

***Risen Christ Parish***  
**Safeguarding Committee**  
***24 May 2025***

**Minutes**

**Present:** Fr Michael Sierakowski, Lorraine Furtado, Nika Cseh, John Ramsdale, Mark Kulkens, Anne Williams, and Peter Williams

**1. Apologies:** Frances Sullivan

**2. Prayer and Acknowledgment of Country-** Mark Kulkens

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

**4. Parish Compliance Issues**

Peter advised that currently only all volunteers in the parish are fully compliant with the Safeguarding requirements. As Codes of Conduct and WWCC are about to expire the individuals concerned are contacted to ensure ongoing compliance.

**5. Welcoming Video 2025**

Peter noted that arrangements are in place to record the 2025 versions of the Welcoming videos, which will include the 2025 school leaders at SFX, HT and OLHC Primary schools. Following feedback from committee members a revised script has been developed. The new script contains only subtle changes from that used previously. Filming is scheduled for the coming Thursday.

**6. Parish Response to Standard 1.**

As discussed at the last meeting, a specific section on the parish website is to be developed promoting appropriate material that recognises the local history of Aboriginal peoples in the Eltham and Montmorency area. This will include a link to the report “The Aboriginal Heritage of the Shire of Eltham”.

Peter advised that there has been a delay in uploading this information on to the Website due to a number of factors. It is hoped this will be in place in the coming weeks.

Mark spoke of the Walk for Truth that he will be participating in over the next 24 days. The walk will start in Portland and finish at the steps of Parliament House Melbourne. It is hoped that the Walk will be a forerunner to Treaty with the Victorian Government.

A notice is in this week’s Bulletin supporting National Reconciliation Week – 27 May to 3 June 2025.

Discussion followed on the need to recognize and support the diverse cultural backgrounds of all

parishioners.

## **7. St Vincent De Paul**

John spoke on the current work of the Montmorency and Eltham Conferences of STVDP. He noted that the Eltham and Montmorency Groups meet regularly and whilst they continue to receive calls for food, furniture, etc., there is a growing need for social support from both the older and younger people within the community. John also outline the areas of income and support SVDP receives.

## **8. Other Business**

### **Parish Profiles**

Committee members' attention was drawn to the Parish Profiles that have been appearing in the Parish Bulletin over the past months. Peter asked if Committee member could complete a Parish Profile of themselves and forward it to Kate Kogler in the Parish Office. The format could look like:

- 1 Sentence about yourself, family and which mass you attend.
- 2 Why did you join the Safeguarding Committee?
- 3 What do you do with yourself?
- 4 What is the one thing you think would surprise people about you?

However, you can vary from this approach if you wish.

### **Blessing Ceremony – Official Opening of the new Parkview Units**

A Blessing Ceremony and Official Opening of the new Parkview Units is to take place on Sunday (25 May). This is to include an Aboriginal Welcome to Country and Smoking ceremony, which is to be followed by the blessing of the 4 new Parkview Units.

### **Acknowledging Volunteers**

A notice has been included in this week's Bulletin thanking and acknowledging the work of all volunteers in our parish.

### **Parish Pastoral Plan**

Fr Michael noted the Parish Pastoral Leadership Community have now completed the Parish Pastoral Plan and it is currently with the printers. The Plan is to be launched on Pentecost Sunday.

### **Historical Abuse Report**

Fr Michael spoke of an historical sexual abuse report he had received during the week. The caller stated that he had been abuse by the late Fr Baker. Fr Michael has referred the matter to Pathways Victoria.

## **9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled to be **Saturday 23 August**  
- Prayer and Welcome to Country – Fr Michael.