



Archbishop of Wellington

PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

22 January 2019

Dear Priests, Lay Pastoral Leaders, and Pastoral Council Chairs,

You will have heard that the bishops are introducing safeguarding policies and practices into their dioceses. Some parishes in the Archdiocese have already had an introduction to safeguarding, in the form of a short workshop which has allowed us to understand what the current understanding of safeguarding is in parishes.

We are all responsible for developing safe practices at all levels within the Church. These practices are becoming the norm in society for organizations which deal with children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding applies to volunteers as well as to employees and priests. Safeguarding is about keeping everyone safe from harm, trauma and abuse, whether it be emotional, physical, or sexual.

The National Office of Professional Standards (NOPS) has developed a set of documents which are being adopted by all the dioceses and religious orders, to ensure consistency of approach across the country. These documents are:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Concerns and Complaints Policy
- Safe Recruitment and Training Policy
- Safeguarding Culture Standards
- Code of Conduct for Employees and Volunteers

The Archdiocese of Wellington has formally adopted these policies and is developing the processes necessary to implement them. The Policies, Standards and Code of Conduct apply to everyone: clergy, religious, employees and volunteers.

Two workshops on safeguarding will be provided in all parishes during 2019. These will be open to everyone in the parish. Pastoral team members, Pastoral Council members and key volunteers must attend. This training will provide guidance and tools to support the implementation of the safeguarding policies in our parishes. There will be an additional child protection workshop for those whose role and responsibilities require more extensive knowledge.

Many of you have already met Brendy Weir who I have appointed as the Safeguarding Adviser for the Archdiocese. Brendy has many years' experience as a child protection social worker and senior advisor for child protection in the government sector, and more recently has been working for Catholic Social Services. She will be leading the

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Safeguarding and Child Protection workshops and will be in contact with you to arrange dates and times.

In the first Safeguarding workshop Brendy will discuss the role of Parish Safeguarding Administrator. I would like you as the leaders of the parish to consider, prior to the workshops, who might be a good fit for this role in your parish. A role description is attached.

The Safeguarding Administrator will be required to attend the training on Safeguarding and Child Protection in order help them in their role within their parish. At the training, Brendy Weir will provide resources and facilitate discussion about any Safeguarding questions. You can ring Brendy on (04) 496 1768 or email her on b.weir@wn.catholic.org.nz if you have any questions.

Many of you already have robust processes in place, which is excellent, and I commend you in prioritising this important work. I know that other parishes will be just as proficient in developing robust processes and we are happy to provide the necessary support.

Thank you for the work you do in ministry and leadership of the parish. I realise that safeguarding means additional work, but I cannot over-emphasize how important it is for all of us.

Yours sincerely in the Lord

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John A Cardinal Dew". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

John A Cardinal Dew
Archbishop of Wellington