



Diocese of Westminster

SAFEGUARDING SERVICE

- Role:** Parish Visitor
- Responsible to:** The Parish Priest, his Delegate or leader for that group
- Aim:** To assist the Priest with pastoral support and care

Main Responsibilities:

- (a) To assist the Priest in a range of pastoral support situations.
- (b) To assist the Priest in providing care for parishioners who are not able to come to Mass.
- (c) To work together to ensure that the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Procedures are in place and are monitored.
- (d) To meet regularly to discuss with parish priest or other appointed person your ministry and those whom you visit to enable sharing of any concerns.

Person Specification

- (a) Caring attitude.
- (b) The ability to relate with ease to children, young adults and adults.
- (c) To regularly visit those in need and engage with them on a face-to-face basis offering what assistance may be available within the resources of the parish.
- (d) Commitment to the Catholic/Christian principles of the parish group.
- (e) All volunteers must be over 18 years of age.

Guidelines

Being invited into peoples' homes puts you in a unique position. You are most likely their only contact with the Church. Please make your visit as reverent and meaningful as possible and be aware of their needs.

- (a) When visiting the housebound you must remember that you are there at their invitation. It is a special relationship that you have, one that includes a degree of trust.
- (b) Many housebound people are elderly, living alone and frail. We must be aware of our physical presence and use it to give confidence to the person.
- (c) Relationships can develop and, particularly where there is no family, you may be trusted with confidential information of the location of valuables. It is recommended that for your own protection, your parish priest be made aware of such instances.
- (d) Having got to know the people who you visit, do only what you feel is right and proper for their well-being and, if in doubt, consult with your parish priest or Safeguarding Department responsible for vulnerable adults.
- (e) If concerned that a person is at risk from harm, contact the Social Services Department or Police immediately.
- (f) Any concerns in a hospital situation should be discussed with hospital management.