

## **PS Report 2018.07.26**

### **Professional Standards Committee Report**

Last November, the Professional Standards Committee held a training session for all staff, volunteers and parishioners on the Victorian Child Safety Standards. The session brought the community up to date with new laws regarding Child Safety, and an understanding of what our responsibilities are, in ensuring our Nazareth parish community is a safe environment for our young and vulnerable members.

The parish members' input at the training session was valuable and several recommendations were put forward. One of the main discussion points was for greater awareness amongst all parishioners of the Child Safety standards. As a committee we have recommended any new volunteers, especially those who are involved with Children's Liturgy or the Parish sacramental program, are familiar with our Child Safety policy, which can be found on our parish website. It is also necessary for all parishioners to be familiar with procedures of reporting child abuse offences and what is considered an offence against a child.

Another recommendation is to develop a logo around child safety that is a reminder of our role in keeping children safe, not only within the boundaries of our parish but in our wider community. We plan on having the logo permanently in the newsletter and on our website.

Contractors and visitors need to be aware of our commitment to child safety and the Professional Standards committee is currently working on developing a Child Safety Code of Conduct as well as ensuring adequate signage of the Nazareth Parish's commitment to child safety.

We are working towards not only meeting the Archdiocese of Melbourne's guidelines of compliance for child safety, but truly imbedding a culture that protects our vulnerable members and cares for the wellbeing of all our community.