**LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN (LWC)**

The Catholic Diocese of Christchurch adheres to the Church National Safeguarding Guidelines. These include guidelines for volunteers in Church ministries to maintain a safe and healthy ministry environment. Our commitment to these guidelines requires that we have safe recruitment practices including conducting background reference checks (police vetting) for all persons who intend to engage in voluntary ministry having direct and regular involvement with children and young people (those aged up to 18 years) and vulnerable adults. The role of a Liturgy of the Word with Children Leader is a Police Vetted role. This role will commence on completion of the police vetting process, which can take up to 6 weeks.

**MINISTRY TITLE: Liturgy of the Word with Children Leaders and Volunteers (LWC)**

**ROLE DESCRIPTION**

Working in a team of at least two, lead children in the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word that is appropriate to their level of understanding.

**TASKS**

* To provide a welcoming, and age-appropriate filled spiritual experience of the Liturgy of the Word that is relevant, participatory, and meaningful to children.
* To celebrate the Liturgy of the Word, the ritual, and prayers with the children in a manner that engages them. The LWC is ritual centred on the proclamation and breaking open of the scriptures.
* To provide the opportunity for this Liturgy to mirror what is taking place in the main church. Liturgy of the Word is proclaimed, profession of faith and respond to the prayers of the faithful.
* Manage the roster of LWC ministers / volunteers for LWC at Masses if there is not another volunteer responsible for this.
* Communicate relevant information and expectations with parent/caregivers about how LWC operates. This includes housekeeping regarding safe practices around toileting, children returning to the Mass after the Liturgy and how the ministry operates.

**EXPECTATIONS OF ROLE**

* To be prepared for the specific set of scriptures of the day and that children are given the opportunities for full, relevant, and authentic participation in the Liturgy.
* That, the Lectionary of Masses with Children is the source used for the scripture being proclaimed during LWC.
* That the principles for celebrating Liturgy of The Word with Children are adhered to.
* That the structure of the liturgy is listen, respond, pray and return to the Assembly.
* Undertake formation prior to beginning this ministry and attend ongoing formation including how to operate this ministry.
* Undertake safeguarding training by way of workshops or online training related to this ministry.
* Attend regular meetings as agreed with your parish leader, who will support you in this role.
* Seek advice on any matters related to this ministry if you are unsure.

**VOLUNTEER SAFEGUARDING AGREEMENT**

Our parish / community is committed to safeguarding and protecting all children, young persons and adults who may be vulnerable, as well as all volunteers in Church roles.

**This role will comply with the National Safeguarding Guidelines and Safeguarding Policy:**

* Police Vetting Process completed prior to commencing ministry
* Code of Conduct for Employees & Volunteers - Signed by Volunteer
* Volunteer Agreement - Signed by Volunteer
* Safeguarding Training Workshops and relevant online training if appropriate