



*We proclaim a crucified Christ*

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17 July 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My prayerful greetings to you.

Committed to the ongoing work of building safe and faith-filled communities across our Archdiocese, I write to you today to inform you of the upcoming Safeguarding Audit of the Archdiocese of Melbourne by **Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (ACSL)**.

Beginning this month, ACSL will conduct a formal Audit of the Archdiocese, in accordance with the **National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS)**. These Standards are a national framework for best practice in Safeguarding children and adults at risk, and they reflect our shared Gospel call to ensure the dignity, wellbeing and safety of every person, especially those most at risk.

The Audit will involve a thorough review of our current Safeguarding practices, policies, and culture. It will include interviews with Clergy, Parish representatives, and Safeguarding personnel, as well as a review of documentation and practices across a sample of Parishes and ministries.

This process is part of a broader national commitment to transparency and accountability in Safeguarding, and I welcome it as an opportunity to affirm the good work already being done across our Parishes, while also identifying areas for growth and improvement.

As your Archbishop, I remain deeply grateful for the many Clergy, Parish leaders, staff, and volunteers who give themselves daily to creating environments of care and trust within our Church. Safeguarding is not simply a legal or procedural obligation — it is a lived expression of our faith, one that is rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ, who welcomed the little ones and stood with those in need of protection.

I encourage you to receive this Audit as a sign of our collective responsibility and as a testament to our desire to be a Church where all people are welcomed to practice their faith in a respectful and safe way.

ACSL will be conducting an online information session on **29 July at 4:00pm**, where the Parishes and other interested Staff will be provided with an overview of the Audit process, be introduced to the Audit team, and have an opportunity to ask questions or raise concerns. Ongoing updates will be shared throughout the course of the Audit and following the conclusion of the Audit, including any recommendations for further development.

Please keep the Audit process in your prayers and join me in continuing to foster communities that reflect Christ's love, compassion, and care.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

**Most Rev Peter A Comensoli**  
Archbishop of Melbourne