



# St. Patrick's Missionary Society

Kiltegan, Co Wicklow



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*Safeguarding Newsletter, District of Ireland*

Issue 8: June 2022

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## **Safeguarding Prayer**



***Lord Jesus, we praise you for calling us to the service of others.***

***We pray for a generosity of spirit to ensure the vulnerable are protected.***

***We pray for a compassionate heart so that we will reach out to those who are wounded by abuse.***

***We pray for courage and determination as we seek the safety of everyone in the communities we represent.***

***We dedicate ourselves to this work of service and pray that you will help us to always do your will and in all places.***

***Amen***

*All Saints' Lydd with St Peter's  
Greatstone*

## **Safeguarding Committee News**

### **Chairperson**

Sandra Neville

### **Committee Members**

Fr Tomás O'Connor, District Leader

Fr Billy Fulton

Fr Enda Kelly, House Leader

Laura Murphy, Manager Child and Family Services

Fr David Walsh, Director of Promotion

### **Work of Safeguarding Committee in 2021**

During 2021 the committee met on four occasions. The focus of the work was on revising the 'Guidance on Vulnerable Persons' in line with current updates and practices.

The annual safeguarding audits were received and formed part of the 2021 annual report. The annual report can be viewed on [www.spms.ie](http://www.spms.ie)

## **Review of Safeguarding Children, Policy and Standard for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2016.**

The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) in acknowledging changes in legislation, Canon law and experience of practice since the development of Safeguarding Children, Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2016 have commenced a review of the existing Church Policy. As part of this process, the NBSCCCI engaged in a series of “listening meetings” and established a steering group to support and oversee the revision of the Standards. The work of this Committee commenced in February 2022, and it is proposed that the NBSCCCI will engage in a detailed consultation exercise both within and outside of the Church.



THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR  
**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN**  
IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

### **Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults**

The Safeguarding Committee, revised our Guidance on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adult Policy now called Safeguarding Adults at Risk of Harm ([www.spms.ie](http://www.spms.ie)). This Policy will be reviewed annually and/or in accordance with changes in statutory, civil and/or church developments in this area.

Meanwhile, the NBSCCCI has been asked by the Irish Bishops’ Conference (IEC) and the Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious in Ireland (AMRI) to initiate a one-year programme to develop a one Church approach to vulnerable adults. Work is well underway in this area and the NBSCCCI have established a steering group to guide the work. Our Guidance will be amended and/or updated in accordance with any proposed changes by the NBSCCCI.



## Feedback from the NBSCCCI's Conference Theology of Safeguarding May 12th

The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland wishes to contribute to the development of a Theology of Safeguarding. It is now commonplace to hear the declaration that 'safeguarding is everyone's responsibility'. Ensuring that the Catholic Church welcomes, supports and protects children and all other vulnerable persons is a sacred ministry that is shared by clergy, religious and the lay faithful. But the Catholic Church is not simply another civic community that needs to be regulated by internal and external norms and laws; it is a Eucharistic faith community, The Body of Christ, The People of God. [www.safeguarding.ie](http://www.safeguarding.ie)

During the conference time was given for group work, Q & A and panel discussion. The speakers at the conference addressed the following themes:



**Fr Andrew Small:**  
*The New Apostolic Constitution and the work of Mainstreaming Safeguarding.*



**Dr Jessie Rodgers:**  
*Theological perspectives on safeguarding children and adults.*



**Dr Niall Moore:**  
*Children's rights and theology, barriers and acceptance in child safeguarding.*



Promoting the rights of vulnerable adults

**Mr Paschal Moynihan, Safeguarding Ireland:** *Safeguarding vulnerable people – human rights approach – in the context of Church ministry.*

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### Short note from Society Chapter 2022

The 2022 Chapter recommended that Safeguarding be prioritized throughout the Society. It affirmed the great work being done by members in their ministry to children, youth and vulnerable adults. It also issued a very sincere and unreserved apology to all those who have been abused by members of the Society over the years.



NSPCC Young People's Board for Change  
Reflection by *Poppy*, Age 13

# Look

Look down the road of the future,  
See how it twists and turns,  
It is so uneven; like a buoyant sea,  
Children float but the hurt of silence  
pulls them down,  
They all have something to say  
but the storm of life drowns them out.

We need to STOP!  
We need to listen!  
Calm the sea,  
silence the thunder,  
So that the once silent voice  
we could barely hear now is heard,  
as clear as a summer's sky.

We can't let the storm brew once more,  
For to stifle this sound is to stifle  
a generation of blooming flowers,  
shining stars,  
the people of tomorrow,  
And right now,  
we the people of today  
must listen.



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