

# Safeguarding Children

## NEWSLETTER



Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh & Kilfenora

Summer Edition 2018

## Message from the Bishop Brendan Kelly

The World Meeting of Families just a few short weeks ago, and in particular the coming amongst us of Pope Francis, was a memorable, historic and challenging moment for all in the Church in Ireland.

For many years now, we have been working hard in the diocese in the whole area of the safeguarding of children and vulnerable people. The neglect of this area in the past has had dire life-lasting consequences for many people who had every right to expect nothing but love and care from people of faith, the very opposite of what they received. The facts that have emerged have shamed and angered us, and shattered too the confidence and faith people placed in the church and particularly in its leaders. In every one of his public utterances during his visit to the World Meeting here, the Holy Father faced into this very live issue.

In Knock, Pope Francis prayed: *'I ask the Blessed Mother to intercede for every person who has survived abuse of any kind'*. That surely is our first task too, to pray constantly for those who have suffered and are still suffering. Pope Francis did this himself in a very striking and powerful way at every opportunity while he was amongst us.

The holy father then went on to ask her *'to confirm every member of the Christian family in their firm resolve to never permit these situations to happen again'*. These words are for all of us, for 'every member of the Christian family'. Time and again during the World Meeting the Holy Father reminded us that the church itself is a family, a family for which each member is responsible. Ensuring the safety of the most vulnerable amongst us, children in the first place, is a primary part of that responsibility. The words of Pope Francis in Knock are for each and every member of our church family.

We are particularly blessed now to have many people in all of our parishes who have voluntarily and enthusiastically taken up the responsibility of ensuring that the best and most up-to-date safeguarding procedures and systems are in place in all church activities that may involve children and vulnerable people. I want to thank these parish safeguarding representatives particularly. Each of you has made a very clear commitment to ensuring there will never again be abuse of any child, any young or vulnerable person in any of our church activities and parishes.

One of the most moving moments in his entire trip to the World Meeting of Families was when the Holy Father entered the Shrine at Knock to pray, and the entire gathering of almost 50,000 people fell silent for the 10 minutes, praying with him. *'In my prayer before her statue'* he said later, *'I presented to her all the victims of abuse of whatever kind committed by members of the Church in Ireland'*. So must we. And let us pray for each other, that this critical work to which, as a Church family, we have committed ourselves, will bear rich fruit of safety, healing and peace for all our children and all vulnerable people now and in the future.



## THE ROLE OF MANDATED PERSONS

From 11 December 2017 under Children First Act 2015 people holding certain positions ('mandated persons') are required by law to report to Tusla where he or she: "knows, believes or has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is being harmed, has been harmed or is at risk of being harmed". Mandated persons may also be required to assist Tusla in the assessment of such concerns.

Mandated persons (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) are people who have contact with children and/or families and who, because of their qualifications, training and/or employment role, are in a key position to help protect children from harm. Included in the definition of mandated persons are members of the clergy, Priests, deacons, religious ministering in the Diocese and parish pastoral workers are mandated persons. The Director of Safeguarding (DLP and Deputy DLP) of the Diocese are also mandated persons. Local Safeguarding Representatives are not included, as they work in a voluntary capacity and are not employed to perform a child welfare and protection function.

Mandated persons ministering or working for or on behalf of the Diocese, diocesan agencies or parishes should seek the advice of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) or Tusla if in doubt as to whether a child protection concern reaches the threshold for a mandated report to Tusla.

Those working for or on behalf of the Diocese who are also mandated persons should continue to report child protection concerns that relate to the parish or diocesan agency to the DLP as has been the practice to date.

The Diocese requires all of those who minister or work for or on behalf of the Diocese, its agencies and parishes to comply with the requirements of this policy and to meet their obligations under the Children First Act 2015.

**Kevin Duffy, Director of Safeguarding.**

If you are concerned about the Safeguarding Welfare of Children/Young People/ Vulnerable Adult

Please contact any of the following:

DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSONS (DLP)

**Eileen Kelly - 087-1112660**

**Kevin Duffy - 087-6141736**

**An Garda Síochána - 1 800 666 111**

**Tusla, Child and Family Agency – Galway: 091-546235**

**Clare: 061-588688 Mayo: 094 90 42284**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Annual Safeguarding Children Conference:

Date: Saturday, October 13th 2018

Venue: Menlo Park Hotel, Galway

Time: 9.30 to 1pm

### Safeguarding Training Day :

Date: Saturday 24th November 2018

Venue: Galway Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Newtownsmith, Galway

Time: 9.30am to 3.30pm

**Please contact Ita O'Mahony at 091-575051 or email at [galwaydiocesepo@eircom.net](mailto:galwaydiocesepo@eircom.net) to register**





**The Western Province Vetting Service** provides Garda vetting for parishes and schools for the six dioceses, **Galway, Tuam, Elphin, Killala, Clonfert and Achonry.**

It's offices are located in the **Galway Pastoral Centre,**

**Newtownsmith, Galway.**

4,961 applications are processed in 2017. The vetting administrators are

**Ita O' Mahony & Eilish Glynn. Contact Number is 091-575051** or

**email [wpvs@eircom.net](mailto:wpvs@eircom.net)**

Since the switch to **eVetting in 2016** the turnaround for vetting approval has significantly improved. **For information on who needs to be vetted please refer to page 7 of the Parish Handbook**

# SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARISH HANDBOOK

**Now available in all parishes.**

This handbook is designed as a practical tool to a quick guide to all aspects to safeguarding.

If you require more copies please contact our

**Director Of Safeguarding, Kevin Duffy at 091-575051 or you can download a copy from our website [galwaydiocese.ie](http://galwaydiocese.ie)**



**For further information and to download the Garda Vetting Application Form please refer to the website: [galwaydiocese.ie](http://galwaydiocese.ie)**

Photographs from SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN CONFERENCE



*Celia Keane (Good Shepherd)  
Teresa Geraghty (Ballinfoyle)  
Fr. Tony Horgan (Ballinfoyle)*



*Carmel & Fursey Heneghan (Shrulle Parish)*



*Ewa Mroczek (Good Shepherd)  
Anna Duggan (Oughterard)*



*Catherine Fahy (Kilbeacanty)  
Brigid Garry (Peterswell)*

## FEEDBACK

The Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora value feedback from members of the clergy, staff, volunteers, parents, young people and children on the Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Procedures. Please contact: Mr. Kevin Duffy, Director of Safeguarding

**Address: Galway Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Arus De Brun, Newtownsmith, Galway**

**Phone: 087-6141736 Email: [duffykf57@gmail.com](mailto:duffykf57@gmail.com)**