

Risen Christ Parish
Safeguarding Committee
24 February 2024

Minutes

1. Present: Mark Kulkens, Fr Michael Sierakowski, Anne Williams and Peter Williams

2. Apologies: Catherine Bressanutti, Lorraine Furtado

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

4. Committee Membership

Bridgid Keele's resignation from the Committee was noted with regret. Bridgid's commitment to Safeguarding over many years was discussed and acknowledged. Peter advised that he had thanked Bridgid for her contribution to Safeguarding.

It was agreed to advertise for two new Committee members, hopefully, one from each faith community. Emphasis would be on attracting younger members from each community. Mark is to prepare an appropriate notice to be included in the Parish Bulletin and in the schools' newsletters.

Fr Michael will also highlight this at weekend Masses.

5. Safeguarding Self-Assessment – Audit 2023

Peter advised that comments were received from the Safeguarding Unit on the Parish's 2023 Parish Self-Assessment documents. Some minor suggestions were offered to enhance our SelfAssessment response. There are a few suggestions on how we could strengthen our response to Standard 1. Whilst noting that there is further work to be done on strengthening our response to Standard 1, it was acknowledged that this does not have to be done all at once. Our work in this area can evolve over time.

Mark led discussion on the current environment around establishing a Treaty and the impact of the VOICE referendum. He also suggested some ideas on how we could advance our approach to addressing Standard 1.

6. Review of Parish Celebrations

• Advent

Feedback on the Safeguarding presentations at weekend Masses during first 2 weekends of Advent were generally positive.

The presentation by Robert Fitzgerald, followed by the brief interview with Gabrielle Fitzgerald about her husband's work in Safeguarding was very positively received.

- **Christmas Eve Mass**

The emphasis of the Christmas Eve Mass focusing more specifically on the children attending, was successful. The concept of the 2 Christmas trees and the children being invited, during the Gospel, to place the stars on the trees worked well. Use of the Crib, flanked on both sides by the Christmas trees was a great visual focus.

From a Safeguarding basis the event went very smoothly.

7. Parish Compliance Issues

- **Current status of compliance**

Peter advised that currently all parish volunteers are fully compliant with the Safeguarding requirements.

8. Engaging with Parish Schools

Work continues on establishing more formal Safeguarding relationships with our parish primary schools. There have now been in discussion with all the principals of our parish schools, who are supportive of the partnership concept.

Development of a video that welcomes everyone to each Mass is to proceed in the coming weeks, with the first or pilot video to involve SFX school.

9. Other Business

- **Standard 1**

It was agreed that Standard 1 would be a standing item on future agenda for the foreseeable future.

- **Demolition of Parish House OLHC**

It was agreed that some sort of cleansing and blessing ceremony should be organized on the site of the former OLHC presbytery before the new buildings were constructed. This may be helpful to all parish members especially those still struggling with the abuse that occurred here in the past.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Saturday 25 May 2024. This date will be subject to the availability of any new committee members.

