

## Safeguarding Newsletter Safeguarding Sunday October 9th, 2022

### Message from the Chair of the Safeguarding Committee

*Welcome to the 2022 edition of our Safeguarding Newsletter. The past year has been another challenging one for parishes with Covid-19 still having an impact on people's participation in parish life. We look forward to a return to the participation of youth and adults in our parishes as well as the continued work that those responsible for Safeguarding do in the background.*

*The participation of young people in our parishes is vital for the continuity of parish life. It offers them opportunities for encounter with the Risen Jesus and a safe place in which they can explore their faith. Here they can learn to listen to God's word and respond to the call of the Holy Spirit in their lives.*

*By becoming involved in Church and community activities, young people can meet like-minded peers and positive adult role models. Being 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. They are the “companions on the journey” for our young people. We would like to thank all those across our diocese who have volunteered and encourage more people to get involved. All volunteers are Garda vetted before taking up a role with children / young people.*

*Support for volunteers is always available from local parish personnel. All who give their time to include children and young people in parish life and maintain safe environments for participation are greatly appreciated.*

*Margarita Bedding.*

### What has been happening over the past year?

#### **Review by the National Board for Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI)**

The Diocese is preparing for a review by the NBSCCCI of its Safeguarding practices. This review will be carried out in November.

The committee did an internal review of a number of parishes of the Diocese and will continue with more over the coming months. 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 young people and their parents who came and participated during these visits.

*If a parish would like to arrange a pre-review visit please contact **Kathleen Sherry**.*

#### **Safeguarding Training**

Unfortunately, safeguarding training was put on hold during 2020 and 2021. However, from February 2022 we resumed online safeguarding training providing information sessions and refresher sessions via Zoom and in-person training in June.

We recently distributed our training calendar for Autumn 2022 and look forward to seeing people who need refresher training and those who are new to parish roles attending. We are continuing with a blend of in-person and online training to accommodate people's preferences and availability.

#### **Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults**

The Safeguarding Committee updated the Diocesan Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy and Procedures and produced a leaflet on safeguarding vulnerable adults.

*Both are available on [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie).*

## Safeguarding Literature and video available in Parishes

In addition to the above, the Safeguarding Committee updated and added to our safeguarding leaflets, and these were distributed to parishes. The leaflets available are 'The Role of the Parish Safeguarding Representative,' 'Parish Activities Information and Guidance' and 'The National Policy and Standards for Safeguarding Children.'

All leaflets are available in church porches and additional copies are available from the diocesan office and are available to view and print from the safeguarding section of the diocesan website [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie).

In 2021, the Safeguarding Committee produced a video on Safeguarding in our diocese. Credit is due to the interviewer Saraid Hartnett, Charlotte Vard and Fr. David Vard for all their work on this. We welcome people to view this video which is available in the Safeguarding section of [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie) and on [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_WQx9fsq3fg&t=29s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_WQx9fsq3fg&t=29s).

To mark this year's '**Safeguarding Sunday**' Bishop Nulty's video address is available on [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie) also.

### Theology of Safeguarding

The NBSCCCI held their conference in May entitled '*Exploring a Theology of Safeguarding.*' In preparation for this they uploaded videos by

nine different speakers on this topic. These are available to view or to download the transcripts from <https://www.safeguarding.ie/national-conference-2022>.

A key message throughout the conference and the greatest challenge for those present was how to include children and young people in parish life and church ministries, when competing with so many other activities that children and families are engaged in.

To remind people of the value of creating these opportunities and persevering with inclusion of children and young people, Dr Niall Moore from the National Board referenced the following from Pope Francis:

*'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 [...].'* Pope Francis.

### Annual Audits

All parishes completed their safeguarding audit for 2021. This audit examines compliance with the National Safeguarding Standards. The 2021 audit report reflected the impact of Covid-19 on parish activities, with many choirs and altar serving suspended for the year. Parishes will soon be receiving their audits for completion for 2022.



### Testimonials from Parishes

*"My daughter is lucky to be a member of Amadeus Youth Group and Choir. The ethos is 'loved by God'. My daughter receives this message from the above groups in her parish. She loves her involvement in both and has gained great friendships, feels she has found her place in her parish. Her faith is enriched through fun, laughter, example, and excellent leadership in a respectful manner, leading always by example through a genuine sense of belonging and valued by all. She calls it her Church family".* Celine, Newbridge.

*"I've been involved in my parish since 4th class, now I'm in my second year of college. Being involved has been hugely enjoyable and beneficial. I got on my school's debating team because of the public speaking skills I gained as a parish reader. Volunteering to help charities through the parish is what led me to choose the course I'm in now. I gained so much security in myself from being in such an interconnected community. Everything I did not only felt fun but had positive impacts that I could see unfolding in front of me. Now that I'm in college in Dublin, it feels so comforting to be able to come back and have the craic in the choir and reunite with everyone else who now has their own adventures in different parts of the country".* Katie, Graiguecullen.

If you have a safeguarding concern,  
please contact:

**Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP)**

Ms. Kathleen Sherry t: 085 8021633 e: dlp@kandle.ie

**Deputy DLPs:**

Ms. Michele Hughes t: 086 1710643

Fr. Mícheál Murphy t: 086 8244629

If you are experiencing abuse which is placing you or someone you know in immediate danger, you should contact the **Gardai at 999 / 112**.

Contact details for all civil authorities are on display at the back of all churches in the diocese and available on the website [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie).

### Supports for Survivors of 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 counselling for survivors and their families.



Their helpline is open: Tuesday to Friday 9am -5pm.

Freephone 1800 303416.

Hearing-impaired Text Line Number: 085-8022859.

e: [info@towardshealing.ie](mailto:info@towardshealing.ie)

w: [www.towardshealing.ie](http://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.

t: 01 5053028 / 086 7710533.

e: [towardspeace@iecon.ie](mailto:towardspeace@iecon.ie)

w: [www.towardspeace.ie](http://www.towardspeace.ie)

### 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).*



**Portlaoise**  
Mass for exams June 2022



**Naas**  
Confirmation retreat



**Portarlinton**  
John Paul II students from Coláiste Íosagáin sing for a school mass. Ukraine Appeal



**Bagenalstown**  
John Paul II boys on a pilgrimage walk



**Graigucullen**  
Pre-Leaving Cert results retreat walk August '22



**Newbridge**  
Amadeus Youth Group, on their 'Stay Awake' to raise funds for the Red Cross Ukraine Appeal



**Allen**  
John Paul II awards

*A warm word of thanks and appreciation to all who make safeguarding happen in all our parishes as it could not happen without the commitment and work of many personnel, including local safeguarding representatives, sacristans, secretaries, youth leaders, choir leaders, volunteers, 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 or how you can get involved, please contact:*

**Kathleen Sherry, Director of Safeguarding.**  
t: 085 8021633. e: [safeguarding@kandle.ie](mailto:safeguarding@kandle.ie)