

Safeguarding Culture

The Catholic Church in New Zealand has a strong focus on implementing safeguarding guidelines and these apply to all parishes and catholic entities in all dioceses. A visible, healthy safeguarding culture through all aspects of parish life, is a shared responsibility so that we can safeguard everyone who worships in our parish communities but with a particular focus on children and vulnerable adults, to keep them safe from harm.

The Church takes all complaints of abuse seriously. Abuse can be sexual, physical, or emotional. Where the complaint of abuse appears to be of a criminal nature, we encourage complainants to take the matter to the police and will support them in doing so. If the alleged abuse is reported to the police, we will not protect the accused/offender from the processes of civil law nor hide the facts from those entitled to know.

The [“National Guidelines for the Prevention of and Response to Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand”](#) prescribes the commitment of the Church to have safeguarding measures in place in our organizations.

The diocese already has several safeguarding measures in place, for example the [Standards for Creating and Maintaining a Safeguarding Culture in Ministry](#) and is rolling out an extensive programme of police vetting. We will be working to strengthen these measures through the adoption of new policies and procedures.

East Parish is working to ensure safeguarding expectations and requirements are met across all ministries, in all communities and by all priests, religious, staff and those in voluntary/ministry positions.

Any person volunteering to help with children or vulnerable adults will be required to attend a safeguarding workshop and undergo a Police Vet.

For further information about safeguarding within the parish, please contact:

Alicia Ledesma

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Phone: 03 384 1600

Email: parish@christchurcheast.org.nz

For further information about safeguarding within the diocese, please contact:

Clodagh Ward

Safeguarding Officer

Phone: [03 366 9869](tel:033669869) (Office), Mobile: [022 012 4142](tel:0220124142)

Email: cward@cdoc.nz

If you would like more Information, or to report abuse or concern of harm,
please visit: <https://www.cdocsafeguarding.nz/>