

Safeguarding Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP FINTAN GAVIN

Dear Friends,

I welcome this Safeguarding Newsletter in the Diocese of Cork and Ross as a way of highlighting the fact that the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is central to the life and mission of the Diocese. Earlier this year a Review of Safeguarding by the National Board for the Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland stated that the safeguarding structure in the Diocese is 'robust and effective'.

The Reviewers concluded that there is full compliance with Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards within the Diocese of Cork and Ross. I wish to thank Ms. Cleo Yates, Diocesan Director of Safeguarding, the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee members, volunteer safeguarding representatives and parish clergy who continue to be vigilant as we work together to maintain the highest safeguarding standards in parishes and the Diocese.

✠ Fintan Gavin
Bishop of Cork and Ross

Safeguarding updates

Fr. Alan O'Leary PP in Schull has been appointed to the safeguarding team as the Deputy Designated Liaison Person and a member of the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee. He will work alongside Cleo as well as continuing his ministry as parish priest in Schull.

On the safeguarding page of the diocesan website we have added a section on guidance around all aspects of Online communication. We have also written safeguarding guidance for Church Stewards. You will find all you need to know around our policies, guidance, forms,,news etc.at:
www.corkandross.org/safeguarding

MESSAGE FROM THE SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

The month of October has always been the safeguarding month in the Diocese. Normally we would be holding a safeguarding conference, sending out the yearly safeguarding parish audits, visiting parishes, training etc. However given these difficult times with Covid, things have changed and almost all our connection to the parishes is by way of online forms of communication, which brings its own challenges.

It remains important for us to continue to reassure, implement and promote the Churches safeguarding message. So we hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative.

**Autumn Issue
2020**

National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland. (NBSCCCI)

Who are they?

The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland was established in 2006 to provide best practice advice and to monitor the safeguarding of children in the Catholic Church in Ireland.

The NBSCCCI has 3 functions:

1. Advice and Support on all aspects of child safeguarding case management within the Catholic Church in Ireland
2. Development of policy, procedures and practice on all aspects of child safeguarding within the Catholic Church in Ireland
3. Monitor child safeguarding practice of constituent members within the Catholic Church in Ireland

There are seven standards that every Church body is required to meet to fulfil the child safeguarding policy statement. They are:

Standard 1. Creating and maintaining safe environments.

Standard 2. Procedures for Responding to Child Protection Suspicions, Concerns, Knowledge or Allegations.

Standard 3. Care and Support for the complainant.

Standard 4. Care and Management of the Respondent.

Standard 5. Training and support for keeping children safe.

Standard 6. Communicating the Church's safeguarding message.

Standard 7. Quality Assuring Compliance with the standards.

Pope Francis Prayer for protection from Coronavirus

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.
At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain,
with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that,
as you did at Cana of Galilee,

joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the Father's will
and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself,
and bore our sorrows to bring us,
through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.
Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test
– and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed
Virgin.



LIVING WITH OUR DEVICES IN THE NEW NORMAL

Dr. Maureen Griffin. MGMS Training

The restrictions and the lack of structure and routine in our daily lives has undoubtedly led to an increase in the use of, and reliance on, our devices. In a lot of respects our devices have been a lifeline, especially during lockdown. However, for many parents, they were/are trying to balance working from home and caring for their children, all the time concerned about the amount of screen time their children are consuming; overexposure online and how to control/monitor what their children are viewing/doing.

So how can we manage this both for ourselves and our children?

Tips for Parents:

1. Devise a *Family Media Use Plan*. The American Academy of Paediatrics <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/media/Pages/default.aspx> offers such a plan, which can be tailored for each member of the family. They also offer a *Screen Time Calculator* which can help children visually see how their days are filled and where screens fit in.
2. Control App Downloads for children at National School level in particular, but ideally all the way to 16 years. You can do this using *Family Sharing* <https://support.apple.com/en-ie/HT201060> for Apple Users or Family Link <https://families.google.com/familylink/> for Android Users or using a parental control App such as Screen Time <https://screentimelabs.com/>, which enables you to set time limits, pause the device, set web filtering, check web history, control App downloads and much more;
3. Check the Age Rating for Apps Games. *Common Sense Media* provides great reviews and age recommendations based on use experience/content. <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/> *PEGI rating for games* <https://pegi.info/>
4. Use parental controls and filters on devices your child uses and activate privacy and security settings on Apps/Sites;
5. Where possible try to limit screen use for at least an hour before bedtime and keep bedrooms screen free at night time;
6. Have regular discussions regarding our online lives and safety. Protecting our children online is a process, not a one off discussion. Fraud Smart <https://www.fraudsmart.ie/> and An Garda Síochána <https://www.garda.ie/en/Crime/Cyber-crime/> provide advice and support in relation to online fraud and crime.

*MGMS Training Limited provides psychological services in the areas of online offending and safety, working with organisations responsible for both the care and protection of children and the management of online offenders. At a preventative level, I work with schools, organisations, students, teachers and parents across Ireland providing training and guidance on online safety issues.

DIOCESEAN SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Director of Safeguarding & DLP

Cleo Yates:

- **Mobile:** 087-355 3024
- **Email:** safeguarding@corkandross.org

Deputy DLP

Fr. Alan O'Leary

Trainers:

Mary Ryder
Cleo Yates
Kate O'Connor

Chairperson for Safeguarding Committee

Fiona Meehan

**For your Parish Safeguarding Representatives,
see your parish notice board**

If you have a child protection or vulnerable adult concern
or wish to report an allegation, please contact:

TUSLA, Child & Family Agency

North Lee Community Services
Blackpool, Cork
021-492 7000

South Lee Community Services
St. Finbarr's Hospital, Cork
021-432 3001

West Cork Community Services
Skibbereen
028-40447/40456

Gardaí Síochana

National Protective Services Bureau, Harcourt Square,
Dublin. 01-666 3423



TOWARDS HEALING

Towards Healing is an independent organisation providing free professional support

for people who have experienced institutional, clerical or religious abuse in Ireland.

Their helpline is Open:
Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday & Thursday
from 11am to 8pm
and Friday from 11am to 6pm

Freephone 1800 303416
(Rep of Ireland)

Freephone 0800 0963315
(Northern Ireland and UK)

Hearing impaired Text Line
Number: 085-8022859