

Statement from Clergy Representative on the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee

The priests of our diocese, share with our parishioners, the disappointment, disgust and hurt, felt because of the grievously criminal actions of a few in our midst. With our parishioners, we also feel betrayed and let down.

In response, the priests of our diocese are committed to supporting, encouraging and putting into place the highest standards of safeguarding, so that all our parishioners, children and adult leaders who work with them, will feel safe and confident in their ministries. So that children will be encouraged and welcomed to take their full part in liturgies and other church and parish activities.

Diocesan Prayer of Healing for Victims of Abuse

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your peoples wounds, and transform brokenness into wholeness.
Give us, as a diocese, courage and wisdom, humility and grace to always act with justice. Breathe wisdom into our prayers and efforts.
Grant that all who have been harmed by abuse may be healed.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
St Brigid, pray for us. St Conleth, pray for us. St Laserian, pray for us.



When we do safeguarding well it makes for positive experiences. Here are some quotes from active youth parishioners in the Diocese:

"I learned that religion isn't restricted to a church, but rather it's the way we live our everyday lives. It's about making others feel welcome, encouraging positive wellbeing among others and having fun whilst doing it all. I now try to bring all these learnings with me everywhere I go."

JPII Award Participant
Graiguecullen Parish Youth Group

"At Amadeus, we discuss aspects of the truest meaning of our faith. We now have an understanding far beyond our text books because we choose to live & enjoy our faith."

Amadeus Youth Group Member, Newbridge

Safeguarding Sunday



Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin
Sunday 29th September 2019



Message from Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin

Dear Parishioners,

I welcome this initiative to have an annual Safeguarding Sunday in our Diocese. Each year it will remind us all that the key to Safeguarding is good public awareness of the potential danger to children and the importance of good practice across the diocese. On this, our first Safeguarding Sunday event I, along with the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee want to say thanks to close to 200 people who have voluntarily worked for the safeguarding cause in the Diocese over the years. Special thanks to those who continue to serve at this time.

We also should never forget the hurt and damage caused to so many people who have been abused as children and the enormous impact this has on their lives. The Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin fully acknowledges the devastation caused by abuse and takes the role of establishing a safe environment for children and vulnerable adults within the church very seriously. The Safeguarding of Children involves all of us working together to ensure that children grow up with their right to dignity respected.

I thank and applaud all of you for making this possible,

✠ Denis Nulty
Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin

Safeguarding in the Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin

The Diocese works in co-operation with the statutory authorities and the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI).

- 2005 The Kildare & Leighlin Safeguarding Committee was formed.
- 2009 National Policy for Safeguarding Children was adopted by the Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin.
- 2010 The HSE conducted an audit of Child Sexual Abuse incidents within the Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin
- 2012 The NBSCCCI conducted a review of Safeguarding Practice in the Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin
- 2016 The NBSCCCI published an updated policy for Safeguarding Children. This policy was adopted by Bishop Denis Nulty for the Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin.

Our Safeguarding Structure

Diocesan Safeguarding Committee

Diocesan Safeguarding Co-Ordinator Works with parishes to support and encourage effective safeguarding practice

Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

The DLP is always available to hear safeguarding concerns and is responsible for reporting such concerns to the civil authorities

Parish Safeguarding Representatives

149 Parish safeguarding representatives help Parish Priests across our 56 parishes

Reviewing our Practice

Parish Safeguarding Representatives alongside the Parish Priests report on their safeguarding practice annually in the form of an audit.

Parish Support Visits are now a requirement of the NBSCCCI. The purpose is to support parishes to improve Safeguarding practice. To arrange a visit for your parish contact the Safeguarding Co-Ordinator on 086-1710643.

Parish Audits are reviewed by the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee and action areas are addressed in the safeguarding plan for the coming year.

PARISH AUDITS

PARISH VISITS

ANNUAL REVIEW

3 YEAR PLAN

Safeguarding Training

Training is a very important opportunity for priests, safeguarding representative volunteers and staff to update themselves on safeguarding and to re-familiarise themselves on safeguarding standards and guidance. The Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin has a training plan in place for 2019 and will be delivering training at venues in Laois, Carlow and Kildare on various dates in October and November.

Details and online booking will be available on www.kandle.ie in the coming weeks.



Where to find local information:
www.kandle.ie/safeguarding



Co-operating with Civil Authorities

The Diocese works closely with Tusla, Child and Family Agency and the Gardai to ensure the safety of children. Interagency meetings take place regularly, ensuring appropriate information exchange and effective case management takes place.

Any allegation of child abuse received by the Diocese is referred without delay to the appropriate civil authorities, to whom any information or documentation in the possession of the Diocese is made available.

In 2010 the Health Service Executive reported on the Audit of Kildare & Leighlin Diocesan allegations of sexual abuse.

In 2012 the Diocesan safeguarding files were audited by the staff of the National Board for the Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland. Information in relation to the review is available to view on the National Board website.

Can We Help You?

The Diocese continues to develop its service for responding to and managing allegations of abuse most recently with the establishment of the Safeguarding office in January 2019. This centralised, professional service will enhance the good safeguarding work done previously and support future training and development.

If you have a concern or wish to discuss a safeguarding query you can contact us in confidence at any time.

DLP - Mick Daly 085 8021633

Deputy DLP's - Michele Hughes 086 1710643 and Fr Míchéal Murphy 057 8679302

You can also contact your area office of Tusla Child & Family Agency at the numbers below or any local Garda Station.

Tusla Child and Family Agency Area Offices

- **Carlow/Kilkenny 052 6177302**
- **Laois/Offaly 044 9353997**
- **Kildare/West Wicklow 045 839300**