



Dear Friends

In Child Protection Week, our whole nation is invited to 'put children first'. In fact, that is the theme in 2020, which marks thirty years of Child Protection Week in Australia.

Although the Pandemic has changed the way we are all living and working, it doesn't change what is most important. For Christians, the Lord Jesus shows us that at all times, the most vulnerable among us are those requiring our greatest care. In particular, the safety and the protection of children is one of our most important priorities.

The Professional Standards Office of our Archdiocese along with our Mission Team have developed some resources to be of help for all in our communities. These are designed to support children and young people's right to be safe and feel safe.

My heart breaks for those who were not cared for and protected in the past.

When a child is neglected or abused, the pain and suffering endures throughout their whole life. I am sad and angered that the Church has not always been a place that has put children first. We continue to address the horror of abuse, to walk with those in need, and to build a culture of safety and protection for our most vulnerable. Personally, I will continue to meet with survivors of abuse; listening to them, hearing them and trusting them, and helping our Church to be continually converted.

Please pray with me that we would put children first always, and protect their safety.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

Sacred Heart/Emmaus Parish has a Child Safeguarding Committee

The Committee is responsible for:

- Implementing, maintaining and/or reviewing child safety processes and procedures to support the wellbeing and safety of children and young people with input from stakeholders including Priest, Parish administration, parents, children, young people.
- Involving children and young people and their families in decision-making and planning to promote child safety.
- Ensuring that reporting processes for concerns and/or allegations are well communicated and documented across the Parish.
- Acting as a first point of contact in relation to child safety concerns, reports or allegations.
For this reason the Sacred Heart/Emmaus Child Safeguarding Committee has its own email address stalbans.csc@cam.org.au and its own mobile phone number 0413 841 936:
- Complying with reporting protocols for child abuse reports and allegations.
- Participating in and/or delivering child safety information and training.
- Monitoring ongoing compliance with the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Safeguarding Children and Young People Framework which encompasses the requirements of the Victorian Child Safe Standards.

The Committee:

- Has an advisory role within the Parish, supporting the Parish Priest, who maintains legal responsibility for the Parish under the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005.
- Works with the leadership of the Parish to ensure policies, processes and practices are in place to protect children and young people.
- Meets regularly and reports progress to the Parish Priest on a monthly basis.
- Ensures that the Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy is embedded across the Parish.
- Ensures compliance requirements are met.

Members of the Committee are 'Safeguarding Officers' for the Parish. Safeguarding Officers can act as points of contact for advice, support and direction in relation to child safety matters.

The current members of the Sacred Heart/Emmaus Parish Child Safeguarding Committee are:

Les Milroy, Lorraine Stafford, Sinead McEvoy.