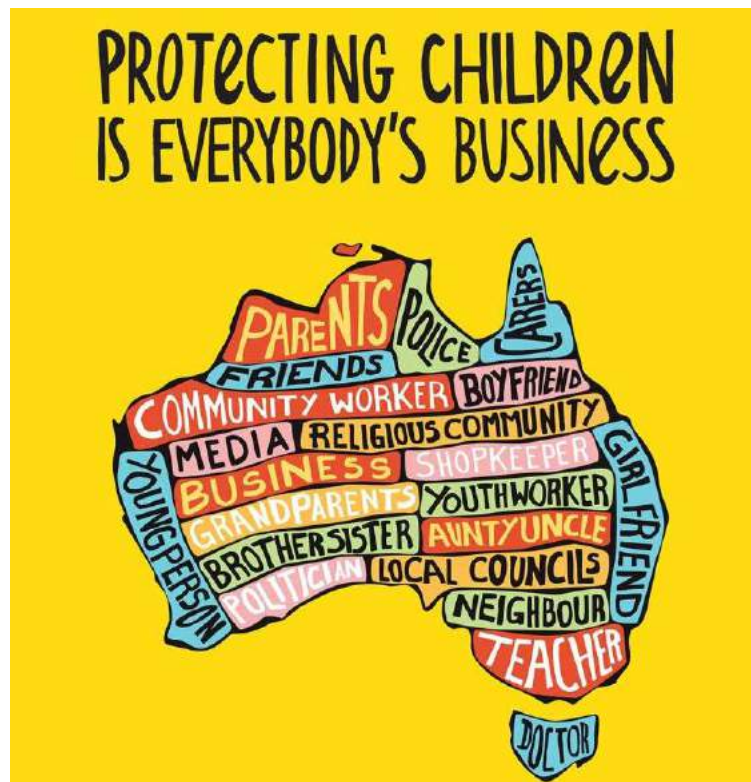




This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks **SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 2021** on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. The Church takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk.

The Parish of Saint John the Baptist, Ferntree Gully and the Diocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. May our message be that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at [Safeguarding Sunday - Catholic Church in Australia](#)



PRAYER

Gracious God, you love and care for all of your children,
especially the smallest and most vulnerable.

We entrust to you the lives of children and adults at risk who have been
sexually abused,

and whose trust and innocence have been destroyed.

Help us to hear their cries of pain and to take responsibility
for those whose lives have been broken.

Help us to recognise the hurt felt by those wounded by abuse,
and the failure to be heard.

We pray that with the help of your grace communities and families will
find understanding and support,
so that now and in the future their wounds may be healed and they may
find lasting peace.

Let your grace and love fall gently now upon our children,
giving them the inner strength,
peace and resilience to seek out assistance when required.

We ask this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God forever and ever.

Amen

FEEL SAFE AND BE SAFE AT OUR CHURCH



YOU HAVE RIGHTS

You have the right to feel safe and be safe from harm.

YOU ARE VALUED & RESPECTED

You have the right not to be hurt, spoken to rudely or made to feel uncomfortable.

WE WILL PROTECT

We will protect children and young people.

WE WILL LISTEN & BELIEVE

We will listen to children and young people and believe them.

WE WILL RESPOND

We will respond to matters of safety and harm.

IF YOU DON'T FEEL SAFE, PLEASE CONTACT:



A family member
or a trusted person
you feel safe
talking to.



Police
000



kidshelpline
Anytime | Any Reason

Kids Helpline
1800 551 800

AND THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT

Phone: 9926 5621 Email: psu@cam.org.au



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE