

The Partnered Catholic Parishes of

Sacred Heart Diamond Creek, St. Mary's Greensborough & St. Thomas the Apostle Greensborough North



Dear Parishioner,

6 November 2020

I write to you as a follow up from my last letter in relation to the work being done by the Establishment Committee for the Safeguarding of Children and Young People of our Partnered Parishes. This Committee's work centres on developing policies and practices in order for us to be compliant with both Government and Archdiocese of Melbourne requirements around protecting children and young people.

The Partnered Parishes hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as fundamental to our Parish life. Our commitment to their safety and the safety of all people is drawn from, and inherent to, the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the dignity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel.

The work of our employees and the considerable work and generous commitment of time and skills of our volunteers is held in the highest appreciation. Complying with and living out our commitment to protecting our young people, will require new expectations of us all. Therefore, I wish to outline some of the requirements that we will all need to commit to and respect, even though they will require a change in our habits and current way of doing things.

As a Christian community that cares for our young, all employed or volunteering in the Partnered Parishes are asked to accept their individual responsibility to understand the important and specific details around their individual role and to collectively ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all that we do.

All Employees and Volunteers will be required to:

- Hold a Current Working with Children Check (which most of you already have)
- Read and sign the Code of Conduct Declaration (see attached)
- Undertake a short Safeguarding Training Session (an online module taking only 10 minutes, that can be accessed from home or with support from the Parish, will be made available)
- Respond to and Report Child Abuse (assistance will be provided by the Safeguarding Committee)

I feel sure that all will accept and work towards this commitment in a positive manner. To assist you, resources will be provided to allow for ease in you being able to meet the required Child Safety requirements. A "How To" Fact Sheet will be made available once it has been fully developed.

For your information, policies supporting the Child and Young people's safety are now available on the Parish website including:

- Parish Statement of Commitment
- Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy
- Code of Conduct Declaration (all employees and volunteers to sign)
- Responding to and Reporting Policy

I together with Frs. Tao and Lenin and any of the Leadership Team are very happy to receive any feedback that may assist the Establishment Committee for the Safeguarding of Children and Young People to proceed forward with our work towards providing a safe and nurturing environment for our children and young people.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Rigo'.

Fr. Steven Rigo, Parish Priest.