

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER—JANUARY 2020

INTRODUCTION

Happy New Year and welcome to the Newsletter covering 2019 and introducing 2020. The past year has been both busy and productive. Firstly, to thank you all for your ongoing work on ensuring the safety of children in the Diocese. This work is very much a team effort with every link in the Safeguarding chain being of vital importance in ensuring that we retain the very high standards that have been set within the Diocese.

A lot has happened throughout 2019 and 2020 is already beginning to look like being another busy and positive year.

Farewell and Hello again to Colette O’ Doherty

In August Colette O’Doherty left the safeguarding coordinator role following 6 years of hard work and dedication.

Thankfully Colette has not gone too far as she has taken up the role as Director of Religious Education which no doubt she will undertake with the same degree of energy and enthusiasm.

We wish Colette the best of luck in her new role.

Parish Audits

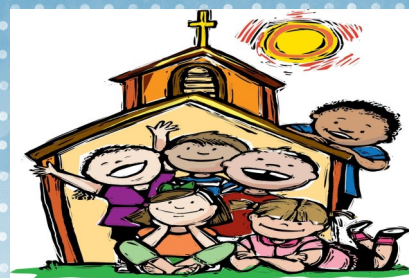
The next Parish Audits will be issued this month. The audits are a very important part of measuring how we are operating against the required National Standards. If you require some assistance with the completion of the Audit, just give a call and a suitable time can be arranged. It’s an ideal opportunity to clear up any questions around safeguarding, Garda vetting and any other questions that you might have.

I look forward to hearing from you.



Garda Vetting

The Garda National Vetting office have informed us that vetting should be renewed every 3 years for all applicants. This is a change from the previous 5 year renewal requirement.



SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Designated Person:

Marian Stack—085-1055992

marianstack@hotmail.com.

Assistant Designated Person:

V Rev Brian Broaders 053-9255122

Safeguarding Coordinator:

Mick Kavanagh 053/9174972 or

087-7185541 safeguarding@ferns.ie

Useful Numbers

Enniscorthy Gardaí 053-9242580

TUSLA 053-9233465

Gorey Gardaí 053-9430690

TUSLA 053-9430100

New Ross Gardaí 051-426030

TUSLA 051-440200

Wexford Gardaí 053-9165200

TUSLA 053-9123522 (EXT 201)

Garda Child Sex Abuse Free Phone

1800 555 222





Diocesan Safeguarding Audit

At the invitation of Bishop Brennan, the National Office for the Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church undertook an audit of the Diocese in

August 2019.

The audit was intense and comprehensive and covered all elements of the safeguarding function.

We await the final report which will be published when available.



Safeguarding Training

It is essential that all Parish Reps ensure that they have attended a training update. The requirement is to attend every 2 years.

Failure to have up to date training effectively means that you can't fulfil the role as defined within the National standards.



A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

Amen



The protection of vulnerable people

The Pope's recent letter *Vos estis lux mundi* stresses the importance of protecting minors (anyone under 18) and vulnerable people.

The definition of a "vulnerable person" is broadened to include "any person in a state of infirmity, physical or mental deficiency, or deprivation of personal liberty which, in fact, even occasionally, limits their ability to understand or to want to otherwise resist the offense".

There is an expectation that we will have structures in place to include vulnerable adults by June 2020. To this end we have commenced training with the 1st group in early December. Additional dates will be rolled out in the New Year.

Reporting Elder Abuse and Abuse of Vulnerable Persons

The HSE is the competent authority for the reporting of elder abuse and abuse of vulnerable adults. The HSE Vulnerable Persons Safeguarding Protection Team are based in Lacken, Co. Kilkenny: 056-7784325 or

Safeguarding.cho5@hse.ie.

You can also seek advice from the HSE Information Line: Monday to Saturday, 8am-8pm, Call Save 1850 24 1850 or Email info@hse.ie

