

## **Protecting Children and Vulnerable Adults**

To safeguard our children and vulnerable adults, the Church has been particularly vigorous in this new millennium in establishing protection policies and national, Diocesan and local bodies to ensure the welfare of those in our care. At the Diocesan level at present we have been very fortunate to have Angela McGrory who was appointed as our Diocesan Safeguarding Officer in March 2007. Angela has had many years' experience working with the police, particularly in the area of "abused children". Angela has been busy training clergy, employees of the church, and volunteers throughout the Diocese.

Locally we have a Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection Team, and appropriate policies to guide us. The news media these days frequently report on those who have misused their position of trust and sadly the church has not been free of such accusations. To thoroughly protect our children and vulnerable adults we need the whole parish "on board" to assume responsibility so that anyone working (in a paid capacity) or volunteering in the Parish has undergone the necessary checks. By all of completing the necessary check we are sending out a message to all that as a Church we have good safeguarding procedures in place. This will act as a deterrent to those who may have ill intent trying to gain access to the vulnerable groups in our parish.

To date anyone working or volunteering with children and/or vulnerable adults must have a Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check. Indeed, most of the people in our Parish who require this check have already filled in the necessary forms. In July 2010, the government is introducing a Vetting and Barring System to compliment the CRB system. Presently the CRB check is only valid at the time it is done. Under the new system the check will be much more comprehensive and any new information regarding people who have been vetted will be shared. It will also be a criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to a £5,000 fine or five years in prison, or both, for anybody to allow someone to work with these vulnerable groups if they have not yet been vetted or if they have been barred. Once a person is on the new scheme he or she is registered for life. This does mean that everyone who was registered on the old CRB scheme will have to register for the vetting and barring system. However, we have five years' grace to re-register everyone once the scheme is in operation. Until that time it is vital that everyone working with children or vulnerable adults undergoes a CRB check. I shall provide you with more specific information for the new scheme before it comes into effect. Please see the list overleaf for those people who must have a CRB check.

I am always happy to answer any questions or help you complete the forms. If you have any concerns as to whether you need a CRB check, please contact me. As a Church it is our responsibility to safeguard those whom God has entrusted to our care.

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## ROLES REQUIRING CRB DISCLOSURES

- Children's Liturgy workers
- Pastoral Assistants/Ministers
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Adult altar servers
- MCs for altar servers
- Sacristans
- Sacramental Programme workers
- Leaders of Music Ministry and adults with designated responsibility for children/young people in music groups that also include adults
- Healing Ministry Group workers
- Parent and toddler group organisers
- Home or hospital visitors
- Workers in Groups/Clubs for vulnerable adults
- Parish volunteers appointed by St Vincent de Paul Society
- Crèche workers
- Transport volunteers (excluding private arrangements)
- Workers in Clubs for children/young people run by any organisation operating in the name of the Church
- Organisers of Diocesan/Religious Pilgrimages
- Identified Leaders on Youth Pilgrimages
- Clergy Housekeepers (residential only)
- All adults living in presbyteries and other Church property
- Caretakers