



## **Corio Lara Catholic Parish Safeguarding Statement of Commitment**

*Adapted from the CAM Safeguarding Statement of Commitment*

**We are committed to upholding the safety and dignity of each child and young person, and to ensure that they are able to grow and develop in a caring and supportive environment in our Church.**

Faithful to the teaching of the Lord Jesus, the Catholic Church proclaims that all human life is sacred and that special care should be afforded to the most vulnerable in society. In keeping with these truths, Corio Lara Catholic Parish has a moral, legal and mission-driven responsibility to create nurturing environments where children are respected, where their voices are heard and where they are safe and feel safe.

We acknowledge that preventing child abuse requires proactive approaches across policies, procedures and practices consistent with the requirements of the Victorian Government's Victorian Child Safe Standards. Through these policies, procedures and practices, we strive to prevent abuse in the first instance and to respond effectively and pastorally if abuse does occur.

**Together with the Archdiocese of Melbourne (CAM), Corio Lara Catholic Parish is committed to creating a child-safe culture that safeguards children and young people from all forms of abuse.**

We are resolutely committed to ensuring that all those engaged in the parish are aware of the inherent vulnerability of children and young people, and that they acknowledge their own responsibility to promote the dignity of children and young people and their fundamental right to be respected and nurtured in a safe environment.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Every person involved in the parish has an obligation to understand the important and specific role he or she plays, individually and collectively. Together we ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people are at the forefront of everything we do and every decision we make.

**We are committed to zero tolerance of all forms of child abuse and discrimination, and will always act to safeguard children and young people and report suspected abuse promptly to the appropriate authorities.**

Consistent with the expectations of the Archbishop of Melbourne, Corio Lara Catholic Parish sets clear behavioural expectations and has an overarching commitment to the protection of children and young people from all forms of abuse. All child safety concerns and allegations will be treated seriously and reported in line with our moral



and legal obligations as articulated in the CAM Safeguarding and Wellbeing of Children and Young People Policy and other CAM Safeguarding of Children and Young People Framework documents.

**We are committed to ensuring that all people who have, or may be expected to have, contact with children and young people acknowledge their responsibility to safeguard children and young people from abuse and discrimination.**

United by faith in Jesus Christ lived within the Catholic Church, we acknowledge and welcome diversity in our parish community. We recognise that cultural safety and inclusion serve as protective factors in relation to child safety and are sensitive to the impact these factors may have on child safety.

Fr Marcus Goulding  
Parish Priest

1<sup>st</sup> April 2025