**PRAYER MINISTRY MEMBER**

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. Prayer Ministry Members do serve in a supportive role to those in need of prayer which may include children, young people, or vulnerable adults. The role of those in prayer ministry in our Diocese 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: Prayer Ministry Member**

**MAIN PURPOSE & OBJECTIVE OF MINISTRY ROLE:**

The purpose of the Parish Prayer Ministry, also sometimes known as Intercessory Prayer, is to serve in a supportive role to those in need of prayer. It is about standing alongside another person in the presence of God and supporting them in payer.

**TASKS**

* Be available for prayer ministry service at rostered Masses and if unavailable arrange a suitable replacement in a timely manner. Work collaboratively with coordinator to enable appropriate coverage.
* Do not offer advice or counselling, only appropriate spiritual encouragement and you are not required to follow-up. Leave the person in the Lord’s hands.
* Prayer Ministry members must always minister in teams with a minimum of two people being present throughout a session.
* Be sensitive to persons needs for privacy. If it is determined that further support is appropriate encourage the person to speak to a parish Pastoral Worker or Priest or offer to arrange an appointment /visit with a delegated authority.
* Guidelines provided for prayer ministry sessions are to be followed and the session should be short in length. (No more than 5-10 mins).
* Prepare in prayer before ministering, if possible, abandoning yourself to God’s will so that your will may not cloud your ability to minister in the way God desires.
* Prepare all necessary items such as, resource box/ tissues /prayer cards prior to session.

**EXPECTATION OF ROLE**

* Undertake formation training prior to beginning this ministry and ongoing formation as required.
* Attend regular safeguarding meetings as agreed with the parish leader who will support you in this role.
* Undertake safeguarding training by way of workshops or online training related to this ministry. Our Parish’s Safeguarding Culture is everyone’s responsibility.
* Proactive in raising opportunities to improve aspects of the Catholic Prayer Ministry and seek advice on any matters related to this ministry if you are unsure.
* It is essential that we all act in a Christian manner and work together as a team. All members are asked to mentor or support any colleague who is struggling for any reason.

**APPLICABLE ATTRIBUTES**

* To be a disciple of Jesus Christ, faithful to the Roman Catholic Church, respect and obey the Church’s teachings, and do nothing that will bring the name of the Church into dis-repute.
* A practicing Christian who believes in the love of God and power of the Holy Spirit and who respect and apply all aspects of the liturgy as requested by church doctrine and documents.
* To have good organizational skills and be reliable and timely and must be able to respect confidentiality.
* To be gentle, loving, and sensitive to other people’s needs and have the ability to listen with compassion and not judge.

**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