



SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

April 2022

Issue No. 3

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

Work of Committee during 2021

The Safeguarding Committee said goodbye to Fr. John Bennett thanking him for his time and contribution to the Committee over nine years. Meanwhile the Committee is pleased to welcome new members, Fr. Alan Whelan and Ms. Sheila Drum.

Sheila is a retired school principal having worked in Dominican College, Sion Hill, Blackrock, for 41 years. The school was founded by the Dominican sisters in 1836 and is now part of the Le Chéile Schools Trust. In the 1980's she worked for two years in education with the Marist Brothers in Zimbabwe.

Since Alan's ordination in 1981 he has been involved in teaching, chaplaincy and administration in Princethorpe College in the UK. He has been a Trustee of three schools and presently represents the Provincial on the CEIST Members Board. Along with his role as archivist to the province, he has responsibility for data protection. In the UK, Alan is the lead person regarding safeguarding matters.

MSC Safeguarding Committee Members

Chairperson: Ms Sandra Neville

Committee Members:

Ms. Sheila Drum, School principal (retired)

Fr. Manus Ferry, Chaplain

Fr. Alan Whelan, Chaplaincy/archivist

Ms. Mary Tallon, Safeguarding Manager/DLP

During 2021 the Committee met on five occasions, with all but one meeting held via Zoom. The focus of the work for 2021 was on establishing links and providing support to the Irish MSC Province overseas communities in developing local safeguarding policy, procedure and developments.

The delivery of safeguarding refresher training to MSC Members and information sessions to MSC staff and volunteers commenced using training videos made by the Safeguarding Office in conjunction with Safeguarding Personnel working with other Orders/ Congregations. The annual child safeguarding audits were completed and submitted for approval by the Safeguarding Committee.

Updates on the Safeguarding Section of the MSC Website

Information on support services, for those who have experienced abuse, for example, Towards Healing and Towards Peace, are now posted on the website. There is also a new section inviting anyone abused by an MSC member to come forward and/or contact the relevant statutory services.

INVITATION

We invite anyone who may have been abused by an MSC member – living, former or deceased – to come forward, if they have not done so already, in order that they can receive help and support.

<https://www.mscmissions.ie/safeguarding/>

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

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.



Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults

The Safeguarding Office, in conjunction with the Superiors developed a MSC Safeguarding Vulnerable Adult Policy which will be circulated to all MSC Members in the coming weeks. 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. The MSC Adult Safeguarding Policy will be amended and/or updated in accordance with any proposed changes by the NBSCCCI.

Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedure Handbook – 2018

The Safeguarding Office in conjunction with the Safeguarding Committee are currently finalising the updated version of the Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedure Handbook. There will be a separate Safeguarding Newsletter issued to coincide with the formal "Launch" of the updated Handbook, providing details of significant changes, updates and relevant forms.

News Board Items

- ❖ **The NBSCCCI National Conference**, "Towards a Theology of Safeguarding" will take place on May 11 and 12th, 2022 in Monaghan.
- ❖ **The December 2021 edition of the NBSCCCI Newsletter** is available at 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, 2021.

MSC Safeguarding Commission Charter

Fr Mario Abzalón, Superior General, together with his Council, approved the establishment of the MSC Safeguarding Commission Interim Charter and Ms. Mary Tallon, Safeguarding Manager/DLP, has been invited to join the Commission.

Updated Guidance on Child Safeguarding and the Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

STANDARD 2

PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD PROTECTION SUSPICIONS,
CONCERNS, KNOWLEDGE OR ALLEGATIONS
GUIDANCE FOR INDICATOR 2.1

2.1G Guidance on Child Safeguarding and the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confession/ The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Reconciliation (Confession) is the Sacrament in which a Baptised person acknowledges his or her sins, asks forgiveness, accepts the penance imposed by the priest and is given absolution "through the ministry of the priest". The Sacrament should be celebrated in a manner which provides the penitent with an experience of safety, honesty and acceptance.

The Confessional

The Irish Episcopal Conference, in accordance with the prescriptions of canon 964, and with due regard for the authentic Interpretation of canon 964 §2 by the Pontifical Council for the Interpretation of Legislative Texts, 7 July 1998 (AAS 90 [1998] 711 [1]) has decreed the following complementary norms governing the disposition and location of confessionals:

- Confessionals are to be located in a place which is clearly visible and accessible, and are to be fitted with a fixed grille between the penitent and confessor
- Rooms which are used as confessionals must be in a public place, visible (for example through the provision of a glass panel), and provide the penitent with the option of using a grill
- Sacramental confession for children should be in a place where both priest and child may be seen but not heard, preferably in a church or oratory.⁴

Canon Law establishes the confessional as the proper location for the celebration of the Sacrament (Canon 964 §3), but does not exclude celebration elsewhere, when there is a "just cause". Common sense and good pastoral practice must determine what a "just cause" means.

Safeguarding Children during the Sacrament of Reconciliation

In celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation priests should be mindful of the following:

- When children attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation, all efforts should be made to provide a safe and open environment (Standard 1), in line with Canon law.
- Disclosures of abuse must be addressed appropriately so that risk to children is prevented.

Procedures for a penitent who discloses abuse during Confession:

If a penitent discloses abuse during the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the confessor should remind the penitent that whatever is disclosed in Confession will not be repeated by the confessor outside the confessional, and;

STANDARD 2

PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD PROTECTION SUSPICIONS,
CONCERNS, KNOWLEDGE OR ALLEGATIONS
GUIDANCE FOR INDICATOR 2.1

In the case of an abused penitent who is a child/minor:

- a. Sensitive reassure the child or young person that he or she was right to disclose the abuse;
- b. Reassure him/her that he/she has not committed any sin and is not to blame;
- c. Encourage the child or young person to disclose the abuse to an adult they trust (e.g. a relative, teacher, friend), who will know what to do with this information.

In the case of an abused penitent who is an adult:

- a. Advise the penitent of the importance of seeking help for himself or herself and ensuring the safety of children.
- b. Advise the penitent where this help may be obtained
- c. Advise the adult of the importance of contacting the statutory, and other appropriate authorities, who deal with these issues and provide the adult with appropriate contact details for those authorities

In the case of an abused penitent who discloses that they have abused:

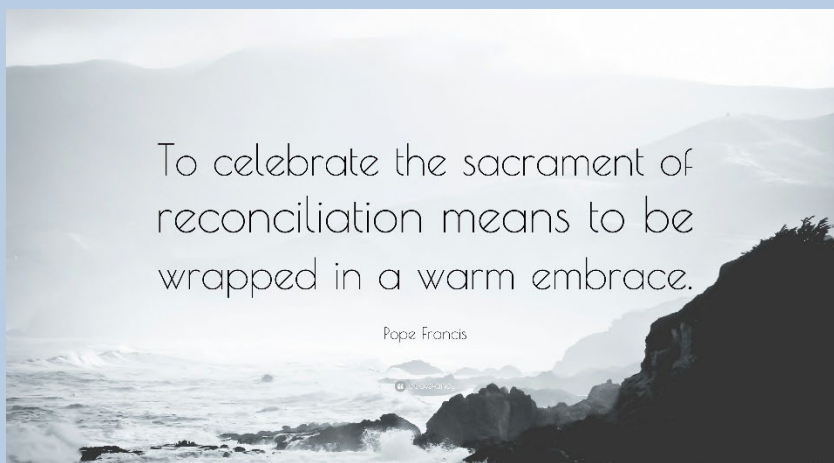
- a. Acknowledge the gravity of the disclosure and strongly advise him or her to seek professional help (e.g. counselling, consultation with their GP) and to go to the statutory and other appropriate authorities.

All priests should periodically participate in in-service training in relation to the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This in-service training should incorporate the appropriate guidance for responding pastorally and professionally to disclosures of abuse.

It is strongly recommended that contact details for statutory authorities and voluntary agencies (such as Towards healing and Towards Peace) should be available at hand in the Confessional.

To celebrate the sacrament of
reconciliation means to be
wrapped in a warm embrace.

Pope Francis



*If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact Mary Tallon,
Safeguarding Manager/DLP*



Email: safeguarding@mscmissions.ie



Mobile Number: (087) 3819515 OR

You can report your concern directly to:

An Garda Síochána Helpline: 1800 555 222

Tusla, Child and Family Agency: www.tusla.ie

Look

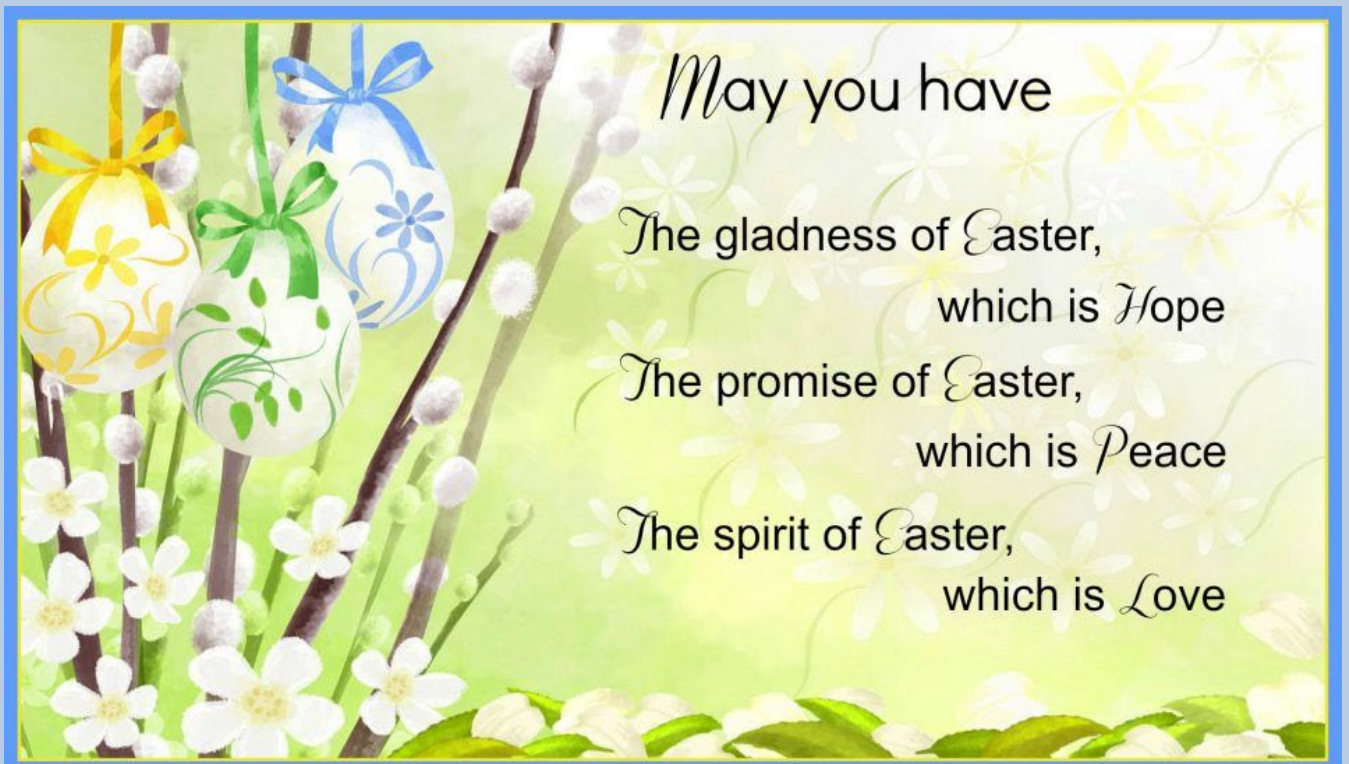
Look down the road of the future,
See how it twists and turns,
It is so uneven; like a buoyant sea,
Children float but the hurt of silence pulls them down,
They all have something to say but the storm of life drowns them out.

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.

Poppy, Age 13.
NSPCC Young People's Board for Change

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY EASTER



May you have

*The gladness of Easter,
which is Hope*

*The promise of Easter,
which is Peace*

*The spirit of Easter,
which is Love*