

## Statement of Commitment

All clergy, employees, volunteers and parishioners belonging to, working with and for St Bernard's Parish, Bacchus Marsh, regardless of their role or level of responsibility endorse, accept and embrace Archbishop Comensoli's deep commitment to the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a key responsibility of the Church. Further we extend that commitment to vulnerable adults and indeed to all who wish to be part of our parish or to avail themselves of its liturgical celebrations and facilities.

St Bernard's Parish, Bacchus Marsh acknowledges the deep hurt that abuse has caused children, young people, vulnerable adults and their families. Our parish supports the letter issued by Pope Francis in 2018 in which he denounces 'the clerical sexual abuse and the ecclesial cover-up' which inflicted deep wounds. He quoted 'If one member suffers, all suffer together with it' and stated, 'The pain of the victims and their families is also our pain, and so it is urgent that we once more reaffirm our commitment to ensure the protection of minors and of vulnerable adults.' In continuing, Pope Francis wrote, "To say 'no' to abuse is to say an emphatic 'no' to all forms of clericalism."

Our parish understands and accepts the child-connected work definition from the CAM policy as *work authorised by the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne or any parish, agency or entity where work is performed by an adult in any Archdiocesan environment while children are present or are reasonably expected to be present.*