



Safeguarding Children Newsletter

Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh & Kilfenora

Summer edition, 2016



Bishop Martin

Safeguarding in the Year of Mercy

An old Indian proverb says that every problem hides a gift. In other words, all of life is blessing. *For those who love God all things work for good* (Romans 8:29). The mercy of God touches every pain point in our lives with his healing presence. His mercy is love responding to evil, transforming our wounded world with his powerful touch. The first pages of the Bible relate how God created a beautiful world and found joy in it. The sin of Adam and Eve had negative effects and it led to God's intervention in mercy. That mercy is first of all a call for Adam and Eve to face reality and to name the new reality brought into being by their rebellion against God. Hidden diseases can't be cured, but when they are identified and named clearly the working of healing can begin. In the case of Adam and Eve the healing presence of God freed them of the shame that went with their sin and the fear that followed it. He gave them a new mission, sending them out of the garden to till the earth and care for it.

In our work of safeguarding there will be inevitable setbacks but even those can be turned into blessing with the help of God's saving mercy. Some problems are too big for us to understand fully and too big for us to heal. The message of God's mercy gives us hope. As a diocese we have been through some difficult times of late. If we allow the merciful God to help us face and name our reality and also allow him to heal us where we are hurting then blessing will prevail. Yes, the power within us is greater than the task ahead.

Martin Drennan

From the Director of Safeguarding: Kevin Duffy.

Progress is impossible without change. However, when you look at the updated Policy on Safeguarding Children, along with the new Garda Vetting Policy and the Policy on Vulnerable Adults you would be forgiven for feeling a little bit overwhelmed by all this change.

A more positive way to regard these changes is to realise that they are there to help make our church a safer place for children and vulnerable adults and those who work with them. It shows that we have learned from our experiences and are willing to put this learning into practice, and that we are in line with current legislation. Training will be provided at both Diocesan and Parish level on all these new policies.

As Director of Safeguarding I am available to meet with all those involved in Parish work to help in any way I can.

Kevin Duffy.

Pope Francis'

Top 10

"Secrets to Happiness"



1. Live and let live
2. Be giving of yourself to others
3. Proceed calmly in life
4. A healthy sense of leisure
5. Sundays should be holidays because Sunday is for family
6. Find innovative ways to create dignified jobs for young people
7. Respect and take care of nature
8. Stop being negative
9. Respect others' beliefs, engage in dialogue
10. Work for peace

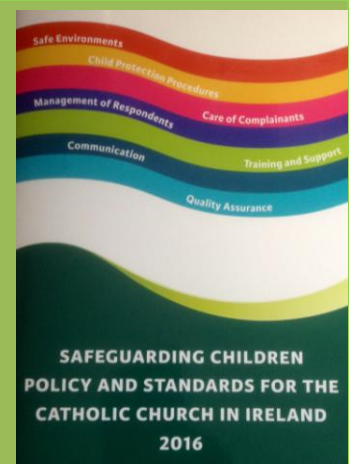
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY & STANDARDS for the CATHOLIC CHURCH IN IRELAND 2016

Safeguarding Children: Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016 is the fruit of an eighteen month review, learning from the past and developing practices towards a implementing a 'one-Church' approach across all dioceses and religious congregations in Ireland. Built on gospel values, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, national legislation and canon law, this newly revised set of standards is designed to ensure up to date best practice in all aspects of child safeguarding in the creation and maintenance of safe environments. It introduces new standards to address the care of complainants and the management of respondents accused of child abuse.

The purpose of this framework is to ensure that the same principles, procedures and practices for safeguarding children and for responding to allegations or suspicions of child abuse operate at every level and in every place throughout the Catholic Church in Ireland. The Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora engages on this journey of justice, truth, healing and abuse prevention in committing to Mandatory reporting; Caring for the welfare of all children and the adults who work with them; Responding appropriately to child protection suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations ; Caring pastorally for complainants and other affected persons; Caring for respondents and other affected persons.

Please note the 2016 Safeguarding policy statement on page 4 of this newsletter. A laminated copy will be sent to each parish church for display in line with best practice.

Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in creating an environment in which children can develop and be safe. We thank you for your ongoing efforts and enthusiasm in developing safe environments in our faith communities.



7 Standards

Creating & Maintaining
Safe Environments

Procedures for
Responding to Child
Protection Concerns

Care & Support for
Complainant

Care & Management of
Respondent

Training & Support

Communication

Quality Assuring
Compliance

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING UPDATE

On November 15th 2015, participants from six parishes across the diocese attended the NBSCCI Accredited Safeguarding Training in the Pastoral Centre facilitated by our trainers, Sr. Aileen Murphy and Fr. Michael Brennan. In December Kevin Duffy presented training to the Franciscan Order. In June training for those involved in Bethany bereavement ministry will be held in Esker.

Our next training for Safeguarding Local Representatives will be held on **Saturday 19th November 2016 in the Pastoral Centre**. Please contact Ita at 091-575051 or galwaydiocesecpo@eircom.net to reserve a place.

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Policy Statement of the Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora

As a constituent member of the Catholic Church in Ireland, we recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children, are committed to ensuring their safety and well-being, and will work in partnership with parents/guardians to do this. We recognise each child as a gift from God, and we value and encourage the participation of children in all activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development.

All Church personnel (including clergy, religious, staff and volunteers) have a responsibility to safeguard children through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment that supports their best interests and prevents abuse.

If you have a suspicion, concern, knowledge or allegation that a child is being or has been abused please contact our Diocesan Designated Liaison Person:

Mr. Kevin Duffy,

Diocesan Pastoral Centre,
Newtownsmith,
Galway.

087-6141736

Mrs. Eileen Kelly,

Diocesan Pastoral Centre,
Newtownsmith,
Galway.

085-1112660

If you wish to report directly to the statutory authorities please contact either:

An **Garda Síochána** at 1800 666111, through the emergency number 999 or your local Garda station or

Your local **Túsla** Child and Family Agency Duty Social Worker at

091-546366 Galway 065-6863935 Clare 094-90 42283 Mayo

On behalf of this Church body, as part of the Catholic Church in Ireland, I commit to safeguarding children by agreeing to follow this Child Safeguarding Policy.

I will abide by and uphold the seven standards and the applicable indicators in our entire ministry and contacts with children.

Bishop Martin Drennan

June 2016

On Behalf of Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh & Kilfenora

