

Safeguarding Children - Newsletter



Message from Bishop Dermot Farrell

I welcome the publication of Issue No. 2 of the *Diocesan Safeguarding Children—Newsletter* which is an important channel for communicating information about safeguarding matters in our Diocese. I thank our many volunteers for their commitment to safeguarding children in every parish. They have made it a priority to create safe environments in parishes and in our Diocese. This work greatly underpins public confidence in the Church's role in rooting out abusers and protecting the innocent.

The exemplary Safeguarding Standards and clear mechanisms provided by the *National Board for Safeguarding Children*, to protect minors, to prevent sexual abuse, and to respond to complaints, have enabled the Church to respond vigorously to this crisis which has left lasting scars. The protection of children must be a reflex in all our thoughts, planning and actions, especially for those who need our support and protection.

We have learned a great deal over the last two decades and have made sweeping and significant changes in all areas of the life of the Church, but we cannot be lulled into a sense of achievement that would risk complacency.

✠ Dermot Farrell
Bishop of Ossory

Diocesan Safeguarding Awareness Day Sunday 25th November 2018

Sunday, 25th November 2018, the Feast of Christ the King, is designated
Diocesan Safeguarding Awareness Day

The Diocese of Ossory values and encourages the participation of children and young people in parish liturgies and diocesan activities. Safeguarding is about creating an environment that facilitates such involvement so that children can grow strong in their faith as they experience the love of Jesus in his Church. Everyone who ministers in the parish is a representative of the Church and must observe safeguarding practices and guidelines. Good safeguarding practice is integral to ministry – it is not an optional extra.

Parish Safeguarding Representatives are women and men who work with our local priests to ensure that Diocesan Safeguarding Policies and Practices are followed. They are trained for this role and access advice and support from the Diocesan Child Safeguarding Committee.

Our Diocesan Safeguarding Policy, revised in the Spring of this year, was launched at meetings throughout the Diocese during the summer months. This document clearly outlines the policies and procedures that all parishes adhere to in order to ensure that children who participate in our Church do so in a safe environment. A copy of the revised policy is available in all parishes and on our website at www.ossory.ie

Implementation of our Safeguarding Policy ensures the following:

- Adopting a child-centred approach, valuing children and demonstrating our respect for them.
- Obtaining the consent of parents for the involvement of their children in parish activities.
- Choosing carefully those who work with children and vulnerable adults in our parishes.
- Ensuring parish workers and volunteers behave appropriately towards children and vulnerable adults.
- Making proper arrangements for activities involving children, including ensuring adequate adult supervision of such activities.
- Keeping good records of parish activities involving children.
- Anyone who has a concern for the safety or welfare of a child should contact the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person, (DLP) whose contact details are listed in all churches. People can also refer such concerns directly to the following civil authorities:

Tusla Child and Family Agency
052 617 7302 / 090 648 3106

Gardaí 1800 555 222

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Mr Cathal Cullen 087 100 0232

Safeguarding Policy

Staff and Volunteers

The Parish Priest is ultimately responsible for the implementation of our Safeguarding Policy in the parish. In doing so, with the assistance of the Parish Safeguarding Representatives, he must ensure that all Parish staff and volunteers complete the following forms:

- *Volunteer Application Form* SG-01
- *Confidential Declaration Form* SG-02
- *Agreement for Church Personnel Form* SG-03
- *Garda Vetting Form* NVB (required for those who work with children)

The Parish Priest must provide all Staff and Volunteers with a copy of the *Code of Behaviour for Adults* (Form SG-15) and ensure that appropriate safeguarding training and support is provided.

Young Volunteers (e.g. Altar Servers, Liturgy Groups, Choirs etc.)

The Parish Priest must ensure that Parents/Guardians and Young People complete a *Child and Parent Activity and Media Consent Form* SG-04 and are given a copy of the *Code of Behaviour for children taking part in Church-related Activities*.

External (non-parish) groups using parish property for child-related activities must have in place their own Child Safeguarding Policy and Public Liability Insurance and are required to complete the *External Groups using Church Property Form* SG-07.

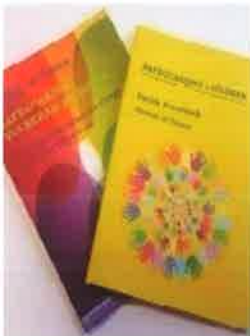
All necessary Forms will be provided by the Parish Priest, are contained in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook and are available online at www.ossory.ie

Update on Safeguarding Training

Priests and Parish Safeguarding Representatives are obliged to attend Safeguarding Training at least once a year in order to ensure that they are appropriately trained and are up to date with safeguarding regulations. This Training is provided throughout our diocese on an ongoing basis in accordance with the *National Board for Safeguarding Children Guidelines*. During the summer months Priests and Parish Safeguarding Representatives attended training in Kilkenny on our revised Diocesan Safeguarding Policy. All Priests, Parish Safeguarding Representatives, Staff and Volunteers in our forty two parishes throughout our diocese have been Garda Vetted. This is an ongoing process in order to comply with our Safeguarding Policy.

Safeguarding Information Evenings for Parish Staff and Volunteers were provided in the following centres throughout the Diocese during the month of September: Kilkenny (2), Gowran, Castletown, Rathdowney, Muckalee, Ballyhale and Mooncoin. Close to 800 people attended these sessions.

Launch of Diocese of Ossory Safeguarding Guidelines 2018



In June 2018, the following Safeguarding Guidelines were launched and distributed to all Priests, Safeguarding Representatives and almost 800 hundred Volunteers who attended Safeguarding Information Evenings throughout our diocese:

- Safeguarding Children: Parish Handbook
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

Copies available at parish offices and online at www.ossory.ie/safeguarding



Ministry with and for Young People

“Our generation will show that it can rise to the promise found in each young person when we know how to give them space. This means that we have to create the material and spiritual conditions for their full development; to give them a solid basis on which to build their lives; to guarantee their safety and their education to be everything they can be; to pass on to them lasting values that make life worth living; to give them a transcendent horizon for their thirst for authentic happiness and their creativity for the good; to give them the legacy of a world worthy of human life; and to awaken in them their greatest potential as builders of their own destiny, sharing responsibility for the future of everyone. If we can do all this, we anticipate today the future that enters the world through the window of the young”.

- Pope Francis

How Young People can get involved

AIM HIGH — Parish Ministry Programme has been developed in the Diocese of Ossory to encourage young people to take an active part in their Church, Parish and Community. It is open to all young people, 16 years and over. The Award is flexible, non competitive and requires an ongoing commitment. For further information please contact the Director of Youth Ministry, Fr. Brian Griffin, St. John’s Presbytery, Kilkenny. Tel: 056 7721072



Our Duty of Care

Each of us has a duty to notify the Statutory Authority of suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations that a child is being or has been abused. This in fact is our duty of care to children in every facet of society, be it Church, Club, School, or other.

We must remember that children are an integral part of the Church and must be cherished and safeguarded. We are reminded of this point in Matthew 25:40, “What so ever you do to the least of my brothers you do onto me”.

We acknowledge that the harm any of our members have caused to children and our failures to adequately address these wrong doings, have had an enormous impact on our children and on our Church.

By ensuring that our Safeguarding Policies and Procedures are implemented in parishes throughout our diocese, we do all that is possible to ensure that children who participate in our Church do so in a safe and welcoming environment.

Safeguarding Prayer

Lord Jesus

We thank you for calling us for the service of others.

We pray for a generosity of spirit to ensure children are protected.

We pray for a compassionate heart so that we can reach out to those who are wounded by abuse.

We pray for courage and determination as we seek the safety of everyone in our parishes.

We pray that you will help us to do your will at all times and in all places.

Amen

Safeguarding Quiz

Win one of two €25 Cathedral Bookshop Vouchers

1. Name the Diocesan Designated Liaison (DLP) person
2. Name the Safeguarding Representatives in your Parish
3. What Form is given to Staff and Volunteers who are applying to take on a ministry in the Church?
4. What Form has to be completed by External Groups using Church

Email your answers to safeguarding@ossory.ie

Include:

- your name
- the name of your parish
- Mobile Phone

Further Information please contact

Director of Safeguarding Safeguarding Office
Waterford Road
Kilkenny
safeguarding@ossory.ie

If you have a Safeguarding concern in relation to Church personnel please contact the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) 087 100 0232

Towards Peace & Towards Healing

Counselling and Support Services provided by the Catholic Church where people who have been affected by abuse in a church context can be accompanied as they seek their own experience of spiritual peace.

www.towardspeace.ie

086 771 0533

www.towardshealing.ie

0800 303 416