



# CAPUCHIN SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Issue 2. June 2022

## 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**

## Capuchin Safeguarding Committee

During 2021 the Committee met on four occasions, with all but one meeting held via Zoom. The focus of the work for 2021 was as follows:

- ❖ To review and update the Safeguarding Notice to be posted in all friaries/communities.
- ❖ To complete the annual child safeguarding audits.
- ❖ To deliver safeguarding refresher training.
- ❖ To review and update Garda Vetting Policy and procedures.

## The priority of work for 2022 is as follows:

- ❖ To hold a Capuchin Safeguarding Sunday event on April 3rd, 2022.
- ❖ To continue to deliver safeguarding information and refresher training sessions to all friars, staff and volunteers engaged in relevant work.
- ❖ To deliver a Safeguarding training event for all Guardians and local safeguarding representatives.
- ❖ To continue to ensure ongoing Garda vetting of all friars, staff and volunteers.
- ❖ To review and update the Child Safeguarding Statement.
- ❖ To provide ongoing support of Capuchin overseas' communities in developing localised safeguarding policies and procedures.
- ❖ To plan for updating of the Capuchin Safeguarding section of the website.
- ❖ To review and update the Capuchin Child Safeguarding Policy Documents.

The Committee would like to thank the friars who preached on Safeguarding Sunday, led the prayers, and distributed the Safeguarding Sunday Leaflet.

## Chairperson

Ms. Niamh Dooley

## Committee Members

- ❖ Ms. Julie McCullough
- ❖ Mr. Seán Ó hUallacháin
- ❖ Fr. Bryan Shorthall, P.P., Priorswood
- ❖ Fr. Kieran Shorten, Deputy DLP, Ard Mhuire Friary, Co. Donegal
- ❖ Ms. Mary Tallon, Safeguarding Coordinator/Designated Liaison Person



## GARDA VETTING

The Capuchin Province of Ireland does everything possible to avoid giving access to children/young people, to someone who should not be in a position of trust. Hence, safe recruitment procedures and practices are applied to all friars, staff and/or volunteers working with the Capuchins. Garda vetting is an important part of the recruitment process. Vetting is how we go about assessing someone's suitability to work with children and vulnerable adults. However, it should not be relied upon as the only measure and must include an interview, reference checks and induction process.

The Capuchin Council approved a Garda Vetting Policy, a Garda Disclosure Policy and a Garda Vetting information Leaflet at the Council Meeting in February 2022. It is important that all friars, staff and/or volunteers are familiar with the vetting process and copies of the Policies and Vetting Leaflet can be got from the Safeguarding Office and/or Safeguarding Section of the Website.

### *Garda Vetting Renewals*

All Friars are required to complete Garda vetting every three years and/or in accordance with local Diocesan requirements. In addition, it is important to note that if planning to minister for more than three days, in a Diocesan Church other than Diocese where you currently reside, it is important to check the safeguarding requirements regarding vetting for that Diocese.

### *Garda Vetting Disclosure*

A copy of a vetting subject's vetting disclosure (the terminology for the vetting document returned by the Garda Vetting Unit which details **Tá** or **Níl** regarding any offence to be disclosed) is stored securely by the Safeguarding Office. A copy is available to anyone who wishes to have a copy of their own personal vetting disclosure.



## **Review of Safeguarding Children, Policy & Standards 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 & 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 will commence in February 2022, and it is proposed that the NBSCCCI will engage in a detailed consultation exercise inside and outside the Church.

The Safeguarding Coordinator has been invited to join the Steering group which met in March 2022.

## **If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact:**

Mary Tallon, Safeguarding Coordinator/DLP  
Br Kieran Shorten, Deputy DLP

✉ Email: [dlp@capuchinsirl.com](mailto:dlp@capuchinsirl.com)

☎ Mobile Number: (089) 6149313

### **OR**

**You can report your concern directly to:**

An Garda Síochána Helpline: **1800 555 222**

Tusla, Child and Family Agency: **[www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie)**

## **Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults**

The NBSCCCI has been asked by the Irish Bishops' Conference (IEC) and 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. Fr Kieran Shorten is a member of this Steering group

## **Updated Guidance on Child Safeguarding and the Sacrament of Reconciliation**

The NBSCCCI have published updated guidance on Child Safeguarding and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This guidance can be accessed on the NBSCCCI website - Guidance 2.1G (Guidance on Child Safeguarding and the Sacrament of Reconciliation).

## **NEWS BOARD ITEMS**

- ✦ **The NBSCCCI National Conference, "Towards a Theology of Safeguarding"** took place on May 11 and 12th, 2022 in Monaghan.
- ✦ **The March and June Editions of the NBSCCCI Newsletter**  
These are available at **[www.Safeguarding.ie](http://www.Safeguarding.ie)** (news section)
- ✦ **Book Reference**  
"Sexual Abuse Within the Church Assessment, Intervention and Prevention"  
Chris Rush Burkey, Michael C. Braswell, John T. Whitehead. Routledge.

Loving Father,

Your Son Jesus entered our world as a helpless infant,  
completely dependent on the love, protection and support  
of Mary, Joseph, his relatives and the local community.

Help us to recognise the image of Jesus  
in the children of our own community,  
our own neighbourhood and our Church.

Give us the wisdom and courage to do all in our power  
to safeguard them from harm,  
so that they may grow up in the knowledge  
that they are loved, respected and cherished,  
and so come to know you,  
the God of Love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

