

St Patrick's, Church Hill

Developing and Maintaining a Safeguarding Culture



For more than 170 years St Patrick's has been a spiritual oasis in Sydney. There is a fine tradition of mercy and reconciliation here. We will continue to ensure that everything possible is done to go on developing that tradition. It is a gift that grows richer with time. It is also a task that will never end.

To keep faith with that tradition, we must take account of the changing times. In particular, we must take account of the findings of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (2013-2017).

Thus, the Archdiocese of Sydney has established the Office of Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity (OSMI) to assist all Church agencies to be safe environments for all, especially for children and vulnerable people. Please go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding and Child Protection website at <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/safeguarding-and-child-protection/>.

It is essential that all those who minister here at St Patrick's are fully cognizant of their responsibilities and are able to contribute well to the maintenance of a safeguarding culture. Thus, at St Patrick's Parish:

1. all the priests, employees and volunteers are required to have a current Working With Children Check (WWCC) verified by the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian.
2. all priests, employees and volunteers are required to undertake child protection induction and/or training in the Parish and Agency Child Protection Manual and sign the Code of Conduct for Working with Children.
3. all the priests who minister in St Patrick's Parish are required to complete the seminars and training days required by the OSMI.
4. all employees – other than the priests – are required to complete the Level One Safeguarding Seminar run by the OSMI.
5. we have a Parish Safeguarding Support Officer (PSSO) – Tereza Seric. Tereza is a qualified journalist and practising solicitor; she has worked in family law and child protection. If you wish to contact Tereza, please do so via the Parish Office. Tereza is assisted by Karen Larkman. Karen is also Director of OSMI.
6. each week, the Sunday Bulletin carries the message from the Archdiocese of Sydney, that "child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police".

For further information or If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the Parish Priest or any member of the St Patrick's Pastoral Team – T 02 9254 9800 E office@stpatschurchhill.org or parishpriest@stpatschurchhill.org

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Parish Priest
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