



TIKANGA HAUMARU

SPRING 2026 SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

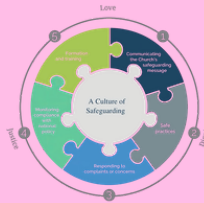
A QUICK LOOK BEFORE YOU DIVE INTO THE GOOD STUFF.

- October will see the beginning of the THIRD round of the Safeguarding parish reviews.
 - See Page 2 for ideas around Standard 1 and how you can demonstrate this in your parish setting.
 - Page 3 has the Draft third safeguarding review timetable.
 - Safeguarding imagery is something I have been reflecting on over the past 12 month. Page 4 has some information that may resonate with you also.
 - One very important aspect of Safeguarding is having a good understanding of how to report a concern or disclosure. Page 5 and 6 covers this.
 - Our Parish Spotlight this edition is on Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Glen Eden. You will read on page 7 about the outstanding work that has taken place in the West. Something we can all aspire to, including myself.
 - Our Annual Safeguarding Twilight Retreat will be held on Tuesday 24th November. I hope you will all join us, more information on page 8.
 - Updated list of remaining workshops for 2027 on page 9.
 - Bits and Pieces on page 10.
 - You will find the latest safeguarding crossword on page 11.
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Lisa-May Gray
Safeguarding Coordinator
Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Safeguarding Notice Boards: A Simple Way to Demonstrate Standard 1



An effective safeguarding notice board is a visible sign of your parish's commitment to **Standard 1: Communicating the Church's Safeguarding Message.** It helps ensure that safeguarding information is accessible to parishioners, visitors, volunteers, children, and vulnerable adults

Key Information to Display

- NOPS Contact Poster with the reporting number 0800 114 622, email address, and safeguarding website.
- Zero Tolerance for Abuse statement.
- CDA commitment to Safeguarding.
- Parish Safeguarding Contact and Complaints person name, phone number, and email address.
- Complaints process.
- Information on how to contact Police or Oranga Tamariki if there are immediate concerns for safety.

Ideas to Enhance Your Notice Board

- Include QR codes linking to safeguarding policies and resources.
- Add child-friendly safeguarding messages.
- Share information in Te reo Māori and other languages used within your parish community.
- Introduce safeguarding team members with photographs. (see photo below)
- Promote upcoming safeguarding training or awareness initiatives.
- Refresh content regularly with safeguarding tips and seasonal messages.

A safeguarding notice board should be a living resource, regularly updated and easy to find. A well-maintained board demonstrates that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and that your parish is committed to creating a culture of safety, dignity, and care.



Teresa from St Therese and St Anthony Mangere Parishes was visiting St Paul's Parish in Brisbane earlier this year and look what she spotted and photographed for me. Thank you Teresa, firstly for noticing this and secondly for sharing. True Safeguarding in Action.

Third review dates

The third review cycle will take about two years to complete with around 67 parishes to visit. below is an approximate timetable of dates for each parish.

Review Timetable 2026-2029

2026-2027

Month	Parishes
Oct 2026	Devonport
Nov 2026	Pakuranga; Three Kings
Jan 2027	Helensville Huapai
Mar 2027	Mangere Parishes; Onehunga; Glen Eden; Avondale
Apr 2027	Northcote
May 2027	Blockhouse Bay; Waiheke Island; Beach Haven; Cathedral
Jul 2027	Eastern Bays; East Coast Bays; Epsom; St Heliers
Aug 2027	Hibiscus Coast; Howick
Sep 2027	Glenfield; Grey Lynn; Thames Coromandel etc; Meadowbank
Nov 2027	Otara; St Addai; Newton; Mt Wellington; Mt Albert; Clover Park; Manurewa; Balmoral; Hillsborough; Glen Innes

2028-2029

Month	Parishes
Feb 2028	Henderson
Mar 2028	Tuakau/Waiuku
May 2028	Takapuna
Jun 2028	Otahuhu; Remuera; Ponsonby
Jul 2028	Ellerslie; Te Atatu
Aug 2028	Papakura; Papatoetoe; Pt Chevalier; Pukekohe; Orakei; Parnell
Sep 2028	Massey; Owairaka; Flat Bush
Nov 2028	Warkworth; Dargaville; Whangarei; Panmure; Kerikeri/Waitaruke; Te Whanau Tapu
Jan 2029	Pangaru; Kaitaia; Mid North; Wellsford

Third Review process:

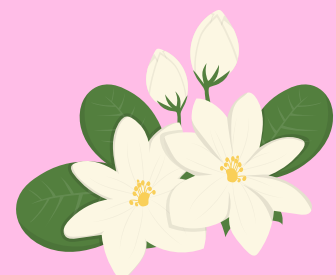
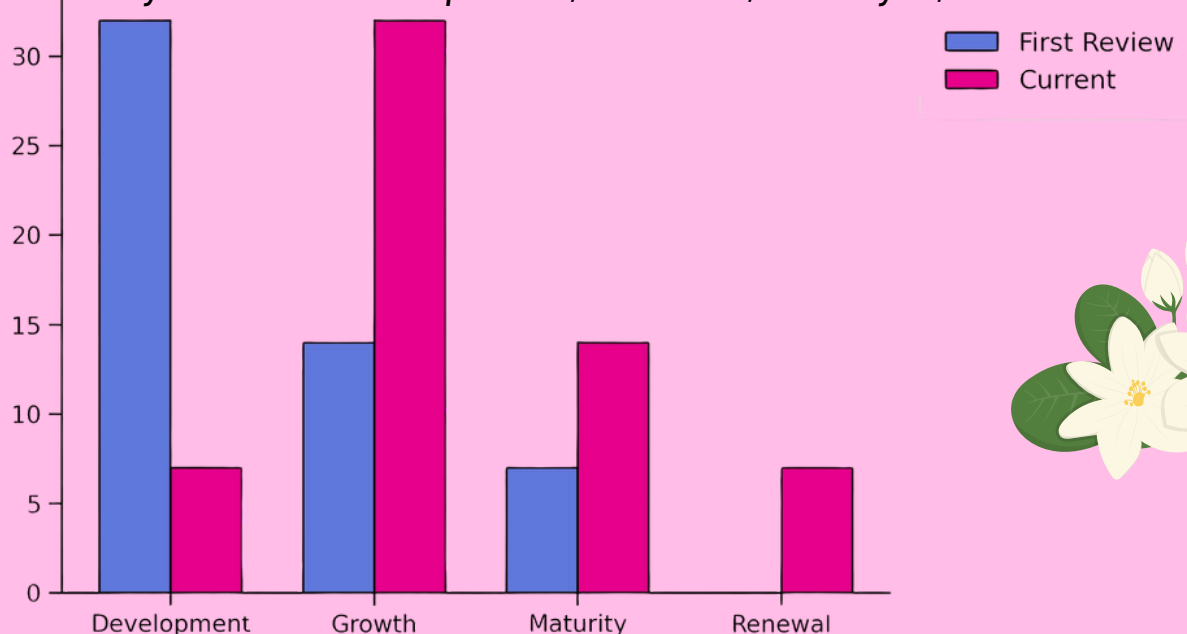
Six weeks prior to the review month I will be in contact and we will organise the review date. I will at that stage send out any relevant information that is required to be completed prior to the review.

Whilst some reviews are a few years away, it is time to look at the Parishes Safeguarding recommendations and as a parish, review where you are currently at. Check where you are on the Safeguarding Lifecycle and what is required for you to move along the cycle. It would fantastic to see all parishes making progress in the 3rd review and those parishes on Renewal maintain their momentum and remain in Renewal.

Ethnic Communities and Entity second reviews are also taking place at this time.

Safeguarding Journey Lifecycle Analysis – Update below:

Current Lifecycle Status: Development 7, Growth 32, Maturity 14, Renewal 7.



A Note on Safeguarding Imagery

Fr Hans Zollner, a leading figure in Catholic safeguarding, encourages an approach centered on dignity, safe relationships and safe environments. It was noted during a presentation in January 2025 that imagery featuring hands may unintentionally cause distress or act as a trigger for some survivors of abuse.

As you develop posters, publications and website content, please take a moment to consider the images being used. Wherever possible, choose imagery that promotes dignity, inclusion, wellbeing and positive relationships, particularly on parish websites where visitors may be seeking information, support or reassurance.

Last year in response to this I had the image below created for me through AI. I now use this as my imagery in most things I create. I am happy to share this as a jpeg file so you can also use, or maybe you may wish to create your own parish safeguarding imagery that can be your parish logo as such. Stepping away from a purely compliance focused safeguarding environment, towards strengthening and building a culture of safeguarding in all we do.

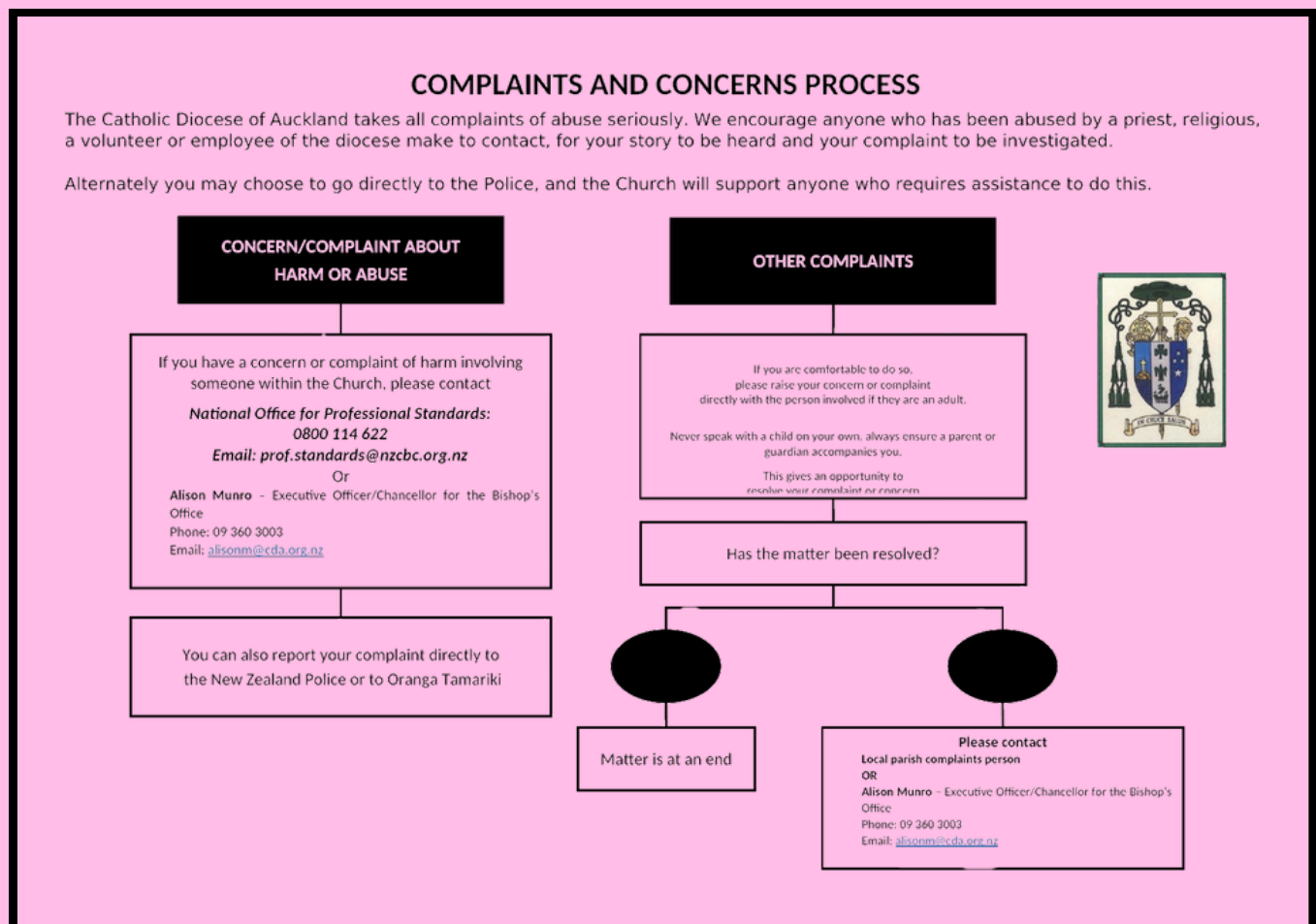


Information for parishioners on following up a concern

Recently it was brought to my attention a concern around a volunteer taking it upon their selves to chastise a young person on their behaviour in Mass without a parent, guardian or significant adult present.

We all can agree that this is not appropriate and should not be happening. The parish contact was diligent in their duty and suggested to the volunteer that they had moved outside their boundary and were in breach of the code of conduct. The parish contact, pointed out that the previous complaints flow chart that was on the website said nothing about not talking to children directly.

This has now been updated on the website. Please see the updated version below.



Sharing a Concern or a complaint:

I am aware that people are always looking for content to add to the parish newsletter. Below is what I created for the parish following the incident described.

This not only confirms **Standard One-Communicating the Churches Safeguarding message** but also **Standard Three-complaints and concerns**.

PARISH CONCERN OR COMPLAINT?

Talk • Listen • Resolve

 If possible, speak directly with the adult involved.

 Many concerns can be resolved through a respectful conversation.

 Need support?

Contact the Parish Complaints Contact Person or the Parish Office.

IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING MESSAGE

NEVER speak to a child on your own about a concern.

If a child is involved, contact a parent or guardian, the Parish Priest, Parish Safeguarding Contact or Parish Office immediately.



A graphic of a spotlight with a black rim and a bright white beam of light shining down onto the title.

PARISH SPOTLIGHT: OUR LADY OF LOURDES, GLEN EDEN

From Maturity to Renewal: Embedding Safeguarding in Everything We Do

Our Lady of Lourdes (OLOL) Parish in Glen Eden has recently achieved the Maturity stage of the Catholic Diocese of Auckland Safeguarding Lifecycle, marking an important milestone in its commitment to creating a safe, welcoming, and inclusive parish community.

This achievement has been driven by the dedication and leadership of Benoir D'Souza, the Parish Safeguarding Contact, whose passion and commitment have helped place safeguarding at the heart of parish life. He has been strongly supported by Fr Paul Helsham, Parish Priest, Jennifer Adam, Parish Secretary, and the Parish Pastoral Council, whose collective commitment has ensured safeguarding remains a parish-wide priority.

Rather than viewing safeguarding as simply a set of policies and procedures, OLOL sees it as an essential part of its pastoral mission; ensuring every person is treated with dignity, respect, and care, and that children, young people, vulnerable adults, volunteers, and parishioners can participate safely in the life of the Church.

Looking ahead, the parish has developed an ambitious three-year strategy titled From Maturity to Renewal, with a vision of making safeguarding "the way we do things" across every aspect of parish life. The strategy focuses on strengthening safeguarding leadership, supporting and equipping volunteers, embedding safeguarding into ministries, increasing awareness, fostering inclusion, and creating safe ministry environments for all.

Particular emphasis will be placed on building a dedicated safeguarding team, developing ministry leaders, strengthening volunteer support and training, and ensuring safeguarding is accessible and meaningful across the parish's rich multicultural community.

Safeguarding considerations will increasingly become part of everyday planning, decision-making, and ministry life.

Most importantly, the parish's goal is not simply compliance. It is to nurture a culture where safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, where people know how to raise concerns, and where every person can participate confidently and safely in the life and mission of Christ's Church.

As Our Lady of Lourdes continues its journey towards Renewal, it provides an inspiring example of what can be achieved when parish leaders, volunteers, and parishioners work together to build a culture of safety, care, belonging, and trust. A safe Church for everyone, every day.

Based on the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Safeguarding Strategy 2027-2029.



SAVE THE DATE ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS ADVENT TWILIGHT RETREAT

TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2026

5.30-8.00PM

POMPALLIER CENTRE

30 NEW STREET, ST MARYS BAY

LOOKING FORWARD TO YOU JOINING US

More information out closer to date



SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOPS



SEPTEMBER

- Thursday 17th September, 7.00pm: Safeguarding ONLINE workshop.

OCTOBER

- Wednesday 7th October, 7.00pm. Maria Assumpta Parish, 198 Beach Haven Road, Beach Haven..
- Thursday 15th October, 7.00pm. Safeguarding ONLINE workshop.

NOVEMBER

- Thursday 19th November, 7.00pm: Safeguarding ONLINE workshop.

2027 Workshops

I am already booking workshops for 2027. In 2027 we will be alternating monthly Online Workshops with In Person workshops. The In Person workshops will take place in different Deanery areas to ensure good coverage.

If you would like your parish host a workshop in 2027 get in quick as the months fill up fast.

The plan is as below.

- February-Western Deanery. Our Lady of Lourdes Glen Eden.
- March-Online.
- April- City Deanery. St Benedicts Newton.
- May-Online.
- June-In person not yet booked.
- July-Online.
- August-Eastern Deanery. Our Lady of Fatima Meadowbank.
- September-Online.
- October- In person not yet booked.
- November-Online.



Bits and Pieces



Ministry of Justice (MOJ) Checks:

By now everyone will have a better understanding of whether to carry out a police vet of MOJ check with the help of the Safety Checking criteria table.

I am aware that some parishes are asking volunteers to apply to the MOJ for their own check and then sharing the reports when they are returned.

The process for sharing and filing the MOJ checks will follow closely with Police vetting reports process already in place.

1. Ask the volunteer to send the MOJ report to me at the diocese.
2. I will then check the report for any convictions or offences.
3. If no convictions or offences the reports will be sent to where I usually send the police vetting reports. For example Parish offices
4. If there is a conviction or offence, I will contact the Parish Priest as with police vetting and discuss with them the appropriate course of action.

Sacristy Registers

Last year the Sacristy registers were introduced to parishes and places where mass is celebrated.

Sacristy Registers are an important part of the parish's official records. They provide a documented record of Masses, sacraments, liturgies, and the clergy who celebrated or assisted at these events.

The records support safeguarding, accountability, governance, and verification of ministerial faculties where required, they form part of the official parish records and must be retained and completed registers stored securely by the parish.

May I ask that you check regularly that the registers are being completed as required.

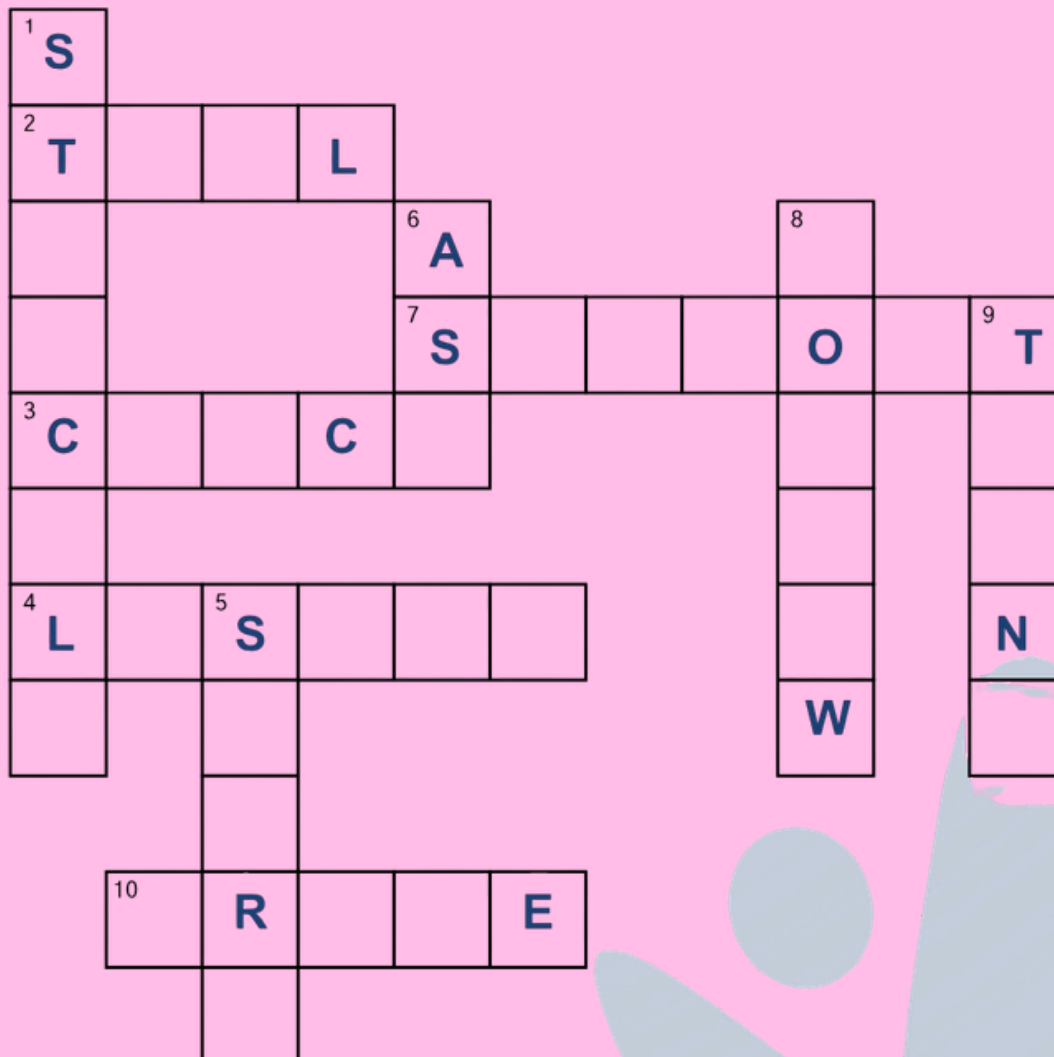
Child Safeguarding Week 2026

National Child Safeguarding week is from 7-13 September, watch out for the promotions, and check the Child Safeguarding Page for webinars that you may find helpful. Remembering however that at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland Child Safeguarding is something we consider everyday.



SPRING CROSSWORD

This month's crossword focuses on responding calmly and appropriately when a concern or disclosure is made. See what you can uncover.



Across:

2. Passing information to the right person
3. Making sure actions are completed
4. Paying close attention
7. Showing care and reassurance
10. Recording information clearly

Down:

1. Keeping steady and composed
5. Giving information to those who need it
6. Clarifying details gently
8. Sticking to the correct steps
9. Acknowledging the person's courage

FROM THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING LTD MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER [HTTPS://WWW.ACSLTD.ORG.AU/](https://www.acsltd.org.au/)

