



St. Patrick's Missionary Society

Kiltegan, Co Wicklow



Safeguarding Newsletter, District of Ireland
Issue 7: June 2021

Opening Reflection



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 time 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)*

Safeguarding Committee Members

Chairperson

Sandra Neville

Committee Members

Fr Tomás O'Connor, District Leader

Fr Billy Fulton

Fr Niall Martin, House Leader

Laura Murphy, Manager Child and Family Services

Fr David Walsh, Director of Promotion

The Safeguarding Committee met on four occasions during 2020 and due to Covid-19 restrictions, all meetings were held via Zoom. However, the work of the Committee continued and a number of required tasks are completed and or ongoing as follow:

- Audits completed and annual report for 2020 completed.
- Garda Vetting of Members and staff is up-to-date.
- Consideration of the delivery of online training options.
- Development Strategic Plan 2021–2023

Supports for Survivors / Complainants

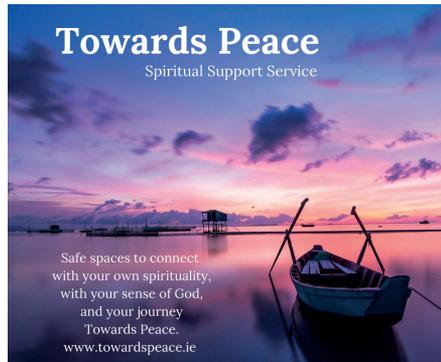
Towards Peace



Towards Peace (www.towardspeace.ie) is a service offering spiritual support for anybody who has been abused, physically, emotionally, sexually, spiritually, in a religious/church environment. It is a pathway, a safe space where people who have been hurt can connect with their own spirituality, their sense of God and their own journey Towards Peace. The service is free and is also available to the families of those who have been affected.

Towards Peace understands spirituality as a way of being in, and relating to the world, connected to God and to one's deepest self. Through one to one meetings with a trained and qualified spiritual companion, Towards Peace offers safe spaces for people to attend to their own spiritual life.

Towards Peace continues to operate during the current restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 crisis. While, face to face meetings are on hold for the moment, if anyone wishes to access the Service, via telephone or SKYPE or seek further information, they can contact the office at (086) 7710533, office hours are Monday and Tuesday 9am-4pm and Wednesday 9am – 12 noon.



Towards Healing

(www.towardshealing.ie) is a Counselling and Support Service for Survivors of Institutional, Clerical and Religious abuse, funded by the Catholic Church.

Towards Healing provides a counselling helpline, individual face to face counselling for survivors, telephone counselling, workshops and advocacy service.

It provides services to clients regardless of where they currently live.

The Helpline operates as follows:

Monday – Thursday from 11am to 8pm
and Fridays from 11am to 6pm.

Freephone Number (Ireland) 1800 303416

Freephone number (UK) 0800 0963315



Safeguarding News from East Africa – May 2021

Re-opening of Parish Training: From March 2020, our ability to go to our parishes and do training was very limited due to Covid-19. However, since January 2021, we have resumed training in the parishes despite a gap during the recent lockdown. By the end of June, our trainers will have visited all 14 parishes in the Programme twice. The emphasis is on safeguarding within the outstations as well as the usual ongoing training of parish committees, trainers and designated persons.

The Day of the African Child:

The Day of the African Child is coming up on 16th June. The theme for this year is *Africa fit for Children*. We are planning the usual activities for our parishes. This day is always a great opportunity for the Safeguarding Children Message to be spread – even outside the parish boundaries. As part of the day, we will be doing radio slots in the local radio stations.



Work in Progress (Risk Assessment): According to the District Safeguarding Policy, a risk assessment is to be carried out yearly by the parish priest and the safeguarding committee. There is a template on page 38-39 (Appendix 3) of the policy. We encourage the parish teams to carry out this exercise as it helps to create a safe environment for our children.

News Board Items

- ◆ The NBSCCCI National Conference, 2021. “Theology of Safeguarding”.
- ◆ In preparation for the National Conference, the NBSCCCI has invited a number of theologians from across the world to prepare and present short (10 minute) video addressing particular questions which will assist in developing conversations around “A Theology of Safeguarding”.
- ◆ The videos will be on the NBSCCCI’s website commencing in January 2021, with a new video being uploaded every month thereafter until September 2021.
- ◆ Presenters include: Fr Hans Zollner, Patricia Kenny, Dr Ethna Regan, Dr Marcia Bunge, Sr Nuala Kenny, Fr Paddy Boyle, Una Allen, Dr Jesse Rogers and Mr Alan Kearns.



*I Just >>>
want to
thank you
<<< Lord*

Thanks a Bundle, Lord
by Daphne Askew
[Banner Cross Methodist
Church, UK]

*For all life's blessings that are free,
For good things that we hear and see,
And most of all for loving me,
Thanks a bundle, Lord.*

*For Mums and Dads who've put us right,
For sisters to play and brothers to fight,
For homes where we live, for beds at night,
Thanks a bundle, Lord.*

*For all the different things we do,
For lovely people, friendships true,
Because I'm me and you are you,
Thanks a bundle, Lord.*

*For life's long road that we all tread,
For giving us our daily bread,
For days gone by, and years ahead,
Thanks a bundle, Lord.*

*For health and strength each day to face,
For giving us a little place
within the world, our own small space,
Thanks a bundle, Lord.*

*For being there to help us through
those days when we are feeling blue,
Times when we don't know what to do,
Thanks a bundle, Lord.*

*For those we love who've gone before,
We long to see them all once more.
One day we will, of that we're sure,
Thanks a bundle, Lord.*

*For giving us this lovely day,
Please give us many more, we pray,
But just before 'AMEN' we say
Thanks a bundle Lord.*

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