

# A CULTURE OF SAFEGUARDING

## **DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF SAFEGUARDING**

The Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand is striving towards a culture of safeguarding where all are safe from harm and abuse and where every person is encouraged and enabled to enjoy the fullness of life in Jesus Christ through the prayerful, caring, nurturing, supportive and protective endeavours of the Catholic community, both individually and collectively.

## **LIVING A CULTURE OF SAFEGUARDING**

This commitment calls the whole Church to live the values and principles and develop the virtues, which are already implicit in the nature of the Church and its mission, as the authentic witness to the message of the gospels. While all members of the Church have a role to play in promoting a culture of safeguarding, clear leadership is crucial. Bishops and Congregation Leaders need to be vigilant in exercising their ministry of leadership, ensuring that a culture of safeguarding is both understood and embraced by the whole Church

In order to recreate a safe and nurturing environment and deepen or rebuild trust, there needs to be a culture of:

- Openness and Transparency
- Love and Respect
- Responsibility and Accountability
- Compassion and Support
- Justice and Integrity
- Honesty and Humility
- Questioning and Challenging
- Learning and Change

Requirement of all those in leadership roles in safeguarding to be mindful of differing needs, to promote understanding and to encourage talents.