Parish statement on domestic abuse and violence

**Parish of ……………………………………**

**Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse**

**All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop.**

**We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:**

• ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse

• protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm

• recognise equality amongst people and within relationships

• enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently.

**We recognise that:**

• all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship

• all survivors (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse

• domestic abuse can occur in all communities

• domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic, repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency

• domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of child abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour

• working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

**We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse by:**

**In all our activities –**

• valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse

**In our publicity -**

• raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources and expertise, through providing information in public and women only areas of relevance to survivors, children and perpetrators of domestic abuse

**When concerns are raised -**

• ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help

• working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community

**In our care -**

• ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse

• identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse.

**In our care -**

• ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse

• identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse.