



SAFEGUARDING AND MINISTERIAL INTEGRITY OFFICE

March 2022 Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome to the Safeguarding Office's Quarterly Newsletter

This Issue:

Safeguarding Team News

- **Welcome Thomas Isbester**

Policy and Legislation:

- **Updated/New Policy and Protocols**
- **Online Safety Act 2021**
- **Visiting Clergy Protocols**

Safeguarding Training:

- **2022 Safeguarding and Child Protection Training**

Continuous Improvement and meeting Standards:

- **Child-Related Activity Registers**
- **Visiting Clergy Register**

Sharing Knowledge

- **Trauma informed Care**

Safeguarding Team News

The Safeguarding Office would like to take this opportunity to announce that Thomas Isbester joined the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office in the position of Safeguarding Manager, Casework and Compliance.

Thomas - who is an experienced Safeguarding Practitioner and Investigator - has worked in government and non-government investigation for over nine years, and has worked for more than four years in Safeguarding and Professional Standards in the Catholic Church.

Fun Fact about Thomas!

Thomas is a passionate supporter and member of the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs in addition to having a very keen interest in all sports, particularly golf and cricket.



The month of March is recognised as the month of St Joseph, with his Solemnity occurring. The Solemnity of St. Joseph is a special landmark this month in which we will celebrate the great honor bestowed upon the foster father of Jesus.

Policy and Legislation

Updated Policy and Protocols

In December 2021 the Safeguarding Office updated the following Policy and Protocol documents.

- [Policy Definitions](#)

Definitions for the National Redress Scheme, Mandatory Reporting and the Office of the Children's Guardian were added to the document.

- [Protocol, Guidance document and Fact Sheet: What Conduct must be reported to the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian](#)

Information was inserted regarding an Offence under Section 43B and 316A of the Crimes Act 1900.

- [Protocol: Mandatory Safeguarding and Child Protection Training](#)

Subheadings regarding training compliance has been inserted.

- [Protocol and Fact Sheet: Use of Technology and Social Media to communicate with Children](#)

Information was inserted regarding administrators for social media platforms.

The above documents are available to view and download from the [Safeguarding Website](#).

New Safeguarding Documents

[Fact Sheet: Person of Concern in a Parish](#)

This Fact Sheet provides information regarding where a Person of Concern enters into one of the Parishes within the Archdiocese and may pose a risk to the safety of the members of the Church community.

To keep up to date with new Safeguarding Documents as well as amended Safeguarding Documents visit the 'latest updates' box on the Safeguarding Website.

Latest Updates

The following Safeguarding Policy and protocol documents were updated on 10 December 2021

- Policy Definitions
- Fact Sheet: Relevant Government Agencies
- Guidance Document: Relevant Government Agencies
- Fact Sheet: Reportable Conduct Scheme
- Flowchart: Reporting Safeguarding Complaints
- Fact Sheet: What to expect if you are the subject of a Safeguarding Complaint
- Fact Sheet: What to expect when bringing forward a safeguarding complaint
- Fact Sheet: National Response Protocol
- Whistle-Blower Guidelines: Safeguarding Children
- Fact Sheet: What conduct must be reported to the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian
- Guidance Document: What conduct must be reported to the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian
- Form: Details of Child Protection Matter that has been Reported to the NSW Police
- Sample Interview Questions and Red Flags
- Fact Sheet: Use of Technology and Social media to communicate with children
- Protocol: Use of Technology and Social media to communicate with children

New Online Safety Act 2021

On the 23 January 2022, Australia welcomed the commencement of the *Online Safety Act 2021*, which provides additional protections for Australians in the fight against online harms.

The *Online Safety Act 2021* brings some big changes, including a world-first Adult Cyber Abuse Scheme to protect Australians aged over 18, and a broader Cyberbullying Scheme for Australian children to capture harms that occur on online services other than social media.

Commitment Statement

The emotional, physical and spiritual safety, well-being and dignity of Children is an integral part of the teachings and values of the Catholic Church. The Archdiocese is wholly committed to ensuring the safety, well-being and dignity of all Children, and acknowledges its important legal, moral and spiritual responsibility to create a safe and nurturing environment for those Children.

(Cont.)

Carlo Acutis - touted as the "patron saint of the internet",

Carlo Acutis was born May 3, 1991, in London and then moved to Milan. As a teenager, Carlo was diagnosed with leukemia. Cardinal Agostino Vallini stated *"Carlo used the internet in service of the Gospel, to reach as many people as possible,"* Carlo died on Oct. 12, 2006, his cause for canonization began in 2013. He was designated "Venerable" in 2018, and was designated "Blessed" October 10, 2020. Carlo was put on the road to sainthood after Pope Francis approved a miracle attributed to Carlo: The healing of a 7-year-old Brazilian boy from a rare pancreatic disorder after coming into contact with an relic, a piece of one of Carlo's T-shirts. Pope Francis said *"His witness shows today's young people that true happiness is found by putting God first and serving Him in our brothers, especially the least. Let's make a round of applause for the new young Blessed."*



Visiting Clergy Protocols

All clergy engaged in public ministry require habitual Faculties granted by the Bishop of the place in which they reside and/or exercise their appointed ministry. Whenever clergy move to minister in another diocese or parish, they require Permission to Minister in that new situation from the appropriate authority. Such permission can only be granted when a cleric's Bishop or Ordinary has testified to his good standing and his Working With Children Check (WWCC) has been verified by the receiving diocese or parish. There are various procedures for obtaining permission to minister in another diocese depending on where a cleric is incardinated and on which documentation is available.

The [Visiting Clergy Protocols](#) have recently been amended to remove references to the former Towards Healing Declarations 45.6 and 45.7. They have been replaced with the [Safeguarding Statement](#) form and the [Individual Safeguarding Declaration and Disclosure Forms](#).

Visiting Clergy Protocols and forms are available on the Archdiocese of Sydney website under '[Information for Visiting Clergy Tab](#)' – bottom right hand corner of website.



St. Patrick's feast day is the 17 March. St Patrick established the Catholic Church throughout Ireland on lasting foundations. He traveled all over the country preaching, teaching, building churches, opening schools and monasteries, converting chiefs and bards, and everywhere supporting his preaching with miracles.