

# Autumn Newsletter

## 2023



**Pope Francis**

### Prayer for Victims of Abuse

God of endless love, every caring, ever strong, always present, always just: You gave your only Son to save us by his blood on the cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace, join to your own suffering the pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind and spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters who have been gravely harmed, and the cries of those who love them. Soothe their restless hearts with hope, steady their shaken spirits with faith.

Grant them justice for their cause, enlightened by your truth. Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and transform brokenness into wholeness. Grant us the courage, wisdom, humility and grace, to act with justice.

Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.

Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

## REVIEW OF SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE



In December 2022, Bishop Alan invited the National Board for Safeguarding Children to conduct a review of safeguarding practice within the Diocese. Two independent Reviewers were appointed. They spent 3 days (5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> December) examining case files from the date of the last review in August 2010 to current date. They visited two parishes and spoke with clergy, sacristans and parish reps. They also met with staff working in youth ministry (NET Ministries), Lourdes Pilgrimage Office staff, Rainbows Co-ordinator, Children of the Eucharist Leaders and the Counselling Co-ordinator at the Pastoral Centre. They spoke with representatives from an Garda Síochána and Túsla, along with our Safeguarding Committee and Trainers. The Reviewers were satisfied that the Diocese meets with all Seven Standards of Safeguarding. Our sincere thanks to all those who participated in the Review and to all who ensure best practice continues to be paramount when working with children/young people and vulnerable adults in our diocese.

The Review Report can be viewed at:

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

## HOW TO REPORT A CONCERN



If you have a suspicion or concern that a child is at risk of abuse, you must act on it immediately by reporting the matter to the Designated Liaison Person. The DLP is the person appointed by the bishop to receive child safeguarding concerns and to pass this information on to the Gardaí and Túsla.

### Contact Details:

**DLP:** Margaret Northage: Mobile 086 218 3011

**Gardaí:** National Protective Services Bureau: via email: [GNPSB\\_SCMU@garda.ie](mailto:GNPSB_SCMU@garda.ie) or Tel: 01 666 3430  
Letterkenny Garda Station: 074 91 67100

**Túsla:** 074 91 02233

# Safeguarding Children in the Diocese of Raphoe



**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. Garda Vetting is also part of this process. 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.



**Safeguarding Training** is available to any parish, group or community who require updating or who have recently engaged in youth ministry, altar servers, children's liturgy or choir.

**Tel:** 074 9125669 **E-mail:** [safeguarding@raphoediocese.ie](mailto:safeguarding@raphoediocese.ie)



**Parish Self-Audit should be completed and returned to the Safeguarding Office by 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

## **Teresa Devlin, C.E.O. National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church due to retire in 2024**



Teresa has worked with the National Board since 2009 and took up the post as CEO in February 2014. During this time, she has made a significant contribution to ensuring that the Church is a safe place for all children by putting in place robust child safeguarding measures. With the history of abuse in the Diocese of Raphoe, we would like to acknowledge Teresa for the advice and support given to both Bishop Boyce and Bishop Mc Guckian along with their DLPs. Teresa has been appointed by Pope Francis to the Catholic Church's Commission for the Protection of Children, we wish her well on this new appointment and have no doubt that she will continue to enrich the Church with her care and compassion for this work.



## **Meet Brian O'Driscoll, Director of Pastoral Renewal**

Brian is currently employed as Director of Pastoral Renewal for the Diocese of Raphoe and has been in the role for a year now. It is the responsibility of the Director of Pastoral Renewal to implement the Diocesan Pastoral Plan to the fullest extent taking into consideration its timeline and the many pastoral initiatives already ongoing in the Diocese. Brian is originally from Cork and is married to Lana who is from Belfast. They have five young children. Brian has always been involved in the Catholic Church in Ireland, primarily in the area of youth ministry. The role of Director of Pastoral Renewal is a very challenging one but most rewarding at the same time.



Our Policy Poster is now available in Ukrainian, please contact the Safeguarding Office for A3 sized copy.

The Safeguarding Policy & Procedures of the Catholic Church in Ireland are currently being updated and will be available in early 2024.