



Autumn 2022 Newsletter



REVIEW OF SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE

The Diocese of Raphoe has invited the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland to conduct a review of safeguarding practice. This review is due to commence Monday 5th December to Wednesday 7th December 2022.

Invitation

If you have any views about Safeguarding in Diocese of Raphoe, we invite you to come forward to Teresa Devlin, Chief Executive Officer, National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland, prior to the review dates.

Teresa can be contacted on: **Tel:** 01 5053124 or alternatively by **email:** teresadevlin@safeguarding.ie.

Who are the Safeguarding Team?

Safeguarding Committee :

Brid Carlin (Chair),
Ciaran McGuire (Vice-Chair),
Margaret Northage (Secretary),
Cathal Quinn,
Barry Ramsay,
Fr. Gerard Cunningham,
Alfie McHale,
Patricia Slevin.

Training Co-ordinator: Margaret Northage

Trainers: Patricia Slevin & Barry Ramsay

Designated Liaison Person: Margaret Northage

To Report Abuse: Tel: 086 2183 011

Contact Details:

Tel: 074 9125669

E-mail: safeguarding@raphoediocese.ie



TOWARDS HEALING is an independent organisation providing free professional support for people who have experienced institutional, clerical or religious abuse in Ireland. Towards Healing offers counselling and other support services, appropriate to the person's needs, in a manner which is safe, respectful and of the highest quality. It is staffed by professional lay people. The service is funded by the Irish Episcopal Conference, the Conference of Religious in Ireland and the Irish Missionary Union (IMU).

Freephone **1800 03 416**: Text Line **085 8022859**
(for those with hearing impairment)

E-mail: info@towardshealing.ie

The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012-2016, which came into effect on 29 April 2016, makes it **mandatory** for people working with *Children or Adults at Risk* to be vetted by the Garda Síochána National Vetting Bureau. All diocesan personnel, clergy, paid workers and volunteers who have regular access to *Children or Adults at Risk* must undergo Garda Vetting. ***This is the law.***

Due to Covid-19, any staff/volunteer who have been out of post for more than one year, now require re-vetting.

For information on Who Needs Vetting?

Please see: www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/forms.



RE-VETTING FOR ALL OTHER CLERGY STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Church in Ireland now recommend re-vetting every **3 years**

Safeguarding Children in the Diocese of Raphoe

SACRISTY REGISTERS sometimes referred to as Sacristy Sign-In Books are a record of attendance in the Sacristy before and after liturgical services. They could, for example, record the presence of the Priest, Deacon, Altar Servers, Sacristan and others. They should not include those whose presence is accidental such as a Parishioner/Visitor having a private word with the Priest or those collecting items required for the liturgical celebration. The use of a hard-backed book is preferable to loose sheets the register is a semi-permanent record.

Visiting Clergy should always be asked to produce a celebret before celebrating Mass or other Sacraments. This is to ensure that the Priest is of good standing and that there is nothing that would preclude him from exercising ministry. The presence of the Sacristy Register and the time taken to fill it in is also a reminder to those present of the priority given to Safeguarding in the Parishes of the Raphoe Diocese.

The Safety of all Children Matters to us. How do we safeguard children in the Diocese of Raphoe?

- We have robust Policy and Procedures in place (please see www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding),
- A Child Safeguarding Statement is in place which is compliant with the requirement of Children First legislation and has been verified by Tusla's Compliance Unit, (please ask for a copy),
- All clergy, staff and volunteers working with children must attend Safeguarding Children Training,
- All clergy, staff and volunteers must undergo garda vetting,
- Safe Recruitment procedures are in place,
- Parental Consent must be obtained,
- There is a Code of Behaviour for Adults working with Children,
- Supervision ratios must be adhered to by Leaders,
- Child friendly posters are on display,
- Information is made available to parents/guardian should they have a concern,
- Each parish has at least 2 Safeguarding Parish Representatives who work with their Parish Priest to ensure best practice is in safeguarding,
- All child protection concerns are reported to the statutory authorities without delay and we will fully cooperate with any garda investigations.



Have faith-based activities involving children resumed in your Parish yet post-Covid?

If the answer is 'YES!' then please ensure everyone involved is up to date with Safeguarding Training and Garda Vetting. Please also refer to the Safeguarding Section of the Raphoe Diocesan Website for information regarding procedures that need to be in place. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact the Safeguarding Office.

Tel: 074 9125669 **E-mail:** safeguarding@raphoediocese.ie



To the people of Creeslough...



We extend our deepest sympathies to you, the people of Creeslough who have lost loved ones in the recent tragic accident. We would like to assure you of our prayers for the deceased and for those injured and for all in your community who have been impacted in any way by this tragedy.

May the deceased Rest in Peace - Suaimhneas síoraí don duine nach maireann