



The Catholic Parish of Sacred Heart and St Columba

*Our Parish is a Christian community which welcomes all to walk together
in a spirit of compassion, justice and hope.*

*Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity
of all children and vulnerable adults.*

Safeguarding Report for 5 September PLDT meeting

Parish Safeguarding Weekend

“This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance. We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place that respects the dignity of all children and adults at risk, and empowers and listens to all people, especially those who are vulnerable.” *(Australian Catholic Bishops Conference)*

While our Parish takes the official purpose of Safeguarding Sunday seriously, we also use the weekend to celebrate and communicate all that we do to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are as safe as possible in our community.

We have been actively promoting National Child Protection Week and Safeguarding Sunday in our newsletter and notices throughout August.

We have also asked parishioners to sign a special heart poster as a symbol of their commitment to our safeguarding framework. The heart poster will be processed with John at masses this Sunday. We ask the PLDT to show their support also this weekend.

National Child Protection Week

Safeguarding Sunday is held on the last day of National Child Protection Week. This year’s theme is “Every Conversation Matters”. Conversations are powerful tools to keep children and young people safe and well. Conversations can help us understand issues, craft solutions, value community knowledge, and build the brains and social connections of children and young people.

The Safeguarding Committee has been attending seminars organised by NAPCAN during this week.

We respectfully acknowledge the Yaluk-ut Weelam clan of the Boonwurrung Nation who are the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land.