

Message from our Bishop

It is very important that we pray for the intentions of all those who have suffered abuse within the church and that we make atonement for the great wrong that has been done. We also recognise how difficult it is for people who have been abused to break the silence. The Diocese wants to reach out to anyone who was abused in the past. I, as Bishop of this Diocese, want to ensure that anyone who has suffered abuse will be supported and that all matters brought to the attention of the Diocese will be referred to the relevant authorities.

Who are the Safeguarding Team?

Training Co-ordinator:

Margaret Northage

Tel: 074 9125669

E-mail: raphoesafeguarding@gmail.com

Safeguarding Trainers:

Margaret Northage

Barry Ramsay

Designated Liaison Persons:

Margaret Northage (0862183011)

Garda Vetting Liaison Person:

Margaret Northage

Safeguarding Committee:

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



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



TOWARDS PEACE is a free confidential service offering spiritual support to those who have been damaged through abuse by church personnel. Support is also available for family members of those who have suffered. Phone **01 5053028/086 7710533**
E-mail: towardspeace@eircom.ie



IMPORTANT UPDATES

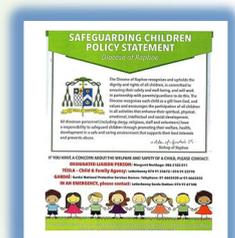
RE-VETTING

The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Church in Ireland now recommend re-vetting takes place every **3 years** and not 5 as previously advised.

New Policy Posters are now available in English, Irish and Polish. Please ensure that your church and parish hall have this most recent version on display.

New Website: The diocesan website has undergone major reconstruction and will go live shortly. You will find all safeguarding policies, procedures and forms at:

www.raphoediocese.ie



Quote from Pope Francis in Ireland: Address to the Irish Bishops, 26th August 2018

'A recurrent theme of my visit has been the Church's need to acknowledge and remedy, with honesty and courage, past failures, grave sins with regard to the protection of children and vulnerable adults. With the help of the National Board for the Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland, you have set in place a stringent set of norms aimed at ensuring the safety of young persons. In Ireland, as elsewhere, the honesty and integrity with which the Church chooses to confront this painful chapter of her history can offer example and a warning to society as a whole...Whenever you and your people feel that you are a 'little flock' facing challenges and difficulties, do not grow discouraged. As St. John of the Cross teaches us, it is in the dark night that the light of faith shines purest in our hearts.'

What to do if you have 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 Bishop/Statutory Authorities and the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church.

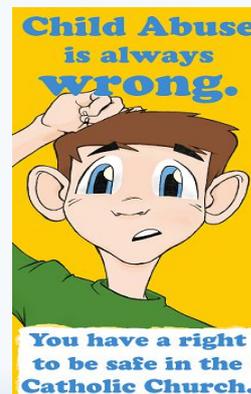
You always have the option of going straight to the Gardaí and Tusla.

Contact Details:

DLP: Margaret Northage (086 218 3011)

Gardaí National Protective Services Bureau: 01 6663430/6663435

Tusla: 074 9123672/9104714. *In an emergency*, please contact **Letterkenny Garda Station:** 074 91 67100



If you would like Safeguarding Training in your parish, please contact:

Margaret on 074 91 25669 or

email: raphoesafeguarding@gmail.com

The Diocese of Raphoe values your feedback. All feedback is greatly appreciated and evaluated in our regular review of our Safeguarding Policy documents.



And Finally

The Diocese of Raphoe's safeguarding policies and procedures are in place for many years but it is important to remain vigilant in ensuring the safety of children who participate in Church worship and activities. It is heartening to know that those who volunteer on behalf of the Catholic Church are conscious at all times of their responsibilities and also of the value of their work in growing a strong faith-based community.

May God bless us all as we continue in the work of maintaining safe environments for everyone in our Parishes.

Brid Carlin
Chair

