

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Update from the Safeguarding Office
of the Diocese of Ferns

December 2014

Safeguarding Team

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Safeguarding
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Fr. Brian Broaders
Muriel Byrne
Fr. Denis Kelly
Fr. Aodhán Marken
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Catherine Murphy
Eithne Murphy
Una Murphy
Dervla Tierney

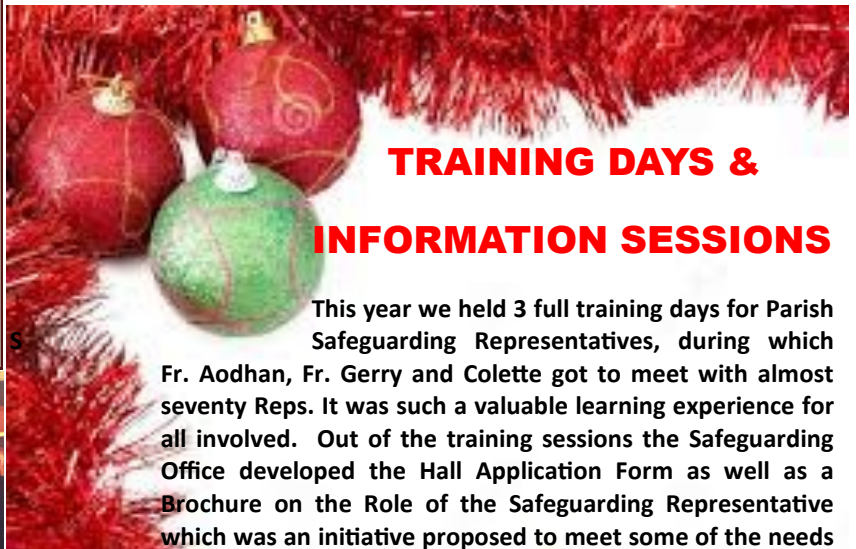
Local Safeguarding
Representatives: There are currently 105
LSR's throughout the
Diocese of Ferns. Details
on www.ferns.ie

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!!

We are almost at the end of 2014 and as always, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on the work of the last year and share with you some of the plans we have for 2015.



It has been a very busy and fruitful year and I have been blessed to work with a hardworking team, ever available to help and support in all areas of safeguarding. This year we had some wonderful occasions to meet and celebrate the joy of safeguarding our Diocese. In this Newsletter, I hope to demonstrate the valuable work that continues to take place in living out the Gospel message in ensuring the safety and well-being of those 'little ones' whom the Lord sets before us as those to whom the 'kingdom of God belongs'.



TRAINING DAYS & INFORMATION SESSIONS

This year we held 3 full training days for Parish Safeguarding Representatives, during which Fr. Aodhan, Fr. Gerry and Colette got to meet with almost seventy Reps. It was such a valuable learning experience for all involved. Out of the training sessions the Safeguarding Office developed the Hall Application Form as well as a Brochure on the Role of the Safeguarding Representative which was an initiative proposed to meet some of the needs of the Rep. We also held 3 Information Sessions in local parishes as well as training the new helpers for the Lourdes Pilgrimage.



(Left to right) Bishop Denis Brennan, Noelle Cascadden; Mother General of the Loretto Order, Sr. Helen O'Riordan and Papal Nuncio Charles Brown.

Social Evening with Sr. Helen O'Riordan

This year saw a unique Safeguarding Event in which we gathered together socially to recognise the work of Sr. Helen O'Riordan and the work of the Parish Safeguarding Representatives. We were delighted to welcome the Papal Nuncio Charles Brown and our guest speaker on the night Ms. Breda O'Brien.



(Left to right) Una Murphy, Fr. Gerry O'Leary, Colette O'Doherty, Dervla Tierney and Fr. Richard Lawless at the Safeguarding Information Evening in St. Aidan's Parish Enniscorthy.

LAUNCH OF TOWARDS PEACE

The Diocese of Ferns were delighted to launch a new initiative called Towards Peace, a Spiritual Support Service for survivors of abuse by Church personnel. The information launch took place on Wednesday the 10th of December in the Riverside Park Hotel. The service is for those whose faith has been damaged by abuse and who wish to continue their search for meaning and for God. Towards Peace is a whole church response to feedback from survivors who have highlighted the profoundly negative impact that abuse has had on their faith. The Diocese of Ferns will continue to actively promote this service.

Contact details are as follows:

Phone 00353 (0)1 5053028/Mobile 00353 (0)86 7710533 Mon-Thurs 10.00am-1.00pm and 2.00pm-4.00pm. Email towardspeace@iecon.ie Website www.towardspeace.ie



(Left to right) Una Allen; Project Director, Bishop Denis Brennan, Sr. Mary Whyte; Project Co-Ordinator

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

I accompanied the Ferns Pilgrimage to Lourdes in May of this year where I got to witness first hand the valuable contribution of the many helpers who travel to support the invalids. In particular it was wonderful to witness the large number of youth who travelled from secondary schools throughout the Diocese.



One of those travelling as an invalid described the experience as 'a blessed one', where he was 'treated like royalty', a quote I believe encapsulates the heart of the helper. The Pilgrimage is actively seeking new helpers for their 2015 Pilgrimage which takes place from the 17th—22nd of May so if you are interested please contact:

Mr. Eamon Doran
President
087-2646410

Áine Roche
Secretary
087-9767623

The Way Forward.....2015

Training the Trainers

Next year we are looking forward to holding Safeguarding Information Sessions throughout the Diocese and to facilitate same we are hoping to train ten Local Safeguarding Representatives enabling them to deliver Information Sessions. This is a great opportunity for anyone who is interested in learning about facilitating sessions and supporting parishes. Five places have already been allocated so if you are interested please contact me by email at coletteodoherty@ferns.ie or ring me on 087-9474513.



Parish Visits

The emphasis next year is to continue visiting each Parish in order to meet with both the Safeguarding Reps and their Priests. This has always been the ideal way to discuss safeguarding from a local perspective.

Policies and Procedures

We will continue to develop policies and procedures to meet the needs of safeguarding our children and vulnerable adults. This will be done in consultation with LSRs, Clergy, Safeguarding committee and the National Office on Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church.

Finally.....

I would like to take the opportunity to thank each of you for your valuable support to the Diocese. The role of Safeguarding could not be done without each and everyone one of you. Your commitment enables joyful participation in all activities of the Church for every member of our community. May God continue to bless us in our work.

*May we come to know, that work
Which emerges from the mind of love
Will have beauty and form.*

John O'Donoghue (Benedictus)

