



What is Safeguarding?

Why do I need to know about it, I am not a volunteer in my parish?

Our parish has been working hard to ensure that The Church's safeguarding programme raises awareness of our collective responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults. This commitment extends to all who are Church volunteers, ministers, and worshippers within our parish and all catholic entities in the diocese of Christchurch

Together we are creating a "Culture of Safeguarding" and have clear processes and procedures in safeguarding best practice. Our priests, religious, leaders and volunteers are committed to a culture of safeguarding.

You may not be a volunteer in our parish, but did you know?

- *We have a safeguarding representative. (Please refer to the purple poster in our church for contact details and to read your parish safeguarding commitments.)*
- *Most volunteers in our parish have already attended at least one safeguarding workshop.*
- *Most volunteers in our parish have signed a Code of Conduct and a Volunteer Agreement.*
- *Volunteers in ministries that involve working with children or vulnerable adults are required to be police vetted.*
- *There is a Church National Safeguarding Policy and National Safeguarding Guidelines.*
- *The National Office for Professional Standards (NOPS) oversees the Church's safeguarding policies and practices and responds to complaints of abuse within the Church.*
- *Most priests, religious and lay leaders in our parish have already completed further in-depth safeguarding training, SCCANZ (Safeguarding in the*

Catholic Church Aotearoa New Zealand) developed by The National Office for Professional Standards (NOPS) and Te Kupenga - The Catholic Institute.

In developing an extended culture of guardianship, our goal is to provide a safe environment for all people with a particular focus on children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding incorporates three main strategies:

- *Safe recruitment and selection practices - helping to prevent those who pose a risk to children and vulnerable adults from holding positions of trust.*
- *Code of Conduct - having clear guidelines that set out what is and is not acceptable behaviour, is an essential part of keeping members of the parish community safe.*
- *Safe activities - ensuring a safe environment for all activities for all people. Safeguarding calls each of us to act so that we are showing care for each other. In sharing this responsibility, we all create a community of safety and security.*

Safeguarding in our parishes and communities is an important and precious outworking of God's love for the vulnerable. It is a healthy expression of our love for our neighbour. We all want and need communities where the vulnerable, (and we can all be vulnerable), are safe and secure. In loving parishes, our faith must surely flourish.



Safeguarding Prayer - St Joseph – Protector

Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph.

Blessed Joseph, as in your day, the protection and safeguarding of children and the vulnerable is an integral part of the life and ministry of the Catholic Church.

Grant us strength, wisdom, and courage to carry out our ministries as we seek to make the church a safer place for the young and vulnerable, so that we can create a more just and loving community.

Guide us to follow in your footsteps as we build a culture of safeguarding. Help us to listen to those wounded by abuse and help us to act with "compassion and justice".

Help us to serve humbly and faithfully, and to love one another as Your Son has loved us.

St Joseph, protector of the innocent, Pray for us.

Amen