

Parish Newsletter



We would invite you to use the above Safeguarding Children Logo in your Parish Newsletters on a regular basis.

Feedback

The Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora value feedback from members of the clergy, staff, volunteers, parents, young people and children on the Safeguarding Children and Young People Diocesan Policy.

Kevin Duffy,
Director of Safeguarding,
Galway Diocesan Pastoral Centre,
Newtownsmith, Galway.

Phone: 087-6141736 Email: duffykf57@gmail.com



Diocese of Galway
 Kilmacduagh & Kilfenora

Deoise na Gaillimhe
Chill Mac Duach agus
Chill Fhionnúrach

Diocesan Newsletter 2014



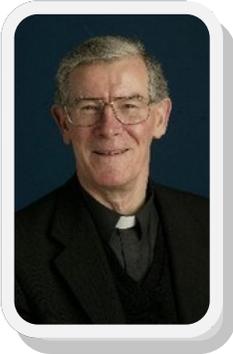
Diocesan Child Safeguarding Prayer

*God, our Father,
 in honouring our baptismal call
 to nurture the young,
 we thank you for the gift of life,
 especially in your children.
 May we always treasure your Image in them.*

*Bless all who work with children.
 Guide us in our desire
 to establish best practice
 in our parish communities,
 so that young & old may
 be a reflection of your loving care.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



From Bishop Drennan's Desk



The Catholic Church in Ireland has responded in three ways to the sexual abuse crisis. It put in place the **TOWARDS HEALING PROGRAMME** to provide a professional counselling service for those who were abused by Church Personnel. In 2013 over 131,000 counselling hours were given. Feedback has been very positive.

The **TOWARDS PEACE INITIATIVE** has been launched. The launch for the West was in Knock on June 3rd. The service will give support and guidance for those whose faith was damaged by their experience of abuse.

The **NATIONAL BOARD**, whose office is located in Maynooth, has developed **GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFEGUARDING** of children.

Useful Websites

www.galwaydiocese.ie/child-protection

www.safeguarding.ie

www.tusla.ie

www.towardshealing.ie

www.towardspeace.ie



Useful Contact Details

Diocesan Safeguarding Children Office

Phone: 091-575051

Email: galwaydiocesecpo@eircom.net

Director of Safeguarding

Phone: 091-575053

087-6141736

Email: duffykf57@gmail.com



Western Diocese Vetting Office

Phone: 091-575051

Email: wpvs@eircom.net

Diocesan Liaison Persons

If you have a child safeguarding concern or wish to report an allegation of child abuse please contact one of our Diocesan Liaison Persons who are responsible for receiving/managing concerns and complaints relating to safeguarding children that involve church personnel.

Their names and contact details are as follows:



Mrs. Eileen Kelly

Diocesan Pastoral Centre

085-1112660

Mr. Kevin Duffy (Deputy)

Diocesan Pastoral Centre

085-7748324



If you wish to report directly to the statutory authorities please contact either your local Child Protection and Welfare Services at **www.tusla.ie**

Galway: 091-546370/546366

Clare: 065-6863907

Mayo: 094 90 42284/42283

or An Garda Síochána at 1800 666111, through the emergency no. 999 or your local Garda station.

It provides training, monitors new developments and updates policies in light of changing circumstances. Our diocesan policies reflect those prepared by the National Board and relate them to our situation.

Use of the internet is an increasing cause for concern because of the numerous websites that have pornographic content. Sexual predators are expert at manipulation. Parents ought to be alert to the risks of their children being exploited when there is unlimited access to internet. To support them this diocese intends to develop a policy on the safe use of the internet. The writing of the policy is work in progress right now. This policy will compliment the policies of the use of webcam and photography already in place.

Thank you for your cooperation. I look forward to your ongoing support.

Bishop Martin



From the Director of Safeguarding: Mr. Kevin Duffy

Twelve months ago the Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh & Kilfenora underwent an audit by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) and following their recommendations this Diocese has made every endeavour to ensure the successful implementation of these proposals. This led to the enhancement of the existing safeguarding policies surrounding Children and Young People and also allowed for the introduction of new more robust procedures in order to keep abreast of ever changing developments, particularly in the area of electronic equipment and communication.

As the world we live in is never static the Diocese has introduced dynamic new policies and procedures relating to the use of Webcams and Photography within our parishes. These policies will provide greater clarity on the use of such equipment and will also provide safeguards for Children and Young People taking part in church related activities.

Training in Child Safeguarding Practice

At our last training in January 2014 a **total of 22 people** were presented with the newly revised Child Safeguarding training course designed by the National Board for Safeguarding Children.

We noticed from the returned parish audits that there have been a number of changes in safeguarding personnel at parish level. We would strongly encourage new members of parish safeguarding teams to avail of our next training due to take place in the **Diocesan Pastoral Centre on November 15th 2014.**

***Please contact Ita O'Mahony to reserve your place
(091-575051)***

NBSCCCI appoints new CEO

The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland has appointed Teresa Devlin as its new Chief Executive Officer. Mrs Devlin has been with the NBSCCCI since August 2008 and most recently had been filling the role of interim CEO. Prior to that she was the Director of Safeguarding with the National Board.



We have a very good working relationship with Teresa in the Galway Diocese and have sought her advice on many occasions. We look forward to working with her in the future.

We wish her every success and God's Blessings in her new role.

Safeguarding Children & Young People Conference - 11th October 2014

We are pleased to announce our 5th annual conference will be held on **October 11th 2014** in the **Menlo Park Hotel**.

All priests and local safeguarding reps are invited to attend.

Registration begins at 9.30am and the format of the day will include a key-note speaker followed by a plenary session.

Lunch will be provided at 1.30pm.

Any queries or questions regarding our Safeguarding Children Practices should be sent *in advance of the conference* to the office of Child Safeguarding.

Contact **Ita at the Safeguarding Children Office on 091-575051 before September 15th to reserve your place.**



They will also ensure compliance with existing Data Protection Legislation.

Concurrent to this we are also drafting a policy on the safe use of the internet within our parishes and clubs. This is an area of great importance for the protection of Children and Young People as advancement in the technological sphere comes with inherent dangers such as 'Child Abuse Material'. It is paramount that we are vigilant and aware of these threats in order to protect our Children and Young People from the risk of exploitation or sexual abuse which may be perpetrated against them.

I am confident that, through education and awareness, this Diocese will continue to strive towards best practice in the field of Child Protection through the successful development and establishment of relevant policies to safeguard our Children and Young People.



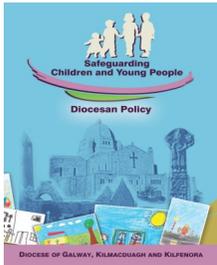
Diocesan Safeguarding Committee

Chairperson: Mr. Martin Mulroy

Secretary: Mrs. Mary Smith

Fr. David Cribbin, Sr. Aileen Murphy, Ms. Mary O'Byrne

The Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora is committed to best practice in safeguarding children and making its ***Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures*** widely known and understood.



In response to the NBSCCI Audit the Committee developed a communication plan which is on our website.

Our communications plan will include making available the latest edition of the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy, updated training, newsletters, resource publications and the Annual Conference.

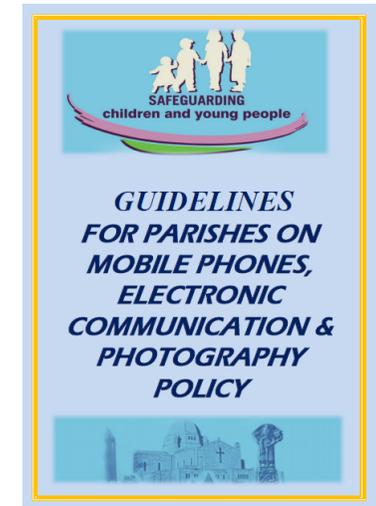
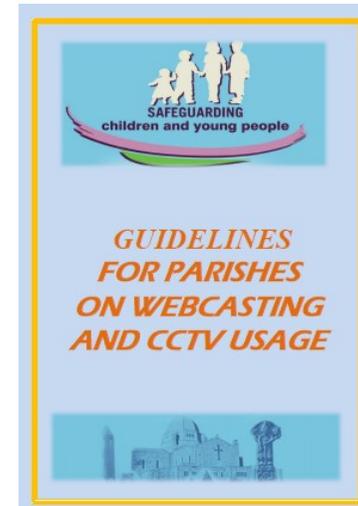
Having reviewed the Parish Annual Audit Forms for 2013 we commend you for the best practice that is already in place and agreeing to abide by the code of conduct outlined in the ***Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures***.

Pending new legislative and administrative changes over the summer months, An Garda Síochána is introducing a revised vetting application form which must be used for all future applications. Our Diocesan Vetting administrator, Ita O'Mahony, will post the revised Vetting Application on our website as soon as it becomes available.



Our latest publications are now available on
www.galwaydiocese.ie

We hope that they will serve as a great asset to you in maintaining the diocesan child safeguarding standards. Please contact Ita on ***091-575051 with any further queries.***



All publications available from the
Diocesan Safeguarding Children Office