

SAFEGUARDING WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE CHURCH



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- **Prevention:** Setting up safe structures, policies and environments so abuse doesn't happen
- **Protection:** Acting immediately if someone is at risk or if concerns are raised.
- **Pastoral Care:** Supporting victims/survivors with compassion, counselling and respect
- **Accountability:** Holding individuals, including clergy and laypeople, responsible for misconduct or failures

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- Historical failures by some in the Church to protect people have deeply wounded individuals and communities
- Today, safeguarding is central to rebuilding trust, maintaining moral authority and living out Gospel values of love, justice and protection of the vulnerable.
- Is a vital part of the Church's mission of care and responsibility.
- To ensure safe people are working and volunteering within our communities

SPECIFIC AREAS OF FOCUS

1. Training for clergy, volunteers and staff about safe practices and warning signs
2. Vetting processes like criminal background checks before someone can work with children or vulnerable adults
3. Clear reporting mechanisms: how to report concerns confidentially and safely.
4. Responding properly - ensuring allegations are handled fairly, swiftly, and independently if needed.
5. Supporting healing - offering care for those who have been hurt by abuse in the Church.
6. Monitoring individuals who may pose a risk (safeguarding plans).