

Risen Christ Parish
Safeguarding Committee
14 February 2026

Minutes

Present: Fr Michael Sierakowski, John Ramsdale, Mark Kulkens, Frances Sullivan, Anne Williams, and Peter Williams

- 1. Apologies:** Lorraine Furtado, Nika Cseh.
- 2. Prayer and Acknowledgment of Country-** John
- 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

4. Safeguarding Essentials Training Module

A face-to-face Essential Safeguarding Training Module was held on 13 December 2025, with 45 attendees. Attendees were comprised of both existing volunteers and interested parishioners. The session was successfully conducted by Nika, Mark and Fr Michael.

It was agreed to hold a further face-to-face training session on Saturday 21 February. Once again it will be conducted by Nika, Mark and Fr Michael. Details about this second session will be advertised in the Bulletin. The training session will also be promoted by Safeguarding Committee members at weekend masses on 14/15 February. Peter will speak at 6:00 pm Saturday and 10:00 am Sunday masses. John will speak at 8:30 am Mass.

5. Parish Compliance Issues

Peter advised that due to the need for most volunteers to complete the Safeguarding Essentials Training Module, it is difficult to provide an accurate response to current compliance, at this time.

6. St Vincent De Paul Society

John reported on several matters associated with SVDP. He noted that SVDP Montmorency currently has 15 active members, after 4 members retired. They are about to embark on a recruitment drive to boost their numbers. John noted the support they receive from several local schools, particularly Briar Hill Primary School.

Discussion followed on the potential linking or merging of SVDP Montmorency with SVDP Eltham as they are now the one parish. Recognising that both are very separate organisations.

7. 2026 Welcoming Video

Following discussion, it was agreed that Peter will commence arrangements for the production of the 2026 Welcoming video. Fr Michael noted that Matthew Robinson, who has produced and

filmed the videos in the past has relocated to Sydney. Peter undertook to contact Matthew to clarify if he is still able to film the videos this year when he next visits Melbourne. Alternately, if he can suggest someone in Melbourne who can assist us.

8. Parish Pastoral Plan

Fr Michael and Peter provided an update on the implementation of the Parish Pastoral Plan and the Stewardship Program. An exciting outcome of this process has been the number of potential new volunteers who are interested in being involved. This will result in a major amount of work ensuring all are compliant. This is particularly so if some of these new volunteers are new to the parish. Fr Michael suggested we could look to holding group interviews, etc.

Mark undertook to talk to Kate Kogler about sending out a group email to all these new volunteers suggesting they attend the face-to-face Safeguarding Essentials on 21 February.

9. Review of Advent Activities

The meeting discussed the Safeguarding activities over the first 3 weekends of Advent which focused on: Online Safety and general Safeguarding issues. On the weekend of 6/7 December Nika spoke at all Masses, regarding general Safeguarding Issues. Her presentation was very well received. A short video from the Daniel Morcombe Foundation was shown at all masses on 13/14 December. The consensus was that these activities were successful and positively received by parishioners.

Christmas Eve Children's Mass at Holy Trinity Primary School was attended by approximately 600 people. The continuing focus and involvement of children and young people was well received. A child friendly Acknowledge of Country, used by both Holy Trinity and Our Lady Help of Christians Primary schools, was used at this mass. It was considered that the revised location of the Christmas Trees and the Altar was a success.

It was acknowledged that the 2026 Christmas Eve Children's Mass at Holy Trinity Primary School will be the last one that Vince Bumpstead will attend as the school Principal.

10. Other Business

Anne raised a concern she had received from a parishioner at OLHC Eltham, regarding the safety of young children who may wander onto the Sanctuary during Mass. There was concern that there was a risk of them pulling a candle down onto themselves and being injured. This concern was discussed and agreed that whilst children will not be discouraged from accessing the Sanctuary during mass, they will be monitored closely to ensure they are not at risk.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for **23 May 2026**:

Mark has volunteered for the Opening prayer and Acknowledgement of Country.

Frances indicated she will be an apology for the next meeting.