

# A Code of Ethical Conduct for Deacons

## **Pastoral Relationships**

You are not to disclose personal/confidential information received in the exercise of ministry to your spouse, family, friends, colleagues, or any one else, without consent of the person providing the information, except where: the information is known publicly or required by law, or it is in the public interest ( such as to avoid risk of injury or harm to any person.)

## **Boundaries**

Recognise the limits of your skills and experience. Do not undertake ministry that is beyond your competence or the role for which you have been employed or trained. A person who requires specialised help or help beyond a very few sessions should be referred to appropriately qualified person or agency.

Think carefully before providing pastoral ministry to a person with whom you already have a close relationship, such as a friend, or family member; as it is difficult to maintain objectivity, and failure to act in the other's best interest can harm both parties.

## **Personal Behaviour**

All of your relationships; whether pastoral, collegial, personal or familial must be free of bullying, emotional abuse, harrassment, physical abuse, sexual abuse, or spiritual abuse.

You are to be responsible in your use of alcohol and you are not to use any prohibited substances.

You are not knowingly to make statements that are false, misleading or deceptive.

## **Sexual Conduct**

You are to be faithful and honouring in all sexual relationships.

You are not to sexually abuse any person, and this also means that you will not participate in prostitution or any form of pornography.

## **Financial Integrity**

You are to conduct your personal finances in a just, responsible and legal manner, and promptly meet all financial commitments and obligations.

In all financial dealings, with any aspect of the church, you are to not only ensure that everything is done according to the rules and guidelines laid down by the parish and the diocese, but that all you do is also transparent to all stakeholders