

Nazareth Parish Safeguarding Committee – Information for Clergy, Employees and Volunteers

The Nazareth Parish Safeguarding Committee is an advisory group created to assist the parish leadership to embed The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (CAM) Safeguarding policies and practice, following the Victorian Child Safe Standards and recommendation from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse reflected in the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

Training

Each Nazareth Parish ministry, group, committee, employee and volunteer is required to become acquainted with these policies and practices and the resultant responsibilities and any changes to practice through short, online or face to face, individual or group training sessions.

- **Safeguarding Children and Young People Induction @ CAM:**
These induction sessions are conducted face to face (or via live webinar) to ensure that every CAM employee is aware of and understands their child safety obligations.
- **Safeguarding Essentials:**
This is an annual requirement for clergy, employees and volunteers. This will be an ongoing requirement for all those who work and volunteer within CAM. The “Safeguarding Essentials” online program has a duration of just 30 minutes (and will be made available once testing has been completed by CAM).
- **Working Safety with Children:**
This is another online module which is required to be completed every three years for clergy, employees and volunteers who work specifically with children and young people.

Working With Children Check (WWCC)

All clergy, employees and volunteers, who are in parish roles, represent the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, CAM and hold a position of trust in the community. As such, irrespective of whether your role involves direct, indirect or no contact with children and young people, all who work or volunteer with the Nazareth Parish are required to hold a valid Working With Children Check WWCC card. This incurs no cost to volunteers and should be formally linked to Nazareth Parish. Certain roles may also be required to undertake a Criminal History Records Check (“Police Check”).

Nazareth Parish Volunteer

Volunteers, in this instance, are defined as any person undertaking any activity within the Nazareth Parish in addition to or asides from attendance at mass. There are no exceptions to this since children are part of our parish and we have a moral and legal duty to protect them.

As volunteers in Nazareth Parish we are all responding to God's call to serve Him in our own unique ways.

As Christians we believe that Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of Heaven belongs." Matthew 19:14.

We are all familiar with the wrongdoings and crimes against children, young people and vulnerable people of the past within the Catholic Church. We pray for all who have suffered in the past and for those who still suffer today. We pray that nobody is caused to suffer in the future from any failure to protect our children, young and vulnerable people in the present day.

Nazareth Parish greatly appreciates you taking the time to apply for, link application to Nazareth Parish and share your WWCC card details with the Parish Office (rickettspoint@cam.org.au)

Applying for your first Working With Children Check (WWC)

Follow this link...

<https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/individuals/applicants/how-to-apply>

Linking Current WWCC to Nazareth Parish or Updating Details on a Current WWCC

Follow this link...

<https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/individuals/current-cardholders/update-my-details>

Renewing Your Expired WWCC

Follow this link...

<https://service.vic.gov.au/find-services/work-and-volunteering/working-with-children-check/renew-your-working-with-children-check>

You can apply to renew your WWCC card from six months prior to expiry until three months after expiry date.

Link for VIT Registered Teachers to Link VIT Registration to Nazareth Parish

Follow this link...

<https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/organisations/victorian-teacher-information>

For other registered professions where a WWCC is not required, eg Police, please ensure that your registration status is shared with Nazareth Parish according to your profession guidance.

Applying for a Police Check

Nazareth Parish is registered with Victoria Police. Volunteers in Nazareth Parish can use the link below if they need a Police Check for CAM Nazareth Parish work. Enter the reference number you will have been given by the parish office so the fee is discounted. Nazareth Parish pays for volunteers' fees.

Follow this link...

<https://www.police.vic.gov.au/national-police-records-checks>