



Raphoe Diocesan Safeguarding Committee
ANNUAL REPORT 2017 & 2018

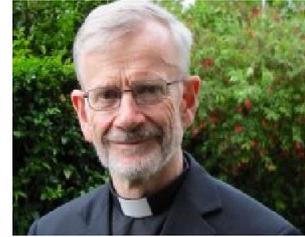
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FOREWORD - BISHOP ALAN MC GUCKIAN, SJ.



There is probably nothing more important to us as a community than the wellbeing and safety of our children. For that reason, we place huge value on the work of Safeguarding.

The annual report of the work of Safeguarding helps underline our commitment as a diocese to children and vulnerable adults and seeks to acknowledge the fine work that so many people do. And so, I happily present our Annual Report for 2017 to 2018 on Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults throughout our Diocese.

I thank all the members of the Safeguarding Committee who give so generously of their time with each person bringing their own area of expertise along with a commitment to ensuring best practice in keeping children safe.

I thank the many volunteers in each parish including our clergy sincerely for their time and commitment to this important work. Even the smallest act, like a drop of water will make ripples throughout the pond. With your support we can encourage the participation of children in church activities and, in doing so, promote faith for the next generation.

I would also like to thank the Safeguarding Trainers who travel throughout the diocese delivering safeguarding awareness training. I pay tribute to Sr. Mary O'Donovan and John Kennedy who have retired as trainers and committee members. In 2005, Sr. Mary and John were appointed Diocesan Safeguarding Trainers and from then onwards have worked tirelessly in promoting best practice. The diocese is indebted to them for their great work.

In 2018, John Murphy stood down from the committee having given many years of service. John was also the Garda Vetting Liaison Person responsible for garda vetting of all clergy, staff and volunteers within the diocese. John gave endless hours of time to the processing of applications,

sometimes sitting to the early hours of the morning to get applications completed on time. My sincere thanks and best wishes to John.

I also take this opportunity to thank our former Designated Liaison Persons, Kathleen Gallagher and Paddy Mc Daid for their years of devoted service and support to both Bishop Boyce and more recently to me.

Towards the end of last year, we welcomed two new committee members, Joe Conroy and Patricia Slevin. Patricia is the Principal in Woodlands School and Joe is the Manager of the Diocesan Pastoral Centre & Ards Friary. Finally, Margaret Northage has agreed to take on the role of Designated Liaison Person on top of the other services she already provides. Her service to me and to the diocese is invaluable.

Bail ó Dfa ar an obair agus ar gach aon dune atá páirteach inti.

+ Alan McGuckian S.T.S.

+ Alan McGuckian, S.J., Bishop of Raphoe



CHAIR'S ADDRESS - BRÍD CARLIN



This Report outlines the work of the Raphoe Diocesan Safeguarding Committee for the years 2017 and 2018. The Committee has reviewed the standards and procedures set and recommended by the National Board and has explored how these can be best implemented in the Diocese and how Parishes and personnel can be supported in that vital work.

The committee acknowledges the support of Bishop Alan who is always at hand to assist by way of advice and attends the meetings. We also acknowledge and appreciate the help and advice from the National Board.

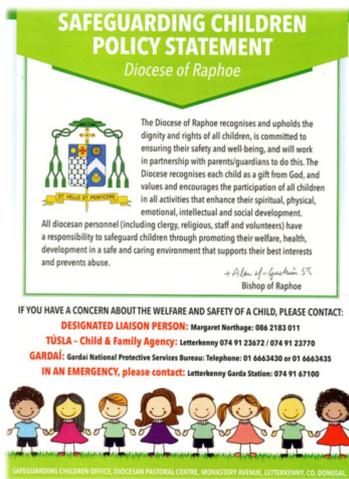
As Bishop Alan alluded to in his Foreword, nothing is more important to a community than the wellbeing and safety of children. No one can afford to become complacent in this vital work and together we can sustain a safe and strong faith community for all its members.

Safeguarding of Children is Paramount

UPDATES & PRACTICE ISSUES

NEW POLICY STATEMENT

The Policy Statement has been updated to reflect recent changes in personnel. It is important to ensure that you have the newest version on display. It is also available in Irish and Polish. All other posters i.e. Altar Servers, Children's Liturgy, Children's Choir along with information leaflets have been updated accordingly. Copies are available from the Safeguarding Children Office.



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

POLICY & PROCEDURES

The 2014 Policy & Procedures and Booklet has now been replaced with a direct link the National Board's website. This gives you access to the most updated procedures and guidance. Each Standard is displayed separately. By scrolling over the Standard, you will be able to access all guidance and relevant forms associated with each standard.

GARDA VETTING

The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 provide a statutory basis for mandatory vetting of persons whose work brings them into contact with children and/or vulnerable adults. Within parishes, all clergy, sacristans, children's liturgy leader, children's choir leaders, altar server leaders and all those who work with children must undergo garda vetting. The re-vetting period has changed from 5 to 3 years in line with the guidance of the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church.

Re-vetting is every 3 years.

STANDARD 1

Creating & Maintaining Safe Environments - Practice Issues

Visiting Clerics or Visiting Persons in Any Form of Consecrated Life Ministering at Shrines, National Shrines and International Shrines.

Definitions: A Shrine is a Catholic church or other sacred place which with the approval of the local ordinary is by reason of special devotion frequented by the faithful as pilgrims (Canon 1230). To be considered a National Shrine the approval of the National Irish Episcopal Conference is necessary. For it to be described as International, the approval of the Holy See is necessary (Canon 1231).

For Visiting Clerics or those in any form of consecrated life, ministering in Shrines and National Shrines in Ireland

prior to the visit, where there is an intention to engage in public ministry, all visiting clerics and those in any form of consecrated life must follow Guidance 1.1C.

In particular:

- If the visiting cleric is ministering at a one-off event which is not considered a regulated activity, he must provide his celebret for inspection by the parish priest or duly delegated person and this should be noted beside the visitor's signature in the register.
- If the ministry is for a short-term basis, the visiting cleric must follow the requirements set out in Guidance 1.1C. If the ministry is being carried out by a non-ordained religious, then the guidance outlined in Guidance 1.1C must be followed.

1.1C Template 4: Approval for Ministry

Dear _____ (insert name of applicant),

I wish to confirm that you are authorised to minister in _____ (insert name of Church body) as follows:

In _____ (insert location)

Duration _____ (insert start and end date)

Type of ministry _____ (insert specified ministry)

I will retain a copy of this letter, and a copy has been forwarded to your own local superior/parish priest and to the local superior/parish priest of the location in which you will be ministering.

With every blessing,

(Insert signature of Church authority)

Visiting Clerics celebrating or concelebrating Mass at Shrines outside Ireland

- If the Shrine is outside of Ireland all child safeguarding requirements of the organisation within which the ministry takes place must be followed, in accordance with Guidance 2.1J.
- The main celebrant must allocate responsibility for each cleric wishing to concelebrate to have their celebret cards checked to ensure they are in good standing.
- A cleric who is out of ministry due to child safeguarding concerns must not attempt to celebrate any sacrament in public while abroad.

CELEBRETS/LETTERS OF GOOD STANDING

All steps must be taken to ensure a safe and nurturing environment within the Church for children. For that reason, it is important that all those who engage in public ministry require confirmation that they are fit for that sacred task. The safeguarding of children within the Irish Catholic Church is of critical importance. All clerics who wish to minister in a Church which is not their own Church must show their celebret or letter of good standing; if this is not available, the cleric cannot be allowed to minister in public.

Reporting child protection suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations to An Garda Síochána

An Garda Síochána have clarified with the NBSCCCI that the telephone number of the Gardai National Protective Services Bureau (01 6663430 or 01 6663435) *should only be used when referring allegations against clerics or religious*. This number is on all new Policy Posters. If the allegation is related to a lay member of Church personnel or the allegation is about someone who is not a member of Church personnel, then the local Garda station number should be used.



Frequently Asked Questions in 2017 & 2018?

If a parent or guardian refuses to sign a media permission form, what is the position of a class photograph on days such as Holy Communion or Confirmation?

The Church body is only responsible for photographs taken for church purposes. If it is the Church body organising the photograph and using it, then this situation is best dealt with by the member of Church personnel responsible of the children; ultimately the photograph cannot be taken without parental permission. In practice, what often happens is that the member of Church personnel speaks to the parent/guardian of the children concerned and explains to them that the child will not be able to be in the photograph, and then the parent/guardian will be responsible for removing the child and ensuring that they are not disappointed because of not being in the photograph.

If the school or another group are organising the photograph or other parents, it is their responsibility to ensure that media consent is in place.

Although all Leaders in a Sunday School are vetted some parents have requested to come to look after their child, do they need vetted?

If a parent is coming just to look after solely their own child and no others then they do not require vetting. However, if they are looking after other children and they fulfil the requirements for vetting under the legislation then they must be vetted.

Are there consequences for reporting concerns that turn out to be false?

The Protection for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act (1998) specifically states that if you have reported a concern 'reasonably and good faith' you will not be liable for civil damages.

Whose responsibility is it to tell parents when a child has disclosed?

Always seek advice from the DLP and/or social services about this.

What if I am unsure if there are indicators of abuse, can I seek advice from somebody?

If you are unsure always seek advice from an appropriate person, such as the DLP or the statutory authorities. They will help advise you what to do next.

Children First Guidance and Supporting Documents 2017

Katherine Zappone, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs announced that the remaining sections of the Children First Act 2015 would commence on 11th December 2017. In addition, she launched the revised Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017. Tusla has also launched a complementary suite of supporting documents and will add to these after December 11th.

Two very important sections of the 2015 Act will, when commenced, have important implications for child safeguarding work in the Church. From 11th December 2017 the provision relating to Mandatory Reporting will become law in the Republic of Ireland; as will the requirement for organisations that have ministry with children to prepare their Child Safeguarding Statements. The National Board is reviewing its own Guidance to ensure complete clarity around these two requirements, and we will issue amended guidance in the near future.

Mandated persons are people who have contact with children and/or families and who, because of their qualifications, training and/or employment role, are in a key position to help protect children from harm. ***Within a Church context a mandated person is a member of clergy and a pastoral care worker, or someone involved in child safeguarding i.e. Designated Liaison Person.***

Mandated persons have two main legal obligations under the Children First Act 2015. These are:

1. To report to Tusla harm to children that is above a defined threshold; and
2. If requested, to assist Tusla in assessing a concern which has been the subject of a mandated report.

A Child Safeguarding Statement includes an assessment of risk of 'harm' to a child who is availing of your service, and the statement specifies the procedures in place to manage any risks so identified. ***It must be understood that the Child Safeguarding Statement does not replace the Child Safeguarding Policy, but it sits alongside it and should reference the relevant sections of the policy.*** Copies of the Children First Safeguarding Statement along with the relevant reporting forms have been sent to every parish in the diocese and are available on the diocesan website. Please contact the Safeguarding Office if you wish to receive a copy.

GDPR and Data Protection

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a European Union legal instrument ensuring the protection of individuals regarding the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data. It is designed to give citizens more control over their data by bringing laws and obligations across Europe up-to-speed for the internet-connected age. It legalises the fundamental right of every living person to control their personal information, and have it adequately protected by anyone processing and holding it.

The GDPR came into effect from 25 May 2018.

Six General Data Protection Principles

- Fairness
- Purpose limitation
- Data minimisation
- Accuracy
- Storage limitation
- Security

Personal Data

Data protection is how the privacy rights of individuals are safeguarded in relation to the processing of their personal data. Personal data is data relating to a living person who is, or can be, identified from the data, or from the data in conjunction with other information that is in, or likely to come into, the possession of the data controller (the person who controls the contents and use of the data).

The individual (data subject) has rights, including:

- To be informed about personal data held
- To access to personal data
- To rectification (of inaccurate data)
- To be forgotten (erasure)
- To restrict processing
- To data portability

The Diocese of Raphoe is currently consulting with Sytorus Data Protection Specialists to put in place a Policy on Data Protection which will be designed for parishes, the parish being the “data controller” with primary responsibility for, and a duty of care towards the personal data within its control.

World Meeting of Families, Pope Francis and Child Safeguarding

There was considerable media interest in the WMOF, and the Papal visit and it would appear their particular interest was highlighting the deficits in managing allegations that are so much part of the narrative of child safeguarding in the Catholic Church. It is easy to become disillusioned and to think that the failures in terms of inadequate responses to allegations are the full story of child safeguarding. No one was terribly interested in what has been effective in turning the tragic reality of previous management of allegations into a better reality today. Pope Francis himself commended the Irish Church for its robust norms, in his final address to the Irish Bishops. “A recurrent theme of my visit, of course, has been the Church’s need to acknowledge and remedy, with evangelical honesty and courage, past failures – grave sins – with regard to the protection of children and vulnerable adults. Among these, women who were mistreated.

In recent years, you as a body have resolutely moved forward, not only by undertaking paths of purification and reconciliation with victims and survivors of abuse, but also, with the help of the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Church in Ireland, you have set in place a stringent set of norms aimed at ensuring the safety of young persons.

In these years, all of us have had our eyes opened – painfully – to the gravity and extent of sexual abuse and the abuse of power and conscience in various social settings. In Ireland, as elsewhere, the honesty and integrity with which the Church chooses to confront this painful chapter of her history can offer an example and a warning to society as a whole. Continue on this path. Humiliation is painful, but we have been saved by the humiliation of the Son of God and this gives us courage. The wounds of Christ give us courage. I ask you, please, to be close – this is the word, “closeness” – to the Lord and to God’s people. Closeness. Do not repeat the attitudes of aloofness and clericalism that at times in your history have given the real image of an authoritarian, harsh and autocratic Church.

The message that the National Board takes from the anger and concern expressed by survivors and others during the WMOF is that we need to have a renewed vigor when responding to those who come forward with allegations.

STANDARD 5 – TRAINING.

DATE	LOCATION/GROUP/TRAINERS	NO. OF CLERGY/ RELIGIOUS	NO. OF LAY PEOPLE
	2017		
21/01/2017	St. Mary's Parish Hall, Fanavolty The group included, Parish Priest, parish workers, local schoolteachers, bus drivers, volunteers from First Holy Communion and Confirmation Programmes + Tutor from the National Board carrying out re-assessment of Trainer. Trainers: Margaret Northage & Br. Kieran Shorten, Ards.	1	15
15/02/2017	Diocesan Pastoral Centre 3 new staff members requiring training Trainer: Margaret Northage	0	3
01/03/2017	Diocesan Pastoral Centre Rainbows Facilitators, New Receptionist and Counsellor. Trainer: Margaret Northage	0	4
20/03/2017	St. Mary's Parish Hall, Convoy Parish Priest, Sacristan, Parish Reps, Choir Members and Children's Adoration Trainers: Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay	1	11
04/04/2017	Silver Tassie Hotel Lourdes Pilgrimage Clergy, Staff & Volunteers Trainer: Margaret Northage	3	65
30/04/2017	St. Mary's Parish Hall, Frosses Clergy, Choir, Sacristan, Hall Committee, Parish Reps, Foroige and SVdP. Trainers: Margaret Northage & John Kennedy	5	14
27/06/2017	Diocesan Pastoral Centre St. Eunan's Summer Camp - new volunteers Trainer: Margaret Northage	0	5
05/10/2017	St Mary's Parish Hall, Stranorlar Clergy, Parish Reps, staff and volunteers from Stranorlar and Glenfin, including teachers from local primary school who	2	35

DATE	LOCATION/GROUP/TRAINERS	NO. OF CLERGY/ RELIGIOUS	NO. OF LAY PEOPLE
	assist in preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation Trainers: Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay		
19/10/2017	St. Patrick's Parish Hall, Bruckless Clergy, Staff, Volunteers and local School Teachers preparing children for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Trainers: Sr. Mary O'Donovan & John Kennedy	1	14
26/10/2017	Diocesan Pastoral Centre Clergy, Children of the Eucharist Programme and Parish Reps Trainers: Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay	1	8
09/11/2017	Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Letterkenny Group of Pioneer members in Donegal Trainers; Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay	0	38
23/11/2017	Diocesan Pastoral Centre Clergy and Children's Liturgy Groups from Milford and Kilmacrennan Trainers: Sr. Mary O'Donovan & John Kennedy	1	19
2018			
18/04/2018	Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Letterkenny The group included Altar Server Leaders, Children of the Eucharist Programme Leaders, Parish Safeguarding Reps, Choir members and volunteers. Trainers: Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay	2	18
22/05/2018	Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Letterkenny The group were all from the Parish of Glenties and included their Parish Priest, Sacristan, Secretary and Choir members. Trainers: Sr. Mary O'Donovan & John Kennedy	1	7
25/10/2018	Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Letterkenny The group consisted of Parish Priest, 3 Sisters of Merciful Jesus, Sacristan, Choir and parish volunteers. Trainers: Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay	4	10

STANDARD 6– COMMUNICATION

Newly launched Diocesan Website - www.raphoediocese.ie

The Diocese has engaged with Web Designers, Acton, to update the website which should be launched in early 2019. New resources will be added giving users' access to a wider range of information. The Safeguarding section will include all new policies, posters, forms, etc. Below is the list of forms on the website:

- [1.1A Template 1- Recruitment and Selection Checklist.doc](#)
- [1.1A Template 2- Application Form.doc](#)
- [1.1A Template 3- Confidential Declaration Form.doc](#)
- [1.1A Template 4- Character and Personal Reference Request.doc](#)
- [1.1A Template 5- Confidentiality Declaration.doc](#)
- [1.2A Template 1- Sample Code of Behaviour for Adults.doc](#)
- [1.3A Template 1- Example Workshop on Creating a Code of Behaviour with Children.doc](#)
- [1.4A Template 1-Attendance Register for Large Groups.doc](#)
- [1.4A Template 2- Attendance Register for Sacristy.doc](#)
- [1.4A Template 3- Child and Guardian Joint Consent.doc](#)
- [1.4B Template 1- Form for Dealing with Accidents:Incidents.doc](#)
- [1.5A Template 1- Form for Use of Church Property by External Groups.doc](#)
- [1.5E Template 1- Form for Use by Lay Apostolates.doc](#)
- [1.7A Template 1- Complaints Form.doc](#)
- [1.8A Template 1- Hazard Assessment Form.doc](#)
- [1.9A Template 1- Media Permission Form.doc](#)

Annual Report for 2015 to 2016

The Annual Report for 2015 & 2015 has been distributed to all parishes and is available on the diocesan website at: www.raphoediocese.ie

Safeguarding Newsletter

A Spring Newsletter containing updates was published and circulated to all parishes in early 2018. Copies are available on the diocesan website or from the Safeguarding Children Office.

Policy Posters & Leaflets

The Policy Poster, Children's Liturgy, Children's Choir, Altar Servers' Posters have all been updated to reflect recent changes in personnel.

STANDARD 7– Implementing and Monitoring

Parish Self Audits 2016 & 2017

Parish Self Audits are carried out on an annual basis. The format of the Audit form is based on the Seven Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland together with National Guidelines. The completion of the Audit is a requirement of the National Board for all parishes throughout Ireland, North and South. The self-audit tool is a way of measuring how close your parish is to meeting the Seven Standards for keeping children safe.

The 2016 Parish Audits form part of the 2017 - 2018 Annual Report as the cut off point for returns is generally April of the following year i.e. April 2017. This gives a more accurate reflection with an average 95% compliance.

In 2017, 38 Parish Audits were returned to the Safeguarding Office. All returned audits reported good compliance with all Seven Standards and no concerns had been reported.

We wish to thank you all, our clergy and parish representative for their help and cooperation in doing so. If you require any assistance or clarification in completing your Parish Audit, please contact the Safeguarding Office, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Letterkenny on 074 91 25669.

Activity involving Children - Audit 2016

Name of Activity	No of parishes
No activity involving children (as listed below)	2
Altar Servers	32
Children's Liturgy	5
Children's Choir/Folk Choir	17
Others	6

Activity involving Children - Audit 2017

Name of Activity	No of parishes
No activity involving children (as listed below)	2
Altar Servers	28
Children's Liturgy	4
Children's Choir/Folk Choir	24
Others (Confirmation, First Holy Communion, JP II, Monthly Family Mass)	5



Analysis of 2016 Parish Self Audits.

Further Information Requested: -	No. of Requests	You will find this information: -
Guidance on Photography & Internet	3	<i>Policy & Procedures Booklet 2014</i> , pg. 48 Appendix 4
Guidance on Hiring Church Property	3	www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/forms : Form 17
Request for Updated Training –	9	Date of Training 7 Various training sessions delivered
Policy Statement	To all parishes	Policy Statement to be re-printed with newly appointed Bishop Alan's signature.
Policy Agreement Form	1	<i>Policy & Procedures Booklet 2014</i> , pg. 83
Recruitment Pack	1	<i>Policy & Procedures Booklet 2014</i> pg. 71, 73, 75, 79, 80 and 83
Guidance on Children with Specific Needs	1	www.safeguarding.ie Standard 1 1.4 F: Guidance on the Participation of Children with Specific Needs, page 71
Guidance on Visiting Clergy	1	www.safeguarding.ie Standard 1 1.1 D:Guidance on Visiting Clergy page 43
Posters & Leaflets	2	www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/forms Information Leaflets & Posters.
Code of Behaviour for Adults	3	<i>Policy & Procedures Booklet 2014</i> , Form 17 Pg. 63

Having examined all 41 audits, good compliance was noted throughout the Diocese. No concerns were reported in the returned Audits of 2016.

Analysis of 2017 Parish Self Audits.

Further Information Requested: -	No. of Requests	You will find this information: -
Guidance on photography & mobile phones	1	www.safeguarding.ie Standard 1 pdf Photography pg. 106, mobile phones (texting) pg. 104
Parental Consent Forms	1	www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/forms 1.4A Template 3- Child and Guardian Joint Consent
Request for Updated Training	14	Contact Margaret at Safeguarding Office on 074 9125669
Policy Statement & Other Posters	5	www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/forms Information Leaflets & Posters, No 1 Policy
Large Group Register	1	www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/forms 1.4A Template 1-Attendance Register for Large Groups
Garda Vetting Forms	3	www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/forms Garda Vetting Forms for Schools/Parishes
Posters & Leaflets	1	www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/forms Information Leaflets & Posters.

Having examined all 38 audits, good compliance was noted throughout the Diocese.

No concerns were reported in the returned Audits of 2017.

All the above items can be downloaded from the Diocesan website:

www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding

or the National Board's website

www.safeguarding.ie

Safeguarding Committee:

Bríd Carlin, *Chairperson*

Ciaran Maguire, *Vice Chair*

Margaret Northage, *Secretary*

Joe Conroy

Barry Ramsay

Patricia Slevin

Fr. Gerard Cunningham

Cathal Quinn

Ciaran Maguire

Childline 1800 666666 www.childline.ie

Provides a 24-hour listening service for children.

Towards Healing

1800303416 www.towardshealing.ie

Provides telephone counselling and psychotherapy referral service for people who have been abused by priests or religious.

Towards Peace www.towardspeace.ie. Offers spiritual support and guidance to survivors of abuse by Church personnel.

Diocesan Safeguarding Trainers:

Margaret Northage

Barry Ramsay

National Counselling Service (NCS)

1800 235234

This service is for adults who were abused in childhood and offers confidential face to face counselling.

Diocesan Designated Person:

Margaret Northage: 086 218 3011

Connect 1800 235235 www.connectcounselling.ie

This is a free telephone counselling service for any adult who has experienced abuse, trauma or neglect in childhood.

Garda Vetting Liaison Person & Clerk:

Margaret Northage & Bridget Conway

Samaritans 1850609090 www.samaritans.org

Diocesan Support Persons:

Moya Campbell, 074 9735309

Jim Mc Glynn, 086 722 5153

www.childprotection.ie this is the website of the Child Protection Unit in the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI).

Agencies offering advice and support:**National Board for Safeguarding Children**

New House,

Saint Patrick's College,

Maynooth,

Co.Kildare. Phone no: 01 505 3124

Fax: 01 505 3026

Website: www.safeguarding.ie

ISPCC - www.ispcc.ie

Barnardos - www.barnardos.ie

Rape Crisis Network of Ireland - www.rcni.ie

One in Four - www.oneinfour.ie

Tusla: www.tusla.ie

Tel: 074 91 23672/91 23770

Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of sexual abuse

First Friday of Lent



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.



