



## Prayer for Victims of Abuse



Heavenly Father, who loves and cares for all of your children, especially the smallest and most vulnerable, we entrust to you the lives of the many children and vulnerable adults, who have been sexually abused, and whose trust and innocence have been destroyed. Help us to hear their cries of pain and to take responsibility for so many broken lives.

We pray that within their communities and families they may find understanding and support so that with the help of your grace their wounds may be healed, and they may again know peace.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who shared our weakness in all things but sin, and lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit forever and ever.  
Amen.



## Spring Newsletter 2020



*Bishop Alan McGuckian, SJ.*

The pain and suffering of child abuse continues to live amongst the people of our Diocese. It is not something that belongs in the past but a hurt that survivors and those close to them carry in their hearts everyday of their lives. Speaking the truth after being abused takes incredible courage and strength. I welcome anyone who has been abused

to come forward to meet with me or our Designated Liaison Person, Margaret Northage, tel: 086 2183011.

**Garda National Protective Services Bureau** – 01 6663430/6663435  
**Tusla** (Child & Family Agency) – 074 9123672/9123770

**In an emergency, contact- Letterkenny Garda Station:** 074 9167100

**Towards Healing** offer free counselling and other support services, appropriate to your needs, in a timely manner which are safe, respectful, and of the highest quality.

**Freephone:** 1800 03416 **Email:** [info@towardshealing.ie](mailto:info@towardshealing.ie)

### **Mass of Atonement – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020, at 10.00am, St. Eunan's Cathedral, Letterkenny.**

Pope Francis has dedicated a Worldwide Day of Prayer for Survivors of Sexual Abuse. The First Friday of Lent has been chosen by the Irish Bishops' Conference to mark this annual day of prayer. It is also a day to pray for healing for both the survivors and their families and for the larger family of the Catholic Church.

### **Mass for Staff/Volunteers in our Diocese – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 at 7.30pm, St Eunan's Cathedral, Letterkenny.**

This Mass is to say "THANK YOU" to every single person who gives so generously of their time to support the work of the Church within parishes. Without your support and commitment we would struggle to do the work of Jesus. You are his disciples in our diocese. ALL WELCOME.

## Guidance on the Use of Photography



The Church only has responsibility for safeguarding and the use of photography if it plans to use the photographs for Church purposes. Photographs taken at events organised by family and schools such as Communion, weddings or Confirmations (including when the photographer is employed by the school or family for these occasions) do not fall under the responsibility of the Church, unless they are being taken for Church purposes. If parents/guardians and parishioners are intending to photograph or video at an organised event, they should also be made aware of what is permitted and what is not.

Further information is available at: [www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/forms-policies/](http://www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/forms-policies/) or go direct to [www.safeguarding.ie](http://www.safeguarding.ie) Standard 1 pdf pages 112/113.

## Review of Safeguarding Practice

In order to ensure that we meet the best possible practice of safeguarding in our Diocese, I intend inviting the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church (NBSCCCI) to undertake an audit of the Diocese. I envisage this will take place sometime this year. This will involve a team of independent auditors examining all aspects of diocesan involvement with children and looking at how we respond to safeguarding issues.



## Garda Vetting – and remember re-vetting is every 3 years

It is **unlawful** for anyone to enable or permit any person to be engaged in relevant activities with children or vulnerable persons without their being subject to Garda Vetting. Do not assume that others have made the necessary arrangement.



If you cannot remember when you were last vetted, you are certainly due re-vetting. Please contact the Safeguarding Office on 074 91 25669 or to download a Vetting Invitation Form go to:

[www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/forms-policies](http://www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/forms-policies)

## Visiting Clergy

The Diocese of Raphoe warmly welcomes all visiting Clergy wishing to take part in public ministry. Bishops, Priests and Deacons are required, on request, to produce a valid Celebret. Anyone arranging or facilitating a visiting priest to be involved in public ministry must ensure that the visiting priest:

- ◆ Has permission to be involved in such ministry from the Bishop
- ◆ Is Garda Vetted
- ◆ Has attended Safeguarding Training
- ◆ Holds a valid Celebret



## Safeguarding Training

Over 200 people participated in Safeguarding Training last year. This shows the commitment of volunteers within our diocese to keep children safe. If your parish requires an update on training, please call Margaret on 074 91 25669 to arrange a suitable date.

# Remember the welfare of the child is paramount.

**OUR NEW WEBSITE** - for all up-to-date information on safeguarding guidance & forms go to:



[www.raphoediocese.ie](http://www.raphoediocese.ie)

Please ensure that you have the current version of the Policy Poster on display.



For further information on safeguarding, please contact Margaret Northage, Safeguarding Office, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Letterkenny: Tel: 074 91 25669 E-mail: [raphoesafeguarding@gmail.com](mailto:raphoesafeguarding@gmail.com)