

Notes to accompany Bishop Moriarty's statement in response to the 'Dublin Report'

(27 Nov 2009)

Kildare & Leighlin Diocese

- The Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin has: 56 parishes; 110 priests/parish pastoral workers; a Catholic population of approximately 225,000; 117 Catholic Churches; and the Patrons of the Diocese are St Brigid, St Conleth and St Lazerian.
- The Diocese includes County Carlow and parts of Counties Kildare, Laois, Offaly, Kilkenny, Wicklow and Wexford.
- Bishop Jim Moriarty became bishop of the diocese of Kildare and Leighlin in 2002. He was ordained a priest in 1961 and an Auxiliary to the Archbishop of Dublin in September 1991.

Safeguarding Standards in Kildare & Leighlin

Much work has been done in the diocese of Kildare and Leighlin over recent years to ensure that it is compliant in every way possible with the best safeguarding children standards.

- In September 2009, the diocese published a revised 'policy and procedures' document in regard to safeguarding children. This document closely follows and adopts the structure, resources and language within the '*Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland*' published by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church (NBSCCC). This document is available on our diocesan website – www.kandle.ie
- The fundamental principle of our practice, as already implemented in recent years, is that all child protection concerns must be reported to the civil authorities without delay. Any priest or church worker who is the subject of a child protection concern is asked to step aside from their ministry and duties until the civil and church investigations are complete.
- Over the last year the diocese has been working to recruit and train at least one designated person in each parish who will be responsible for promoting best practice and for dealing with child protection concerns. The training is the 'Keeping Safe – Children First' programme which is run in collaboration with the HSE. As well as the lay people trained to serve as parish designated persons, all the priests of the diocese will also have completed the training course by the end of the year.
- Our diocese requires all diocesan and parish staff, including all priests and seminarians, to apply for Garda vetting.

HSE Audit

- The diocese has fully complied with the recent national HSE audit of diocesan records in regard to clerical child abuse.
- As reported in the recent HSE audit - there are presently two Kildare and Leighlin priests who are 'out of ministry' due to child protection concerns. One of the two was convicted in the criminal courts and received a suspended sentence. This is the only priest from this diocese who has been convicted of offences against minors.
- In the same HSE audit, the diocese reported that our records show that there were three Kildare & Leighlin priests – now deceased – about whom there were child protection allegations/concerns.

Financial Information

- All expenditure in regard to safeguarding children – including settlements, counselling and training – are recorded each year in the diocesan financial statement.
- In 2003 and 2004, the diocese paid a total of **€341,625** towards the Stewardship Fund which was a special fund set up by the Irish Bishops to provide financial assistance to dioceses and to cover running costs re child protection at national level.
- In 2006, 2007 and 2008 the diocese reported on its annual financial statement that it had spent a total of €15,617 - from its capital reserves – under the heading of 'child protection costs'. This includes expenditure on counselling, training, legal fees and insurance.

Settlements

- The diocese has contributed to the settlement of two civil cases involving priests of this diocese
- In 2004 the diocese contributed to a financial settlement in a civil case involving a deceased priest of this diocese. At the time of his death in 2002, this priest was facing very serious criminal charges but died before the scheduled trial took place. The diocese contributed a total of **€133,835**. As was the practice at the time, the diocese received 90% of this payment from the Stewardship Trust.
- As our accounts for 2009 will show, the diocese contributed a total of **€175,000** to the settlement of a civil case against the priest of this diocese who was convicted in the courts in 2009 (see above). A further €24,300 was also paid in legal fees in 2009 along with €27,359 in 2008. A combined total of **€226,659**.