

Risen Christ Parish
Safeguarding Committee
8 November 2025

Minutes

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

- 1. Apologies:**
- 2. Prayer and Acknowledgment of Country-** Nika
- 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

4. Parish Compliance Issues

Peter advised that currently 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 continue to be contacted to ensure ongoing compliance.

5. ACSL Audit

Discussion followed on the outcome of the ACSL Audit that was held on 10 October 2025. Whilst there was very little specific feedback received at the time of the audit, it was stated that we have a 'mature system' in place. It was suggested that our greatest challenge would be succession planning for the role of Safeguarding Officer.

6. Safeguarding Essentials Training

Peter noted that those volunteers who undertook the face-to-face Essential Safeguarding Training Module in November/December 2022 will be required to renew the training in December this year. Although the Archdiocese has introduced a compliance grace period, meaning renewal of training can be as late as February 2026.

It was agreed that a training session would be held in December 2025 and a session in January and during Lent in March 2026. The December session will be conducted by Nika, Mark and Fr Michael. A specific date will need to be set, and the training session advertised in the Bulletin. The training session will be promoted by Safeguarding Committee members at weekend masses prior to the Training taking place.

Arrangements for the training sessions in January and March will be finalized closer to the events. The training will be once again open to all parishioners, not just volunteers.

Peter will provide a copy of the Training PowerPoint presentation and attendance/Sign in sheets to Nika, Mark and Fr. Michael.

7. Planning for Advent and Christmas

- ***Safeguarding Advent Activities:***

It was agreed that once again the first 2 Weekends of Advent (6-7 & 13-14 December) will focus on Safeguarding issues.

Discussion followed on potential themes for these weekends. Peter suggested Online Safety for Children may be a theme we could consider, given the Social Media ban for children under the age of 16 is to come into effect on 10 December. He also suggested consideration could be given to showing a 4-minute video entitled “Staying Safe Online”, from the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. (a link to the video will be sent to Fr Michael).

It was agreed that the weekend of **6-7 December** would focus on general Safeguarding issues. Nika volunteered to speak at all masses that weekend.

On **13-14 December** it is proposed the focus would involve a video (content to be determined). Fr. Michael will take ownership of this weekend.

- **Christmas Eve Children’s Mass**

Peter advised that he has spoken to the Natalie Ramuno, Vice Principle at Holy Trinity Primary School regarding holding the mass at the school again this year. It was confirmed they are happy to use the school as the venue for the mass. They have already discussed forming the choir for the event. Peter will approach Mark O’Dowd to assist in bumping in and bumping out on the day. The school will provide sound equipment, etc., as per last year.

The mass will follow the same format used last year with a specific focus on children. With several school children asked to act as readers. A female voice will also be needed to read the Gospel (Nika offered to take on this role again, if no one else could be found).

Anne circulated a copy of a child friendly Acknowledge of Country used by both Holy Trinity and Our Lady Help of Christians Primary schools. It was proposed this could be used at the beginning of the mass. That approach was supported.

It was suggested that we explore the possibility of using Tap and Go technology for the leaving collections this year. (Peter will talk to Kate Kogler about this).

Safeguarding Team members were asked to attend the mass, if possible, to assist in providing a visible Safeguarding presence. (You get to wear a very stylish yellow vest.)

8. Other Business

STVDP

John reported on several matters associated with SVDP. He noted that SVDP were about to release a new Code of Conduct. Also, he has spoken to SVDP headquarters regarding sharing of Police Check information. Based on privacy grounds it was suggested that it was not possible to share this information with the parish.

John noted that the local SVDP have been working with several vulnerable adults recently. Particular note was made of a vulnerable lady they have been working with and how her self-esteem has increased markedly because of the assistance given to her.

Service of Lament

The archdiocese has introduced a *Service of Lament*, taking place from **5–12 November**. This service focuses on acknowledging and praying for victims and survivors of abuse. Its format is expected to develop and evolve over the coming years. As advice on this initiative has only just been received from the archdiocese, it is too late to put anything in place for this year. It was suggested that this is something we might consider adopting in the future.

In any event a copy of information we received on the Service of Lament, has been included in this week's Bulletin.

9. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the meeting schedule for **2026** would be:

21 February

23 May

22 August, and

7 November 2026

Meetings will commence at 10:00 am.

- Prayer and Acknowledge of Country for **21 February - John**.