



Prayer during Covid-19

O Mary,
 You shine continuously on our journey
 as a sign of salvation and hope.
 We entrust ourselves to you, Health of
 the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross,
 were united with Jesus' suffering,
 and persevered in your faith.
 "Protectress of the Roman people",
 you know our needs,
 and we know that you will provide,
 so that, as at Cana in Galilee,
 joy and celebration may return
 after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
 to conform ourselves to the will of the
 Father and to do what Jesus tells us.
 For he took upon himself our suffering,
 and burdened himself with our sorrows
 to bring us, through the cross,
 to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We fly to your protection,
 O Holy Mother of God;
 Do not despise our petitions in our
 necessities, but deliver us always
 from every danger, O Glorious and
 Blessed Virgin.



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

In the Diocese of Raphoe

NEWSLETTER 2021



Welcoming back children



We would encourage parishes to resume engagement with children in child-based activity e.g. altar servers & children's choir in line with guidance on mask wearing, hand sanitizing and social distancing. Decisions around this can be taken at local level.

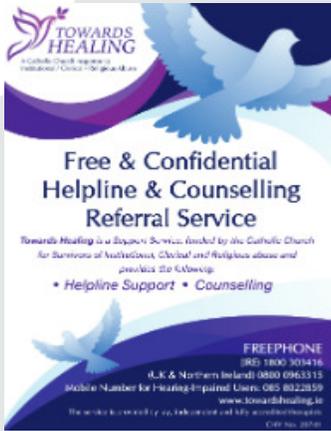


Safeguarding Training is available to any parish, group or community who require updating or have recently recruited new volunteers working with children. For further information, please contact: Margaret on 074 91 25669.



Parish Audits 2021 The National Board for Safeguarding Children has advised dioceses that parish audits are to resume this year. We appreciate that there has been very little engagement with children/young people but would encourage you to use the parish audit as a tool for reminding you of what needs to be place for whenever we can resume in normal activity. **The return date for 2021 Audits is 31st January 2022.**

*THANK YOU to all our clergy, staff & volunteers for your commitment to keeping children safe in our diocese.
 Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.
 Dziękuję wam wszystkim*



Please ensure you have the above poster on display.



Message from our Bishop

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.

Margaret Northage: 086 2183011

You can contact the gardaí directly at:

Garda National Protective Services Bureau – 01 6663430/6663435
Tusla – 074 9123672/9123770

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

For free counselling service

Towards Healing offer counselling and other support services, appropriate to your needs, in a timely manner which are safe, respectful, client orientated, and of the highest quality. Freephone: 1800 03416 Email: info@towardshealing.ie

Child Safeguarding Statement CCS (Children First 2015)

It is a requirement of Tusla, that all relevant organisations engaging with children, which includes the Church, must have a CSS (Child Safeguarding Statement) on display on their noticeboard or a notice stating that they have a CSS available to view on either the parish or diocesan website www.raphoediocese.ie.

Risk Assessment

A risk assessment is **an exercise where the organisation examines all aspects of its service from a safeguarding perspective**, to establish whether there are any practices or features of the service that have the potential to put children at risk. Risk assessments should be reviewed **periodically as the operating environment changes** (for example, in response to changes in COVID-19 cases or changes to public health orders) or when new information on workplace risks becomes available.

Risk assessments are to be carried out at parish level for any activity involving children. A copy of the standard template [1.8A Template 1- Hazard Assessment Form.doc](#) is available on the diocesan website at www.raphoediocese.ie.



The Church's Policy Statement above must be clearly on display in all churches too.

