**Safeguarding report May 2025.**

My name is Joanna Murphy Parish Safeguarding Representative for Our Lady of the Annunciation. I started this position in January 2024 motivated by God and the gap our parish had in this integral part of keeping everybody safe. I am working hard with the safeguarding team a good part the back work is now completed. There is a safeguarding Audit on the Horizon early July 2025. It is essential that I have all volunteer/code of conduct form completed as a matter of urgency and I am again working through groups looking a t any gaps. All guidelines/processes are written by the Catholic Safeguarding standards Agency. I have had full support from the safeguarding Team at Southward and am very grateful for their knowledge and professionalism,

Job Role

The job role of Parish safeguarding Representative is to promote a culture of Safeguarding, where the parish community is aware of safeguarding issues and help to ensure Safeguarding is understood as an essential part of the ministry of the church.

Volunteers/DBS checks

In our parish I am committed to the **safer recruitment process**. The recruitment of volunteers needs to be robust process following the below procedure:

* Volunteers to be introduced to me and we follow interview questions/volunteer leaflet to be shared with potential volunteer.
* Volunteer form to be filled out and references to be contacted.
* DBS process to be started with the safeguarding team.
* ID Verification.
* Mandatory safeguarding training to be completed.
* Volunteer guidelines to be read and signed

Training

This years training day was at Chatham Parish. I met with fellow PSR’s in Croydon which was very helpful. I found the Speaker Nikki Dhillon was very informative and our New Safeguarding board has her information. The Safeguarding team from Southwark came to support our Parish by running a training morning in the small hall on …..it was well attended and this opportunity was used for ID verification – all that attended received a certificate. This mandatory training needs to be repeated by all volunteers every 3 years.

Updates Please know everybody should be using risk assessments – the safeguarding team are updating the forma as soon as I get these I will send them out. Photographs and videos – these guidelines need to be followed.

Conclusion

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility. It is vital that as a parish community we continue to show commitment to Safety within our parish by continuing to follow guidelines and recommendations from the safeguarding team at Southwark and the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency. Please contact me via email with any questions/queries **addiscombedbs@safeguardrcaos.org.uk**