

# Quarterly Newsletter

February 2019



## Welcome to our Quarterly Newsletter

It's 2019 already and the Safeguarding Office has already hit the ground running! So far the 2019 training packages have been finalised for the year, new resources are being developed and Parish Self Assessments are being returned! It is going to be a busy year! We are excited to welcome back Monique Smith who has returned from maternity leave and is working in the office four days a week. Last year we farewelled Trish Larkin who retired from the office and welcomed back Rebecca King who is working Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in the Compliance and Support role. The Safeguarding team is excited to be working with you all

### Working With Children Check

The safety and wellbeing of children and the vulnerable in our parish environments is paramount. It is of the utmost importance that staff and volunteers in roles of responsibility and trust in our parishes are of sound character and are people we feel confident can be identified by our children and adults alike as trustworthy people within the Church.

WWCC is only one safeguarding strategy that we use to protect children, however it is a significant first step for any individuals that may come into contact with children. To assist the Priests of the Parish with any questions that may arise from these changes, the Safeguarding Office now have three documents available under the WWCC folder under the [Safeguarding Tab on the Parish Intranet](#) that should answer all of your WWCC queries:

- Fact Sheet *"Who Needs a Working With Children Check"*
- Guidelines *"Working With Children Checks (WWCC)"*
- *"Frequently Asked Questions Working With Children Checks (WWCC)"*

### Safeguarding Training 2019

New training packages have been developed for Parish and Agency staff, Youth Ministry Leaders and Clergy. The Safeguarding Office has listened to the feedback from our Clergy in 2018 in regards to the length of training. For 2019 Safeguarding Training for Clergy, the Safeguarding Office has developed shorter modules. Clergy will be required to attend two modules per year, which will run for 2 hours each.

Dates for 2019 Safeguarding and Child Protection Training have been released and can be viewed on the Archdiocese Website <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/safeguarding-and-child-protection/>

Please contact Anna Sammut on 9390 5811 or email [safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org) to register your attendance.

### Child Protection Summit

The Pope's closing address for the Vatican abuse summit held from February 21 - 24 was filled with statistics of child sexual abuse cases occurring worldwide within the Catholic Church. However, these statistics only provide an explanation of the phenomenon, not the meaning behind the acts, the Pope said. Pope Francis presented eight guidelines to aid the Church in "developing her legislation" on the issues.

The eight guidelines can be summarised as follows:

1. A "change of mentality" focus on protecting children rather than "protecting the institution".
2. A recognition of the "impeccable seriousness" of these "sins and crimes of consecrated persons".
3. A genuine purification beginning with "self-accusation".
4. Positive formation of candidates for the priesthood in the virtue of chastity.
5. Strengthening and reviewing of guidelines by episcopal conferences, reaffirming the need for "rules".
6. The accompaniment of those who have been abused with an emphasis on listening.
7. Ensure that seminarians and clergy are not enslaved to an addiction to pornography.
8. Combat sexual tourism around the world.



"The best results and the most effective resolution that we can offer to the victims, to the People of Holy Mother Church and to the entire world, are the commitment to personal and collective conversion, the humility of learning, listening, assisting and protecting the most vulnerable," Pope Francis said.

### Norms of Celebrating the Sacrament of Penance

On the 10th July 2018, Archbishop Anthony released a guidelines document called *"Norms for the place of celebrating the Sacrament of Penance with Minors and for the configuration of confessional in Churches and Oratories within the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney"*. The purpose of the norms is to respond to contemporary expectations with respect to child protection while also helping to see that the places where confession are heard are pastorally appropriate for their important sacramental purpose. A copy of this document can be found on the Parish Intranet under [Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies, Procedures and Guidelines](#).

### Parish Bulletin Notice

**We request that all Priests of our Parishes display this permanent notice in future parish bulletins.**

***The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office***

*If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney, we invite you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss the options you have available to you. Please contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office on ph 02 9390 5810.*

# THE PSSO EXCHANGE



Happy New Year to all PSSO's! Last year was a big year for everyone there was a lot happening in the Archdiocese. This year is going to be just as busy with more resources being made, Online Training ready to go and the hype of World Youth Day still in the air. The Safeguarding Office has hit the ground running to develop new training for PSSO's and resources that you can use in your Parish. The Safeguarding Team looks forward to working with you all this year.

## PSSO Development Day

The dates have been set for the annual PSSO Development Day! This year the Development Day will provide you with the skills and knowledge to help assist your Parish Priest to interview new volunteers who wish to volunteer in your Parish. As you all know it is important that new volunteers undergo the Archdiocese Recruitment Process before they are able to volunteer in the Parish.

We had such amazing feedback from the 2018 PSSO Development Day, we are very much looking forward to this years training. To register for the PSSO Development Day simply follow this link <https://goo.gl/forms/RGVZpOSDV4Cxbfn12>

We noticed that you wanted a designated question time and will provide this at the end of each session going forward. We will be asking you to save any questions that you have for the end of the session. We invite you to start thinking of some questions that would assist your understanding in the PSSO role. It would be greatly appreciated if you could please send in your questions to [anna.sammut@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:anna.sammut@sydneycatholic.org) prior to attending training.

## Online Training Guidelines

We are pleased to announce that over 1000 volunteers in the Archdiocese have registered to complete the Online Safeguarding Induction Training. Thank you all for your hard work in spreading the message in your Parish about Online Induction Training. Due to the large amount of enquiries the Safeguarding Offices receives in regards to the online training, we have developed *Online Training Guidelines*. The training guidelines look at who must complete Online Induction Training, how to register for training, automated emails that are sent, certificates that are issued and where to get further support. These guidelines can be found on the Parish Intranet under [Policies, Procedures and Guidelines](#).

Patience is the companion of wisdom.  
*Augustine Of Hippo*

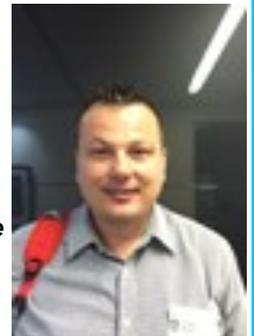
## Introducing... Ray Pozzato PSSO for All Hallows Five Dock and St Joseph Newtown

*"Hi, I am Ray Pozzato, a PSSO at All Hallows with Nives Vuchich and at St Joseph Newtown. Since becoming a PSSO for the two communities, I have been able to support the Parish Priest on this important mission set out in the Archdiocese's safeguarding and child protection policies, protocols and direction set by the Royal Commission. As adults, parents and grandparents we are in a position where we are able to be a support and give assistance to other people in our parish and bring an understanding of the important area of safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults in the Parish with compassion and respect."*



## Introducing... Fr Julian Belich, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Fatima Caringbah

*"At Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Caringbah, our Parish Safeguarding Support Officer (PSSO) is our Parish Secretary, Mila Montgomery. In her role as PSSO she helps me to ensure that the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Policies and Protocols are met. For example, she, in her constant dealings with our staff and volunteers, ensures that all are made aware of, and have read and signed the Code of Conduct and the Volunteers Acceptance form. She also ensures that our volunteers who are required to submit working with children numbers have done so, and then these are verified by her. Moreover, at the start of our sacramental programs she speaks to the children and parents, relaying to all, particularly those coming from our State Schools, our safeguarding policies and protocols. Given her good standing in our community, and her positive and friendly manner her delivery of our safeguarding policies and procedures is well received by all."*



## We want to hear from you!

At the Safeguarding Office we really appreciate feedback. We want to hear from our PSSO's about what resources they would like to see developed in order to make their Parish community Safe or to make their PSSO role a little bit easier. You are the ears and eyes of the Parishes and the Safeguarding Office is here to listen to you. If you would like to provide feedback please email Anna Sammut [anna.sammut@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:anna.sammut@sydneycatholic.org)