

CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST. THOMAS MORE

313 CANADIAN BAY ROAD, MOUNT ELIZA 3930

TEL: (03) 9787 7777 FAX: (03) 9787 9734 EMAIL: MOUNTELIZA@cam.org.au

11th June 2018

To the People of God at St Thomas More Parish,

The recently completed Royal Commission into the Institutional Abuse of Children and Vulnerable Adults has highlighted the importance of our parishes being seen as absolutely safe places for our youngest members.

It is important that all our parish practices be clear, transparent and respectful to all, especially our children.

This is an issue that concerns every one of us whether we are working directly with children or not.

Over the next couple of months we will implement the mandated Archdiocesan Guidelines about child safety and make them our own. Some of the aspects to be considered will include

- 1 Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety in our Parish.
- 2 A child safe Policy or Statement of Commitment to child safety.
- 3 A Code of Conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children.
- 4 Processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse.
- 5 Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse.
- 6 Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children

As already mentioned, this is an issue that concerns and involves all groups and individuals in our Parish. For this reason we are requesting all our parishioners and members of parish groups to attend a meeting in the Church at **7.30p.m. on Wednesday July 18th**. At this gathering we will outline the importance of having a clear Child Safe Policy and Practice at St Thomas More – one with which all are familiar. We will answer any questions you may have.

We do hope you will make a commitment to this date and we thank you in anticipation,



(Fr.) Laurie Pearson
Parish Priest



Lys Crowe
Pastoral Associate