

# REOPENING OF RCDOW PARISHES FOR INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS FROM MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2020

## FAQs RE STEWARDING SERVICE IN THE PARISHES

**Q1:** Can healthy over 70s without existing underlying conditions volunteer as stewards in parishes?

**A1:** It is NOT advisable for this group of people to volunteer since the government guidance states that *“Regardless existing medical conditions, over 70s are categorised as clinically vulnerable and at risk and should take great care to minimise contacts with other people outside of their households”*.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others> - **Bullet point number 6.**

**Q2:** Can under 18s volunteer as stewards in parishes?

**A2:** Under 16s are not allowed to volunteer as stewards. Young people 16-18s can volunteer in this role with prior written parental consent however they should only volunteer alongside someone they and their families know well.

**Q3:** Do steward volunteers have to have safeguarding knowledge/experience?

**A3:** This would be ideal. However, those volunteers without pre-safeguarding knowledge/experience can be registered to undertake at least the two basic EduCare safeguarding online modules “CHILD PROTECTION” and “SAFEGUARDING ADULTS”. This can be done by forwarding their details to Gabriele Sedda via email to: [safeguardingadmin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:safeguardingadmin@rcdow.org.uk)

**Q4:** Do steward volunteers need to sign a volunteering agreement?

**A4:** No, it is NOT advisable for stewards to sign a volunteering agreement HOWEVER they should sign on a steward volunteers’ list that they have received the “Code of Conduct” or have been informed where to find one.

Codes of conducts for both leaders and helpers or children and young people can be found on the CSAS (Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Services) at <https://www.csas.uk.net/procedures-manual/#cat-4> Procedures Manual, Chapter 4 – Creating a safer environment.

Together the parish priest and the PSR (Parish Safeguarding Rep) should organise this list, update it and keep it in a safe place at the parish.