

Safeguarding

at St. Anthony's Catholic Parish, Melton South

Commitment to the safety of children and young people

A culture of safety within the Church ensures that children and young people can actively and fully participate in the life of the Church and realize their potential in a faith community.

By the directive of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne Peter A Comensoli, this commitment extends to clergy, employees and volunteers within the Archdiocese, regardless of their role or level of responsibility to act to safeguarding children and young people from abuse.

The wellbeing of children and young people in our care must always be our first priority – all children and young people in the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne have the right to feel safe and be safe. Safety ensures the continuation of the many positive and enriching interactions that are afforded to children and young people through their participation in the Church.

- Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (CAM)

RESOURCES

- [Feel Safe and Be Safe at Our Church](#) (poster)
- [Rights and Responsibilities](#) (poster)
- [Commitment Statement](#) (poster)
- [Code of Conduct Explanation \(for Children\)](#) (poster)
- [Code of Conduct Explanation \(for Young People\)](#) (poster)
- [Reporting abuse of safety related misconduct](#) (poster)
- [Reporting child safety related misconduct and/or child abuse](#) (policy)
- [Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne \(CAM\) website on Safeguarding](#)
- [Applying for a Working with Children Check \(WWCC\)](#)



In seeking to provide safe and enriching environments for children and young people at St. Anthony's Catholic Parish of Melton South, the Parish has set out key selection, recruitment and screening processes that consider the suitability and appropriateness of the following persons as the Parish's Safeguarding Committee.

Safeguarding Committee of St. Anthony's Catholic Parish of Melton South



Godwin Barton



Lorraine Tellis



Karina Dunne



Geetha Vincent

Feel free to contact the **Safeguarding Committee of St. Anthony's Catholic Parish of Melton South** on **0425 734 449** or parish.safeguard@gmail.com for any concerns or to bring any safety matters to our attention. Please note, all **calls or emails will be treated with strict confidentiality.**

The Parish, together with the Safeguarding Committee are committed to ensure that volunteers who work with children and young people within the Parish have a **valid Working with Children Check (WWCC)** with the aim of promoting the safety of children and young people of our Parish.

If you don't feel safe, please contact:

A family member
or a trusted
person you feel
safe talking to at
home, school or
church.



Safeguarding Committee of
St. Anthony's Catholic Parish
of Melton South

0425 734 449

parish.safeguard@gmail.com



Police

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kidshelpine
Anytime | Any Reason

Kids Helpline

1800 551 800

Reporting abuse or safety related misconduct

Child abuse or child-safety related misconduct is defined as an act (or series of acts) that endangers a child or young person's physical or emotional health or development and/or a failure to provide conditions to the extent that the health and development of the child or young person is significantly impaired or placed at risk.

Categories of abuse and maltreatment:

- physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- problematic sexual behaviour of children and young people
- emotional abuse
- spiritual abuse
- family violence
- neglect
- grooming
- discrimination
- bullying, including cyberbullying

Clergy, employees and volunteers play a vital role in identifying child abuse or child-safety related misconduct and are encouraged to be vigilant in responding to possible indicators or signs, disclosures, allegations and reports, and to take action to support a child or young person who is at risk of or experiencing harm.

All clergy, employees and volunteers are required to make a report if they have formed a 'reasonable belief' that a child or young person has experienced abuse, is experiencing abuse or is at risk of harm from child-safety related misconduct.

Any person
(e.g. child, young person, adult, priest, employee, volunteer)
can make a report
in relation to current or historical
child abuse or child-safety related misconduct.

In Victoria, if alleged current or historical child abuse is perpetrated by:

Clergy, employees and volunteers

The matter is to be reported to the Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT) within Victoria Police: Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT)

All concerns, allegations or complaints of current or historical abuse and child-safety related misconduct will be taken seriously, treated with sensitivity, and acted upon consistent with the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne's moral, ethical and legal obligations.

Depending on the nature of the behaviour that is reported (e.g. a criminal act) the matter will be immediately reported to Victoria Police for action. If the behaviour is deemed child-safety related misconduct (i.e. not criminal behaviour), the matter will be referred for investigation and subsequent disciplinary action, if the matter is substantiated. All child abuse or child-safety related misconduct matters are reported to the Reportable Conduct Scheme (Commission for Children and Young People).

The Professional Standards Unit (PSU) is responsible for coordinating reports of current and historical abuse or child-safety related misconduct and liaising with statutory authorities e.g. Victoria Police, Commission for Children and Young People (Reportable Conduct Scheme).

The PSU will:

- Offer support to the person(s) involved
- Initiate risk management processes to ensure the safety of the person and others, clarify the nature of the complaint to determine relevant reporting requirements
- Report the matter to relevant authorities (i.e. Victoria Police, Child Protection) in accordance with legal requirements and duty of care as soon as possible.
- Wait for clearance before starting an investigation. The PSU will be guided by the recommendations of Victoria Police and/or Child Protection in relation to any action that may be required to promote the safety of those involved and the integrity of an investigation.
- Report the matter to regulatory bodies e.g. the Commission for Children and Young People

A family member

The matter is reported to Child Protection – Department of Health and Human Services:

- North and West (Metro) region: 1300 664 977
- South region: 1300 655 795
- East region: 1300 360 391
- West (Rural) region: 1800 075 599

After-hours and weekends: 13 12 78

A child or young person

(e.g. sexually harmful behaviour, aggression, violence, online exploitation)

The matter is reported to Child Protection (DHHS) and/or the Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT) within Victoria Police: Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT)