



Safeguarding Sunday Newsletter



A warm word of thanks and appreciation to all who make safeguarding happen in all our parishes as safeguarding in each parish could not happen without the commitment and work of many personnel including local safeguarding representatives, sacristans, secretaries, youth leaders, choir leaders, religious and priests.

If anyone would like to discuss any of the topics in this Newsletter or find out more about Safeguarding in the Diocese of Ossory, please contact: Kathleen Sherry, Director of Safeguarding 085 8021633, email: safeguarding@ossory.ie



Return of parish activities

Covid-19 impacted significantly on parish activities, altar servers, choirs, youth groups, bringing the eucharist to the house bound plus much more all had to stop. We look forward to a return to visible participation of youth and adults in parish life and with that the continued work that those responsible for safeguarding in parishes do in the background.

The participation of young people in parish is vital for the continuity of parish life and their presence help to create and maintain a sense of meaning for everyone who comes to pray. By becoming involved in Church and community activities, young people can meet like-minded peers and positive adult role models. Being involved and committed to a group within the community helps to create a feeling of belonging and connection outside of their family circle. Community activities can boost young people's self-confidence. They can learn to deal with challenges, communicate with different people and build up life skills and abilities in a supportive environment.

To support children and young people's participation in parish activities volunteers are essential and support for volunteers is available from local parish personnel.

Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults

This summer the Ossory Safeguarding Committee updated the Diocesan Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy and Procedures, available on www.ossory.ie. The committee also produced a leaflet on safeguarding vulnerable adults which is available in church porches or to view or print off from the website www.ossory.ie/safeguarding.

New Diocesan Director of Safeguarding

In April this year, the Diocese of Ossory joined with the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin to employ Kathleen Sherry as Director of Safeguarding for Children and Vulnerable Adults. This role also incorporates the role of Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP). The role involves supporting each parish with their safeguarding practices and responding to any child protection or adult safeguarding concerns that are raised.

Supports for those who have experienced abuse



TOWARDS HEALING is an independent organisation providing free professional support for people who have experienced institutional, clerical or religious abuse in Ireland. They provide face to face counselling, structured phone counselling, family counselling and a counselling helpline.

Their help line is open: Tuesday to Friday 9am -5pm. Freephone 1800 303416. Hearing-impaired Text Line Number: 085-8022859. Email: info@towardshealing.ie Website: www.towardshealing.ie.



TOWARDS PEACE provides spiritual support in a safe supportive space, where people who have been affected by abuse in a Church context can be accompanied as they seek their own experience of spiritual peace, one step at a time. Phone: 01 5053028 / 086 7710533. Email: towardspeace@iecon.ie Website: www.towardspeace.ie

Annual-Audits

Parish Safeguarding Representatives alongside the Parish Priests report on their safeguarding practice annually in the form of an audit. Parishes are currently completing their annual parish audits. When all audits are returned the Diocesan audit report will be compiled.

Safeguarding-Training

Unfortunately, safeguarding training was put on hold during 2020 and 2021. However, the good news is two new people are being trained by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) to deliver safeguarding training, they are Gerry Daly and Kathleen Sherry and along with Sr. Ena Kennedy who has delivered training in Ossory for many years will commence rolling out training from next February. Parishes will be notified of these dates nearer the time.

Safeguarding Literature available in Parishes

Safeguarding leaflets have been updated and are being distributed to parishes. The leaflets that have been updated are the Role of the Parish Safeguarding Representative, Parish Activities Information and Guidance, the National Policy and Standards for Safeguarding Children.

These and other safeguarding literature are available on the Ossory website on www.ossory.ie/safeguarding.



THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN IRELAND

Review by the National Board for Safeguarding in the Catholic Church in Ireland

The Diocese is preparing for a review by the NBSCCCI. The committee did an internal review of seven parishes of the Diocese. Much credit is due to each parish team of safeguarding representatives, sacristans, secretaries and priests for the preparation they undertook in advance of these visits, for the level of compliance with the requirements of the safeguarding standards and for the warm welcome committee members received. Credit is also due to the many altar servers and their parents who came and participated with these visits.



If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact any of the following:

GARDAI If you are experiencing abuse which is placing you or someone you know in immediate danger, you should contact the Gardai at 999 / 112. If a person is being mistreated but is not in immediate danger you can report this to your local Garda station. Anyone with information regarding a crime can ring the Garda Confidential Telephone Number 1800 666 111. The Garda Confidential line allows the public to call with confidential information relating to matters of abuse, crime or other activities.

TUSLA CHILD & FAMILY AGENCY
Kilkenny & Carlow area - 052 617 7302
Laois & Offaly - 044 935 3997
Waterford - 053 9198201

HSE SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS
Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford:
Email: safeguarding.cho5@hse.ie
(056)778 325.
Laois & Offaly:
Email: safeguarding.cho8@hse.ie
(01) 691 4632

If you have a safeguarding concern or wish to raise a safeguarding matter from the past you may contact any of the following:

DIOCESAN DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON (DLP)

Ms. Kathleen Sherry 085 8021633

Email: dlp@ossory.ie

Deputy Designated Liaison Persons:

Ms. Rose Brophy 087 3314330

Mr. Cathal Cullen 056 7762448

Safeguarding Sunday Prayer

Grant us, Lord God a vision of your world as your love would have it. A world where the weak are protected and none go hungry or poor. A world where the riches of creation are shared and everyone can enjoy them.

A world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect. A world where peace is built with justice and is guided by love. Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Archbishop Oscar Romero).

