



**St. Patrick's  
Missionary Society**  
Kiltegan, Co Wicklow



---

---

*Safeguarding Newsletter, Region of Ireland*  
Issue 10: July 2024

---

---



***Loving Father God,***  
***We come to you in the knowledge that you hold all your children in unconditional love. We lift to you those who are vulnerable and in need of protection. Give them your safety, comfort, and peace.***  
***We cry to you for those who are hurting and whose trust has been broken. Give them your healing, restoration, and justice.***  
***We bring to you those who seek to forgive others who have hurt them. Give them your strength, courage, and hope.***  
***For those who have caused your children to stumble, lead them to seek your forgiveness and to enter into true repentance.***  
***Thank you for all who give their time, knowledge, and skills to make our communities safer. Give them your wisdom, guidance, and grace.***  
***For ourselves, we ask you to give us your heart for the vulnerable, the oppressed, the voiceless and the forgotten.***  
***Help us to see them as you see them; to value them as you value them, and to nurture and protect them as you desire.***  
***Help each one of us play our part in creating safer places for all your people.***  
***In the name of Jesus, we pray.***  
***Amen.***

## ***Safeguarding Committee News***

### ***Welcome***

Since our 2023 newsletter we have continued to keep safeguarding a priority in the Region. We have overseen the 2023 annual report, the ongoing renewal of the vetting process for our members and staff and the provision of safeguarding awareness sessions. Some members have attended the various sessions/meetings provided by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic church. Fr Pat, Fr Kyran and Sandra attended the launch of the revised Church Policy.

We wish to express our thanks to all those who assist in any way on our safeguarding journey.

### ***A Safe and Welcoming Church – Child Safeguarding Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2024***

In December 2023, The Irish Bishops Conference (IEC) and the Association of Missionary and Religious Leaders of Ireland (AMRI) agreed to adopt the revised safeguarding policy that the National Board with others had been working on during 2023. The revised policy is embedded in Catholic Social Teaching and in Children's Rights. The policy contains all the core elements of the previous 2016 policy, now captured under three Standards:

- Governance and Leadership
- Embedding a culture of Safeguarding
- Responding with care and compassion

Each standard has a number of indicators to assist in guiding us towards the implementation of the standard.

At the June Safeguarding committee meeting a decision was taken to sign up to this policy. Fr Pat Murphy signed the policy commitment on behalf of the Region of Ireland. The revised policy can be viewed at:

**<https://safeguarding.ie/news/296-review-of-safeguarding-children-2016>**

A summary document of the policy will be developed and circulated to all members and staff in the coming months.



## **Vos Estis Lux Mundi (VELM), 30th April 2023**

On April 30th 2023, Pope Francis by decree replaced the 2019 VELM and confirms the Church's desire to continue to combat crimes of sexual abuse. The most significant change introduced in the new version concerns the provision which lay out responsibilities of bishops, religious superiors and clerics in charge of a particular Church or Prelature.

Regarding vulnerable adults the following was updated; 'a crime against the Sixth Commandment of the Decalogue committed with a minor, or a person who habitually has an imperfect use of reason, or with a vulnerable adult'.

The document includes not only abuse and violence against children and vulnerable adults, but also covers sexual violence and harassment resulting from the abuse of authority. The obligation to report also includes cases of violence against religious women by clerics as well as cases of harassment of adult seminarians or novices.

## **Tutela Minorum: Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors Universal Guidelines Framework**

The Commission was directed by the Holy Father to strengthen the existing Safeguarding Guidelines (2011) throughout the Church to ensure that the Church is a safe environment for children and vulnerable persons, among others. The Commission launched its Universal Guidelines Framework in March 2024.

The Commission is driven by Gospel teaching on the centrality of children in the life of the Church; our need to care for the wounded and love of Jesus who showed by his words and actions how to care safely for everyone, particularly the lost and vulnerable.



**Pope Francis with members of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, in Rome for their plenary assembly, during a meeting at the Vatican, March 7th, 2024.**

## ***Safeguarding Refresher Session***

All members will be invited to a Safeguarding Refresher session at the end of September. This will cover all the latest updates, including the changes to the revised Church Policy.

## ***Garda Vetting***

All members in active ministry are required to complete the Garda Vetting process. If you have not availed yourself of this, please contact Sandra Neville (Garda Vetting Liaison Person). The Garda Vetting is renewed every three years. Sandra will keep you informed when your vetting is due for renewal.



**For those members who have availed themselves of the vetting process through the Diocese in which they reside and minister, Sandra would appreciate if you could forward a copy of that vetting outcome to her here in Kiltegan to ensure her records are up to date.**



Photo: P. Murphy



If you have a safeguarding concern please contact:

**Sandra Neville**, Designated Liaison Person

Email: [sandra.neville@spms.ie](mailto:sandra.neville@spms.ie) Mobile: 087 9844779

Or

*You can report your concern(s) directly to:*

An Garda Síochána Helpline, Tel: 1800 555 222,

TUSLA (Child and Family Agency): [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie)

or contact Tusla local Social Work Department