



# The Guardian

*Safeguarding News*

*in the*

*Diocese of Broome*

*Edition 1 – August 2020*

## Commitment Statement

*The Diocese of Broome is committed to providing safe and secure environments for its children and adults and its leaders, employees and volunteers. Safeguarding strategies are guided by the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, are subject to independent audit and feedback is welcome for continual improvement.*

Welcome to the first edition of **The Guardian** – the Diocese of Broome’s very own Safeguarding newsletter. Its purpose is to communicate Safeguarding information across the Diocese, showcase parish activities and introduce key people.

For people of the Diocese who may not have been reached (yet!), Safeguarding is a set of practices applied to Church life to ensure children and adults are able to freely and safely engage in parish activities. Safeguarding acknowledges the failure of the Church to provide this in the past and now takes a zero-tolerance approach as it seeks to prevent abuse of any kind in the future.

At first glance, the wordy documents of the Safeguarding framework might appear rigid and restrictive to our otherwise relaxed participation in church activities. However, people have expressed to me the reassurance it gives them to engage fully in their diverse roles. I liken it to wearing a seatbelt or installing a smoke alarm – when these are in place we can go about our daily life and work in confidence of their protection.

DRAFT information is available on the website with current documents available on request.

If you have any items of information you think need to be included in **The Guardian**, please let me know and I will address these in future issues.

*My welcome home after 10 days in the East Kimberley parishes.*



I have also attached a flyer which contains the background and practical measures of Safeguarding. Please circulate these to others in your parish and wider community.

As all documents and procedures are subject to ongoing review and improvement, your input and suggestions are welcome and I am always happy to respond to queries. You can also approach your parish priest or Safeguarding Officer/s as they work towards implementing Safeguarding strategies appropriate to each unique parish setting.

May the blessing of our God be upon you.

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*Cross Hill, Mulan-Lake Gregory*

A few photos from my recent information and induction visits to the East Kimberley...



*Sr Julianne Murphy, RSJ and St Mary McKillop were special guests at the women's retreat at Mirringki. Spreading joy and inspiring the faith of children and adults alike, the dynamic duo have travelled widely across Australia performing the 'Travelling Sisters' Roadshow' since Mary McKillop's canonisation in 2010.*



*St Vincent Pallotti church, Kununurra.*

*Kununurra parish priest Fr Joel Nyongesa with newly inducted Safeguarding Officers Leng-Lay Morgan and Anne-Marie Wheaton and myself.*





*Maria Bec, the hard-working and multi-skilled manager of Mirringlinski Retreat Centre, Warmun, has her Safeguarding documents organised and on-hand for quick reference.*



### Did you know?...

Diocese of Broome Safeguarding is based on the *10 National Catholic Safeguarding Standards* which are divided into *49 Criteria* and *111 Indicators*. The *10 Standards* are:

1. Committed leadership, governance and culture
2. Children and adults are safe, informed and participate
3. Partnering with families, carers and communities
4. Equity is promoted and diversity is respected
5. Robust human resource management
6. Effective complaints management
7. Ongoing education and training
8. Safe physical and online environments
9. Continuous improvement
10. Policies and procedures support the safety of children and adults



For a full appreciation of the *Standards*, I encourage everyone to browse through the complete version: <https://www.cpsltd.org.au/safe-church/national-catholic-safeguarding-standards/>

