

Safeguarding Our Community

St. Kizito Parish is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of every child and vulnerable person in our community!

We are pleased to share a summary of the vital **Child Safeguarding Workshop** held at the Fr. Francis Taylor Hall on **Friday, December 13th, 2025**.

Commitment & Participation

- **Sponsor:** The workshop was generously sponsored by the **St Patrick Missionaries Society**.
- **Presenters:** Led by **Father Paul Asu, SPS** and assisted by **Ms. Ennetie Mbuka**.
- **Attendance:** We had a fantastic turnout with **42 key representatives** (90% of intended participants!) from our Small Christian Communities (SCCs), Church Council Executive, and Parish Staff.
- **Key Takeaway:** Participants affirmed that **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility** and must be extended to all vulnerable individuals. It is an issue that cuts across religious divides, requiring broad sensitisation across the entire Chigoneka Parish catchment area.

What We Learned: Core Standards

The training focused on equipping leaders with the knowledge to establish a safer, nurturing environment. We covered four main standards:

1. **Understanding Safeguarding:** Knowing what it is and appreciating its fundamental importance based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) principles.
2. **Creating Safe Environments:** Discussing crucial procedures like safe recruitment, implementing a clear **Code of Behaviour**, mandatory annual training, and effective risk assessment for all parish activities.
3. **Reporting Concerns (The 4 R's):** We learned the simplified framework for responding to disclosures of abuse:
 - **Recognising** (Types of Abuse)
 - **Responding** (To a Disclosure)
 - **Reporting** (To appropriate personnel)
 - **Recording** (Using the official form)
4. **Implementation & Monitoring:** Establishing clear accountability through the official reporting hierarchy (SCCs >> Parish Safeguarding Person >> St Patrick's Society Lead).

Never Ever Do Nothing!

A central mandate of the workshop was the response protocol: **Never ever do Nothing!**

- **Misuse of Power:** We focused on recognising and preventing the improper use of influence through strong policies, ethical training, and leadership accountability.
- **Grooming:** New focus was given to recognising the stages of **grooming**—the systematic establishment of trust for exploitation—so staff can proactively prevent it.
- **Digital Safety:** Clear guidelines were set for electronic communication with minors, including **no private messaging** and using clear boundary settings.

Victim-Survivor First Approach

The training emphasised a trauma-informed approach:

- The role of the person receiving a disclosure is to **listen, believe, and report—NOT to investigate or judge.**
- Participants are mandated to offer immediate referrals to professional support services (counselling, police contacts) and maintain strict confidentiality.

This workshop marks an important step in our continuous commitment to creating a protective and nurturing environment for everyone in our care.