

Most Rev Anthony Randazzo Bishop of Broken Bay

Message for BBNeighbourhoods 14 July 2020

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Last week I reflected upon how Jesus is the foundation of our mission as a community of the Church, especially in his respect, protection, and care for the children, the vulnerable, and indeed all people. These are a description of our "core values": respect, care, and protection of others. They are always Christ-centred and people oriented.

As a community of the faithful, an essential element of our vocation requires that we are to be vigilant in living these values. In our Diocese of Broken Bay, we are blessed to have a dedicated team whose mission is to assist us via ongoing formation and education regarding the safety of our children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

For my part, as your bishop, I meet regularly with the Director of the Office for Safeguarding. Together we discuss how as individuals and as a community we will ensure that our standards meet best practice procedures, which are correct and most effective. The work of our Safeguarding team allows me to have oversight of child related activities in our parishes, schools and works of mercy; screening and training procedures; visiting clergy audits; and Redress compliance.

I am grateful for this work as it allows full transparency and accountability and it is supported by external processes in collaboration with the Office of the Children's Guardian. It is helpful to recognise this good work while at the same time recognising the need not to become complacent.

Within the Diocese, there is one Office for Safeguarding because we are one community of the Church. The Office includes three different teams for Chancery, Catholic Schools Office, and CatholicCare, which are under the direction of the Diocesan Director. Our Diocesan website has a dedicated page for the Safeguarding Office's work and activities. On that page, you will find links to training and education, policies, resources and research.

Our Gospel values drive all this good work. It is important for me to ensure that our community of the Church is vigilant and that we have robust external processes to assist us in our mission to proclaim and live the Good News of Jesus Christ and to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all.

Blessings on your week,

+Anthony