

Announcement #5

Safeguarding Our Church Community

16th June 2026

ROCOR Safe Ministry Helpline

 1800 070 511  csc@safercommunities.net.au

The ROCOR Safe Ministry Helpline is provided by CSC (an independent service provider) and is available to all our Diocesan church community members – parishioners, volunteers, church workers, and clergy.

The Helpline is an enquiry hub for safe ministry practices, an independent reporting line for concerns or complaints of misconduct, and an information point for guidance on the Diocese Safe Ministry Framework and parish obligations within both Federal and their State jurisdictions.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write to inform you that, from 8th June 2026, the Diocese has undertaken a change in the independent service provider supporting the development and implementation of our Safe Ministry Framework.

The reason for this change is because it is essential for the Diocese to seek out and create a working coalition with a provider that best suits the Diocese's spiritual purpose, cultural ethos and established administrative practices. The new provider is better matched to our specific needs now, and especially, as we gain more experience going forward.

Our new provider is Creating Safer Communities (CSC), a Christian faith-based organisation. Founded in 2007, CSC has a well-established record in safe ministry practices and policies, providing guidance on prevention, response and recovery, and supporting diocese and parishes in their safe ministry journey and compliance obligations across Federal and State jurisdictions.

We welcome the CSC team as a partner to the ROCOR ANZ Diocese and look forward to our working together fulfilling Christ's mission.

This change follows a careful internal review of the Diocese's Safe Ministry needs. Over recent months, we have made important progress in establishing new policies and an independent complaints pathway. However, a complete Safe Ministry culture requires more than written policies or the outsourcing of particular functions. It must also include pastoral care, practical support assisting and strengthening a positive and safe parish life, training for clergy and church workers, appropriate guidance for volunteers, clear compliance support, and ongoing assistance for parishes, particularly our smaller parishes that are challenged by limited resources and hands-on volunteers.

CSC has been engaged to assist the Diocese through support for safe-ministry advice, policy and procedural development, training, independent auditing and reporting, independent reporting pathway, and the continued strengthening of our internal capability, awareness and practice in a manner consistent with our Orthodox Christian faith.

This decision has been made with the safeguarding of children, vulnerable people, parishioners, clergy, and all church workers as the central concern. Child safety remains paramount. At the same time, our Safe Ministry Framework must also address adult-to-adult conduct, pastoral safety, and the broader duty of care that applies across the whole life of our Diocesan community.

Each of us has a part to play in this work. The responsibility for safe ministry belongs not only to diocesan administration, clergy or church workers, but to the whole church community. We are a family in Christ, and we are called to support, help and care for one another. That care also requires us to recognise when something has gone wrong, to respond appropriately, and to ensure that concerns about misconduct, abuse, harm or unsafe behaviour are taken seriously.

I ask all clergy, parish councils, church workers, and parishioners to support this next stage of the Diocese's Safe Ministry work.

May our Lord guide this work, strengthen us in wisdom and humility, and help us to build church communities marked by faithfulness, vigilance, compassion and care.

With pastoral love in Christ,

+ Archbishop George

About the Diocesan SafeMinistry Officer

✉ SafeMinistry@ANZROCOR.org.au

The purpose of the Diocesan SafeMinistry Officer is to assist our parishes and monasteries in their safe ministry journey by providing necessary materials (such as infographic posters, policy and procedural guidelines), assisting in parish training and awareness development, providing parish website content, and receiving feedback from parish council members on specific parish needs in relation to the Safe Ministry Framework.
