



From the Safeguarding Officers

Firstly, thank you for your support of our Safeguarding Officers Group in the months that we have been operating in the Parish (since 2019) and the encouragement we have received to implement changes in our Parish to make it a safer place for children and vulnerable people.

The changes that we are proposing have been developed in accordance with National Catholic Safeguarding Standards to improve safety in our Parish. We would like to tell you of the changes so that you are aware of the process and why they have been implemented. The area we are focusing on at the moment is the **Sacristy**.

- There will be changes to entry to the Sacristy to reduce the number of people using the room prior to mass and afterwards, and there will be a sign in and out form for all who are in there.
- The following ministries will be affected: Altar Services, Acolytes, Priests, Safeguarding Officers, Sacristans, Eucharistic Ministers and Collection counters.
- Readers and Commentators are asked to refrain from entering the Sacristy. The Lectionary and the Commentator's file will be placed on the shelf directly outside the Sacristy door. They are welcome to enter the Sacristy for the prayer before Mass and will not be required to complete the Sacristy sign in form for the prayer time.
- Parents dressing their children in robes will not need to sign in and are encouraged to assist their children.
- Anyone needing equipment from the sacristy are asked to wait at the door for assistance and if you need to speak to the priest, please ask someone in there to alert the priest to this need.
- There is no need to sign in or out of the sacristy if the children or young people are not usually present in the room as Altar Servers – this will include the regular weekday morning masses and other similar services such as the first Saturday of the month.
- The Safeguarding Ministry Group will send individual emails to the Coordinators of the affected Ministries before the changes are implemented. We will be asking that the Coordinators send the information to the parishioners who volunteer in that specific ministry.

Changes start from **Saturday 28th March 2020**.

If you have ideas that will contribute to the successful implementation of this process or want to discuss this change or have questions, please approach the Safeguarding Officers - Anna Stevens, Laurie Sutherland and Cath Di-Bona.

Thank you
Your Safeguarding Officers Group

14/15 March 2020