



# St. Patrick's Missionary Society

Kiltegan, Co Wicklow



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*Safeguarding Newsletter, District of Ireland*

Issue 1: June 2015

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**T**he words of Jesus reveal his tender and gentle attitude to children and to all those who are vulnerable. We aim to reflect this attitude of Jesus in all activities involving children, young people and vulnerable persons in St. Patrick's Missionary Society. We value and encourage the active participation of all in the life of the Church. We also endeavour to ensure that their fundamental right to be respected, cared for and protected is upheld in accordance with the teaching of the Gospel, civil legislation and the NBSCCCI Standards. This will be achieved through the development of best practice in the area of safeguarding across every aspect of life in St. Patrick's Missionary Society.

### ***Message from Pope Francis***

*"Families need to know that the Church is making every effort to protect their children. They should also know that they have every right to turn to the Church with full confidence, for it is a safe and secure home."*

Letter to Presidents of Episcopal Conferences and Religious Superiors, February 2nd, 2015.



### ***Safeguarding Committee District of Ireland***

**I**n May 2014 Fr Joe Cantwell appointed a safeguarding committee. Committee members are as follow: Laura Murphy (Project worker with Family Support Services and Safeguarding Representative for Hacketstown Parish), Fr Tom Kiggins (Assistant District Leader), Fr Tomás O'Connor (District Leader) and Sandra Neville (Safeguarding Officer). Central to the committee's task is developing a three year safeguarding plan, including the establishment of the safeguarding policy and procedures, coordinating safeguarding related activities i.e. training and ensuring the completion of the annual audit. This committee meets four times a year.



**Committee members: Fr Tom Kiggins, Laura Murphy, Fr Tom O'Connor, Sandra Neville.**

### ***Designated Liaison Person.***



Sandra Neville carries out the role of the Designated Liaison Person. Her task is to hear any safeguarding concerns, referring these concerns to the civil authorities, managing all cases and associated documents. Sandra will liaise with the various interested parties; support persons, advisors, civil authorities and NBSCCCI (National Board for Safeguarding Children In Catholic Church Ireland).

### ***Deputy Liaison Person:***

Fr Joe Cantwell



### ***Update on activities***

Over the past four months Sandra delivered numerous Safeguarding Awareness Sessions and to date 106 people have attended. A Safeguarding Workshop for those with specific safeguarding roles was held in April, presenting at this workshop was Dr. Melissa Darmody (Towards Healing), Sr. Nuala O’Gorman (Diocese of Cloyne), Gerry Deegan and Fr Gerard Tanham (Archdiocese of Dublin).



**Pictured at the Safeguarding Workshop are, left to right: Sandra Neville, Fr Tom Kiggins, Gerry Deegan, Dr Melissa Darmody, Fr Gerard Tanham, Fr Dermot Foley and Nuala O’Gorman.**



The NBSCCCI delivered training workshops over the past year and Society personnel attended these where applicable.



### St. Patrick's Missionary Society

- recognises and upholds the dignity and rights of all children and vulnerable adults
- is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all
- undertakes to do everything possible to create safe environments where the welfare of children and young people is paramount
- has procedures in place: all members, staff and volunteers are required to comply with the District of Ireland Safeguarding Policy and Practices outlined in the policy document which can be accessed at [www.spms.org](http://www.spms.org)

If you have a safeguarding concern please contact:

**Sandra Neville**

Designated Liaison Person

Mobile: 087 9844779

Email: [neville.sandra@gmail.com](mailto:neville.sandra@gmail.com)

*Or you can report your concern directly to:*

An Garda Síochána, Chief Inspector (HIQA)  
and TUSLA (Child and Family Agency)