



Diocese of Ferns

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023

Greetings from the Diocesan Safeguarding Office, it's been a while since our last newsletter; please read on for the latest updates.

Training: In order to ensure that all those involved with children in our diocese are working to the same sound guidelines (as directed by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI)), we facilitate safeguarding training; a robust and interactive session, it's aim is to develop understanding of why we safeguard and how we do so, equip people with the tools they need to implement required procedures, and answer any questions that may arise, whilst getting to know others and learn from each other's experiences.

We have 6 trainers in our diocese and over the last 12 months we have delivered 15 safeguarding training sessions to 175 participants (clergy, religious, and parish safeguarding reps).

There is much still to do; Covid halted everything (including training), but we are getting back on track, which is great now that parishes are welcoming back choirs, altar servers, and other parish activities.

This year, while continuing with training for clergy & reps, we will be offering short safeguarding information sessions to all

Adults at Risk/Vulnerable Adults: We are familiar with the term vulnerable adults, however ongoing discussion in the world of safeguarding recognises that all adults may be vulnerable at some point in their lives but not necessarily for the rest of their life. Whilst some vulnerabilities are noticeable, other more transient vulnerabilities may not be. Ultimately, these adults are at risk of abuse/exploitation.

This area of safeguarding is complex, and while all of our current measures can be used to protect adults who are/may be vulnerable, it is necessary to put policy and training in place, specifically for adults. This is underway but will take time.

More updates to follow.

Ferns Diocesan Website: Your one-stop-shop for all things safeguarding. The website can be accessed at www.ferns.ie. Once you click on the safeguarding tab, you will find information and forms for downloading & printing, on topics such as garda vetting, parish safeguarding reps, policy & guidance, brochures, safeguarding committee, support services and phone numbers etc.

Updates are ongoing—if you have a suggestion, please call Emma on 053 917 4972

Reminders for Parish Safeguarding Reps & Parish Staff/Volunteers: All staff/volunteers who supervise, work with, or interact with children/vulnerable adults as part of their role in the parish, must apply for garda vetting every 3 years.

Staff/Volunteers are not permitted to carry out duties until a vetting disclosure has been issued.

Risk Assessments must be undertaken for all parish activities involving children/vulnerable adults. All parishes/reps have received forms for completion. Risk Assessments are to be stored securely in parish files and sent to the safeguarding office on request. If you require assistance please call Emma on 053 917 4972

Parish Visits are intended to help form good working relationships and be a source of support to priests, safeguarding reps and parish volunteers; Emma is waiting on your invitation and would like you to know that she prefers coffee to tea...

See overleaf for details of diocesan safeguarding personnel, but meanwhile...

Are you interested in volunteering? Would you like to be involved in safeguarding in your parish community? If you think you might be inclined or have any questions to ask, please chat to your priest, parish safeguarding rep, or call Emma on 053 917 4972.



Diocese of Ferns

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023

Who are we?



Director of Safeguarding: Emma Fitzgerald

For all safeguarding enquiries or if you wish to raise a matter from the past, please get in touch.

Email: safeguarding@ferns.ie

Tel. 053 917 4972

For out-of-hours concerns/reporting/disclosures/urgent matters please call Emma on 087 718 5541

Emma is the Designated Liaison Person for the Diocese of Ferns.

If Emma is on leave when you call, please leave a message to have your call returned.

Alternatively, please contact Rev. Brian Broaders, assistant Designated Liaison Person on 053 925 5122



Safeguarding Committee: Rev. Brian Broaders, Dervla Tierney (Chair), Eileen Neville, Eilis Teal, and Rev. Aodhán Marken (not pictured) sit on the committee to discuss, monitor, evaluate, and advise on safeguarding matters in the diocese.



Trainers: Rev. Aodhán Marken, Emma Fitzgerald, Lisa Delaney, Dervla Tierney, Rev. Gerald O'Leary & Colette O'Doherty.



Towards Healing offer a professional counselling service to survivors of clerical/religious abuse
Freephone 1800 303 416



Safe spaces to connect with your own spirituality, with your sense of God and your journey
Towards Peace
Ms. Una Allen, Coordinator
Phone: + 353 (0) 1 5053028 Mobile: + 353 (0) 86 7710533