



St. Patrick's Missionary Society

Kiltegan, Co Wicklow



Safeguarding Newsletter, District of Ireland

Issue 5: June 2019

Summer Sun

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Great is the sun, and
wide he goes
Through empty
heaven with repose;
And in the blue and
glowing days
More thick than rain
he showers his rays....

Above the hills, along
the blue,
Round the bright air
with footing true,
To please the child, to
paint the rose,
The gardener of the
World, he goes.

Welcome.

Welcome to the fifth edition of our Safeguarding Newsletter. There have been many events/issues in the Church relating to safeguarding in the past few months. We have summarized some of these in the Newsletter. This is also reflected in society with the publication of articles in the media regarding Scouting Ireland, pop stars and the continual coverage of abuse stories that happen within the family.

We will endeavour to ensure that the fundamental rights of all be respected, cared for and protected and upheld in accordance with the teaching of the Gospel and national legislation. This will be achieved through the development of best practice in the area of safeguarding across every aspect of life in the Society with the help and support of the safeguarding team.

Safeguarding Committee
District of Ireland



Pope's Visit to Ireland August 2018

Final address to the Irish Bishops 26th August 2018:

“A recurrent theme of my visit, of course, has been the Church’s need to acknowledge and remedy, with evangelical honesty and courage past failures – grave sins – with regard to the protection of children and vulnerable adults. Among these, women who were mistreated.



In recent years, you as a body have resolutely moved forward, not only by undertaking paths of purification and reconciliation with victims and survivors of abuse, but also have set in place a stringent set of norms aimed at ensuring the safety of young people.

In Ireland, as elsewhere, the honesty and integrity with which the Church chooses to confront this painful chapter of her history can offer an example and a warning to society as a whole. Continue on this path.... Whenever you and your people feel that you are a “little flock” facing challenges and difficulties, do not grow discouraged. As Saint John of the Cross teaches us, it is in the dark night that the light of faith shines purest in our hearts”.

NBSCCI News (www.safeguarding.ie)

NBSCCI National Conference 2018 – Be not Afraid



The National Board’s conference was held in Kilkenny on October 26th & 27th. The theme of the conference – Be not Afraid – was chosen to encourage all Church personnel, clerics, religious, lay men, women and children to not allow fears to impede them in continuing to push the boundaries of safeguarding practice. In doing so, we can grow in confidence that we are promoting good safeguarding of children, caring for those who have been harmed and supporting respondents and their families.

The speakers explored ways of having confidence to engage with complainants, respondent’s families and ministering with children with drive and energy. Some of the presentations made to the National Conference can be found at: <https://www.safeguarding.ie/component/eventbooking/national-safeguarding-conference-2018>

Update: Society website www.spms.org

We have not published in print format our Safeguarding Policies & Procedures because of the need to revise and update on a regular basis to comply with current legislation and best practice. In recent months we made some changes to the document to include the topic of mandated persons (see next section). You will find all documents pertaining to Safeguarding in the safeguarding section of the website: **www.spms.org** including the Policies & Procedures.

GDPR–GeneralDataProtectionRegulation

As you all know, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into effect throughout the EU (including Ireland and UK) on 25th May 2018 and is now the law. It aims to give us a greater level of control over our personal data.

In simple terms, no one has the right to use my personal data without my specific consent. If I give someone permission to have and to hold my personal data then they must keep it safe and secure, not share it with others and only use it for the purpose I have agreed with them. By law, we must follow certain rules about how we store such personal details. There are serious penalties if we misuse information. We have taken the necessary steps to protect the Society from such risks.

The Society appointed Yvonne Doyle as Data Protection Coordinator last year. Her role is to advise, implement policies and to monitor compliance with Data Protection Regulation.

If anyone has any questions or worries about GDPR, please contact Yvonne. Her email: dataprotection@spms.ie

Mandated Persons: The Role of Mandated Persons:

From December 2017 under the Children First Act 2015 people holding certain positions (a mandated person) are required by law to report to Tusla where he or she “knows, believes or has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is being harmed, has been harmed or is at risk of being harmed”. Mandated Persons (as defined under the Children First Act 2015) are people who have contact with children and /or their families and who, because of their qualifications, training and/ or employment role, are in a key position to help protect children from harm. Included in the definition of mandated persons are **Clergy, DLP’s and Paid Pastoral Care workers.**

The District requires that all those who minister, comply with the requirements of our Reporting Procedures and meet their obligations under the Children First Act 2015.



Rome 2019

Pope Francis called together Presidents of Bishops' Conferences for a Meeting on Child Safeguarding. The four-day meeting took place in Rome on 21-24th February 2019. The long term outcomes will undoubtedly impact on our practice here in Ireland, and the National Board will work closely with Church authorities and Church personnel to ensure they offer support in developing and maintaining best practice standards on all aspects of child safeguarding in the Catholic Church in Ireland.



Amongst his closing remarks, Pope Francis said "The Church thus restates "her firm resolve to pursue unstintingly a path of purification, questioning how best to protect children, to avoid these tragedies, to bring healing and restoration to the victims, and to improve the training imparted in seminaries".

Safeguarding Workshop July 2019

All members, resident and visiting are cordially invited to our safeguarding workshop on Monday 16th July from 3pm – 4.30pm.

**Monday
July 16th**

We hope to explore the meeting of the Presidents of the Bishop's Conferences with the Holy Father Pope Francis in Rome in February of this year. **Looking forward to seeing you all.**

Garda Vetting

Sandra keeps a database on all those who have been vetted through the District. She will keep people informed as to when the vetting is for renewal.



For those members who have availed 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. Thank you!

If you have a safeguarding concern please contact: **Sandra Neville**, Designated Liaison Person, Email: sandra.neville@spms.ie or Mobile: 087 9844779
Or you can report your concern directly to: An Garda Síochána Helpline, Tel: 1800 555 222, and, TUSLA (Child and Family Agency) Tel: 045 920000