

Upcoming Safeguarding Workshops conducted by Maria and Mike Noonan, Safeguarding Officers, Dunedin Diocese

Safeguarding is about creating a safe and welcoming environment, where everyone is respected and valued and where all work together to prevent abuse. It is also about being ready to respond safely and well if there is a problem. Everyone in the parish has a role to play in safeguarding. As part of our Diocesan commitment to safeguarding, there will be several Introductory and Leadership safeguarding workshops in the coming months. Others will be planned as needed and later in the year we hope to develop an online training for the introductory workshop.

SGW1—Introductory Workshop Level 1: This workshop is designed to raise our awareness and understanding of safeguarding and to make changes to what we do in order to make safer parish communities. All involved in ministry with children, young people and those who are vulnerable need to attend this workshop as part of their training. All parishioners are welcome to join the introductory workshops.

Safeguarding leadership—Prevention of abuse is fundamental to safeguarding. This requires a recognition of a call at a scriptural level to call to care, heal and protect those who are young and or vulnerable as well as an awareness that this has not always occurred and requires repentance. In practical terms such repentance needs to be reflected in our attitude and commitment towards

safeguarding and in our determination to get things right. Our structural policies and procedures will then uphold these attitudes. It is about all of us learning how to keep ourselves safe, how to keep others safe and how to use our safeguarding lens so that we can ultimately look after each other in our parish settings and activities.

SGW2—Safeguarding Workshop 2: This workshop is aimed at parish leaders in ministry and in parish leadership. It offers a refresher on Workshop 1 as well as updates and deepens knowledge around safeguarding and what is expected in Catholic parishes and entities.

Ministries that are required to attend safeguarding training:

- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the sick, in their homes or retirement homes.
- Liturgy of The Word with Children.
- Choir with children and young people.
- Anyone who conducts home visits on behalf of the Parish/Diocese Entity.
- Altar Servers Co-ordinators.
- Any other activity or role that includes children and young people and vulnerable adults in the parish, eg. musical choirs, Couples for Christ, Sacramental Programmes and other such groups that each individual parish hosts.
- Any ministries where the minister acts with the power and authority of the Church.

Safeguarding Workshop 1 will be held on Sunday, 23 May at 10:30am in the side chapel, St John the Baptist Church. For more information or if you have any queries please do not hesitate to ask Fr Sani Lam or Loretta Fonseca or via email on alexcatholic@xtra.co.nz