



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



Safeguarding Newsletter, Region of Ireland
Issue 9: June 2023



Lord Jesus, hear our voices as we pray for your care and protection of all whom we meet in our daily lives. We especially ask that all children and vulnerable adults you entrust to our care are protected and feel safe. Give us the wisdom and courage to listen with open hearts, see with open eyes, and speak out to ensure children and vulnerable adults are safe, loved, respected, and cared for.

We also pray for those who have been harmed.

Give them the courage to seek healing.

Lord, you call us to walk with integrity in the service of others. May we strive to understand our collective responsibility to work together to safeguard all who are vulnerable. Guide us as we build a community that fosters everyone to flourish and be safe. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Safeguarding Committee News

Welcome

We are happy to present our annual safeguarding newsletter and hope you will find something in it that touches your heart.

The Safeguarding Committee has had some changes of personnel like other roles in the Region. Fr Tomas O' Connor completed his time on the committee

in December 2022, he was always happy to work on this committee to ensure oversight of good safeguarding practices within the District. Fr Pat Murphy has replaced him and we are looking forward to journeying/working together in the coming years in this area of safeguarding.

Since our last newsletter the committee has overseen the facilitation of a safeguarding refresher session for the members in Kiltegan, Lesson Park and Cork. Some of the members also attended sessions provided by the National Board of Safeguarding. The ongoing renewal of Garda Vetting continues ensuring that the process is completed every 3 years and that every new staff member and member returning from overseas are fully compliant.

(Annual Report 2022 www.spms.org/safeguarding)

We wish to express our thanks to all those who assist in anyway on our safeguarding journey, a special thanks goes to Loretta Brennan who patiently works on this newsletter every year, it is great having such an experienced professional within the Region.

Back to Normal in Kiltegan!



We are happy to welcome the 6th class pupils from three primary schools to Slí an Chroí. It is great to have groups like this once more especially after the fallow times during the Covid pandemic. The pupils joined Michelle Sinnott (Director of Slí an Chroí) and Fr Pat Murphy for a retreat on Tuesday May 23rd. The schools; Kilanerin N.S., Ballyfad N.S. and Ballythomas N.S. Gorey, linked with Kiltegan from their parish through Fr Denis Browne.

On August 1st young people from St John's Ambulance will once more camp in one of the fields. You may recall a few years back when similar groups stayed for a week or two on the farm. Eoin (Farm) has once more kindly offered the use of a field for them. They usually join with the community for Mass on the Sunday during their stay.

Most weeks we have the young boys and girls from Michael Dwyer's GAA club training in the pitch behind the cemetery. It is great to have young people here in Kiltegan – always a joy to see.

Update on Revision of Safeguarding Children, Policy and Standards for Catholic Church in Ireland (2016)

A draft is to be submitted to the Irish Catholic Bishops Conference (IEC) and The Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland (AMRI) by the end of May/June. Further consultation if approved by IEC and AMRI – June, July and August. Consideration of further amendments – September 2023. The National Board are considering the new policy to have three areas:



- Prevention: Standards 1, 5 and 6
- Intervention: Standards 2, 3 and 4
- Governance: Standards 7

Adult Safeguarding Paper commissioned by IEC/AMRI, completed by National Board

The one year project was completed in September 2022 with four pieces of work including:

1. A literature review.
2. A draft policy and template with limited guidance.
3. A short paper outlining recommendations for change to support adult safeguarding.
4. A paper outlining areas which fell outside of the scope adult safeguarding project.

The project was finished on time and sent to AMRI and the IEC in October 2022. The National Board will now await further instruction from AMRI and the IEC.

To access the National Board's report please contact:

David Rose at AMRI (www.amri.ie)

Monsignor Joseph McGuinness at the IEC (www.catholicbishops.ie)

Scoping Inquiry into Schools run by Religious Orders

On 7 March 2023, Minister for Education Norma Foley announced the establishment of a scoping inquiry to shape the Government's response to revelations of historical sexual abuse in schools run by religious orders. This inquiry will be led by Senior Counsel, Mary O'Toole SC.



Mary O'Toole,
Senior Counsel



If we journey together, young and old, we can be firmly rooted in the present, and from here, revisit the past and look to the future. To revisit the past in order to learn from history and heal old wounds that at times still trouble us.

To look to the future in order to nourish our enthusiasm, cause dreams to emerge, awaken prophecies and enable hope to blossom. Together, we can learn from one another, warm hearts, inspire minds with the light of the Gospel, and lend new strength to our hands.

Pope Francis
Christus Vivit, no. 199, (25 March 2019)

If you have a safeguarding concern please contact:
Sandra Neville, Designated Liaison Person
Email: 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
or contact Tusla local Social Work Department

