



SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh 

Welcome to the winter edition of the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Newsletter.

We've a busy time ahead of spring and this edition features everything you need to know in the run-up to spring.

Thanks to all clergy who ensured the annual safeguarding statement for the Archdiocese was read-out at Mass last weekend (if that didn't happen in your parish, please ensure that it's read out this weekend (see page 2).

Don't forget the annual clergy safeguarding day takes place on Thursday 22 February. The speaker

is Dr Rev Barry O'Sullivan, from the Diocese of Salford, who has written an excellent book on the impact of Church scandals on innocent members of the clergy (page 3).

As ever, if you have any questions, queries or comments please let us know. My details, and those of the safeguarding team are below right.

Scott Mackenzie

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor

Reminder of PVG renewal

PVG checks are refreshed every five years. Currently, this is Church policy but is not required in law.

However, when the 2020 Disclosure Bill is implemented, then five-year renewal of PVG's will be mandatory and legally binding.

This means that anyone who has not renewed their PVG within the 5-year period will be unable to continue doing regulated work. Although we do not yet know the exact implementation date, we expect it to be sometime in 2024.

We are therefore urging parishes to act now to ensure that no clergy, volunteers or staff are caught out by this change in the law.

The Safeguarding Office has been sending out lists to PSCs and we would urge all parishes to submit update forms as soon as possible for anyone whose PVG update is overdue or approaching.

Disclosure
SCOTLAND

YOUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM

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Reporting Concerns

The Safeguarding Office has dealt with a few cases where concerns and allegations were not passed on quickly enough. We would remind everyone that any allegations or concerns should be escalated straight away.



Resources

The Safeguarding section of the Archdiocesan website contains lots of useful information and resources relating to Safeguarding:

archedinburgh.org

Going on holiday in 2024? Let us know

A reminder that if you are going on holiday and need supply for your parish please contact us well in advance. This is to check that the supplying priest has all of the necessary paperwork in place. If in doubt, please get in touch and we will be happy to help.

Annual Safeguarding Statement for 2024

The Annual Safeguarding Statement was read out in all parishes on the weekend of Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 January 2024.

This affirms our commitment to keeping people safe, and is mandatory (see "In God's Image", v2 - page 73).

If it has not been possible to read it out yet then it would be appreciated if this could be done as soon as possible.



Your questions answered

This section is dedicated to questions that have been received, which readers may find helpful...

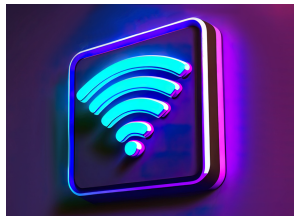


QUESTION: "My Church offers free Wi-Fi for church groups and hall lets but I'm concerned that it may be misused (for example people viewing inappropriate material). What advice can you offer?"

ANSWER: Ensure your network is private and login details only given out to authorised groups rather than being publicly available.

Consider activating the 'guest' network that comes with many routers so that you can have a login for parish staff/officials, and a separate one for guests.

Make sure your network is secure by ensuring that all software on computers and routers is kept up to date.



Volunteer Forms

We have introduced some automated forms to make the process of obtaining clearances easier and quicker. Below are the links to forms which you can give to volunteers who are applying for regulated roles:

- Archdiocesan Volunteer Application Form
<https://bit.ly/STANED-app>
- PVG Application Form
<https://bit.ly/pvg-app>

In addition, Parish Safeguarding Coordinators have access to an online form so that they can verify volunteer ID.



Safeguarding team to hit the road in 2024

The safeguarding team are currently putting plans together to visit Parish Safeguarding Coordinators and priests throughout the Archdiocese.

Rather than visiting whole deaneries (as these can be quite big) we plan to visit smaller clusters of parishes in local areas. More information to follow soon.



Clergy Safeguarding Day - 22 February!

The annual clergy safeguarding day will take place on Thursday 22nd February 2024 in the Gillis Centre, Edinburgh, starting at 11am. Lunch will be provided.

Archbishop Cushley has asked that all priests and deacons attend unless unable to do so. As well as updating clergy on recent developments in safeguarding, we also have a keynote speaker:

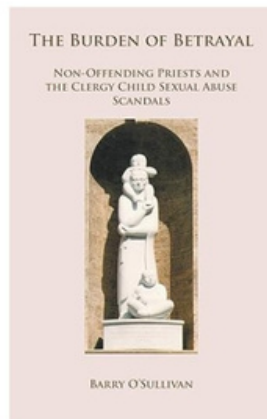
Rev Dr Barry O'Sullivan will share his experience and research into the effect of abuse on priests who have not abused and yet are still profoundly affected by abuse and scandals.

Clergy should confirm their attendance at this event (or otherwise) by email to:

Ann-Margaret.Clark@staned.org.uk

Archbishop Cushley and the safeguarding team look forward to seeing you there.

The speaker for the day is Rev Dr Barry O'Sullivan from the Diocese of Salford. His book 'The Burden of Betrayal, shows how the fall-out from scandals has affected innocent members of the clergy.



Risk Assessment Tool

Parish Safeguarding Coordinators will be aware of the requirement detailed in "In God's Image" to undertake safeguarding risk assessments, as detailed in standard 1.2, starting on page 15 of IGI.

A resource has therefore been created to assist Parish Safeguarding Coordinators and Group leaders to comply with this requirement.



The tool takes you through all of the key points that should be considered when compiling a safeguarding risk assessment and then provides you with a completed assessment.



The tool can be found at:

<https://form.jotform.com/scottmackenzie578/SGriskassessment>

Grief to Grace

Grief to Grace is a specialised five-day programme of spiritual and psychological healing for anyone who has suffered from sexual, physical, or emotional abuse or neglect in childhood, adolescence or adulthood.

If you are interested in this confidential healing retreat, please contact:

Grief to Grace (Scotland) at margaret.clarke@griegtograceuk.org



Arriving soon - new poster for display in your parish

In God's Image

We are ready to listen attentively to all who wish to disclose experiences of abuse and we seek to understand their needs.

"The best results and the most effective resolution that we can offer to the victims, to the People of Holy Mother Church and to the entire world, are the commitment to personal and collective conversion, the humility of learning, listening, assisting and protecting the most vulnerable"

Pope Francis, Eucharistic Concelebration, Sala Regia, Vatican, Sunday 24 February 2019

To report a Safeguarding concern, please contact:

Our Safeguarding Co-ordinator: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

Diocesan Safeguarding Office: _____



In the event of an emergency, if someone is in immediate risk of harm, YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE POLICE.