



Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly



Newsletter from The Diocesan Committee for Safeguarding Children

Issue 2

December 2013

Archbishop's Statement at the publication of the Review of Safeguarding Practice in the Archdiocese of Cashel & Emly undertaken by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church on 10th December 2013:

On behalf of the Diocese of Cashel & Emly I welcome this report of the National Board for Safeguarding Children and fully accept its recommendations. The majority of the recommendations have been implemented and the remainder will be completed as speedily as possible.

Firstly, I re-iterate my sincere apologies to those who have been harmed in this manner by priests of the Diocese. What happened to them was an outrageous betrayal of the priests' calling and deserves our complete condemnation. Their suffering continues and we once again offer them not only our prayers but assistance in any way we can.

The report by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) on safeguarding practice in Cashel & Emly is generally very positive and complimentary for which we are grateful. I warmly thank them for this on behalf of the priests and people of the Diocese.

It is a testament to the commitment and hard work of all those who endeavour to ensure that our practices and procedures are the best we can possibly make them. However, there can be no room for complacency. The hard work must continue so that we can be assured that the children and young adults in our midst are kept safe from harm. Vigilance is essential as the threat of harm does not go away. Therefore, we must be constantly on our guard and keep in place the necessary structures to enable those who have any evidence, or suspicions, of wrongdoing to take appropriate action such as informing the Designated Officer, the Gardai or the HSE.

While the structures are hugely important, the safeguarding of children in our Diocese could not have been the subject of complimentary remarks from the NBSCCCI without the work being done on a daily basis by the priests, religious and the many volunteers. I very much appreciate the wonderful work they continue to do.

I am most grateful to the Diocesan Committee for Safeguarding Children, the Child Protection Delegate, Bill Meagher, and Sr. Carmel Bourke, the Diocesan Child Protection Co-ordinator. I would also like to thank the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church for their guidance and assistance over the past number of years. I also appreciate this valuable and helpful assessment of safeguarding policies and practices in our Diocese.

I can assure the people of the Diocese that we will continue to do everything in our power to protect the children and young people involved in Church activities. The work continues. But, please keep in your prayers those who suffered and continue to suffer.



“What is Youth Ministry?”

“Youth Ministry is the response of the Christian Community to the needs of young people and the sharing of the unique gifts of youth within the larger community”.

Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Fr. Thomas Hearne, Pilgrimage Director, the Youth Director, Mr. Eddie Golden, the Spiritual Director, Fr. Pat Coffey and the Officers of the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage led by His Grace, Archbishop Clifford wish to acknowledge their sincere indebtedness to all who were involved in the annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes; from the fundraising committee for their tremendous work to the Youth Group made up of 5th year students from throughout the Diocese. The considerable number of youth helpers assist the work of the senior helpers. They were engaged in looking after the 85 or so assisted pilgrims, taking them to and from the various ceremonies, visiting the hospital, entertaining during social time and they also took part in readings, prayers of the faithful, choir and music.

We commend all of you for your invaluable contribution. Prior to travelling to Lourdes the youth and their parents / legal guardians attended an information meeting and signed relevant documentation in compliance with Church and Statutory Guidelines.

Rev. Tom Hearne

Being an Altar Server

When I saw my sister serving mass I thought I would love to be helpful at mass too. Our school Chaplin Fr. O’Connell came into my class in Rahealty N.S looking for altar servers and I was delighted. He gave my teacher forms that had to be signed by our parents. The form has a choice of two churches Bothar na Naomh and the Cathedral. I chose Bothar na Naomh. We had to bring the forms back to school as soon as possible. Then we went to the church for training.

The first time I went to the sacristy was around Easter. Anne Ryan taught me what to do and I soon got the hang of it. Anne taught me when and how to bring up the gifts properly, when to ring the bell and how to help the priest after communion. It’s very important to know how to carry the candle without spilling the wax on my alb.

Before mass we have to sign the book and when we are dressed we sort out the jobs and say the prayer. After mass we help Anne to bring in the chalices, cruets and bowls, then we say the after mass prayer.

I’m glad I am an altar server and I love serving mass and I enjoy our annual outing which we share with the Cathedral Altar Servers and the Youth Choir.

Tony Galvin

Parish Representative

My experience as local parish representative has been both encouraging and meaningful. The continuing hard work and true commitment by all involved in promoting care and best practice in the safeguarding of children and young adults is reassuring. I am truly grateful to be able to carry out my role thanks to the key support from our Parish Priest, Parish Faith Community and from our other Parish Representatives, the Trainers and the Diocesan Child Safeguarding Committee.

Most importantly I wish to say a huge **Thank You** to all the children and young people of the parish for their involvement.

**Bridget Walsh-Ryan,
Clonoluty / Rossmore**

Parish Children’s Liturgies

Children’s liturgies are marvelous opportunities to call forth and develop the gifts within the Parish. Rituals that are age appropriate and which are adapted to the needs, readiness and life experience of the children, their parents and the wider community can fit in well with the Parish Mass.

Connections made in a formative, respectful and collaborative spirit, engaging the help of parents and parish members can be beneficial and effective when planning these celebrations.

The gathering of feedback from all concerned after the liturgies including feedback from the children helps to maintain the focus, the purpose and the effectiveness of all such ceremonies.

Rev. Pat Coffey



The Youth Choir in Doon

The youth choir has been up and running for the last couple of years. Our Parish Priest, Fr Tony Ryan approached Jack O'Connell, Anita Sweeney and myself to establish a youth choir in the parish. In the early years Jack O'Connell played the church organ and Mary Claire Ryan is leading the choir this year.

We have children from the local parish between the ages of 8-12 participating in our choir. The children are very good to attend practice and enjoy singing at our monthly celebratory Mass.

The children sing new upbeat songs and their energy and sweet sound enhance the liturgy and is enjoyed by all Mass attendees. The children are participating in the liturgy of the Mass and therefore play an active role in their faith. We sing for various youth Masses within the community such as preparatory Masses for the Sacrament of Holy Communion as well as singing for Youth GAA celebratory Masses.

The Youth Choir in Doon has proved itself to be an excellent way to encourage young people to come and celebrate Mass and be involved in the local catholic community.

Eilish Hayes

Why I like to participate in the Mass

The main reason I like to help at Mass is because of the feeling of satisfaction I get after Mass. The priest is really helpful and I feel good that I helped out in the Church community. I feel closer to God and that feeling is the best you could have.

When I or one of my classmates read at Mass our families and friends come to support us which I like very much. We feel part of the Church community.

**Rebecca Ryan,
1st year student
St. Anne's Secondary
School
Tipperary Town**

Journey in Faith—A teen's experience.

The programme Journey in Faith is about young people gathering to share a laugh, a chat and to meet other young people. Since 2000 the programme has been running in Thurles Parish with 5 youth leaders and in total almost 160 youth members which ensures lively evenings and debates where people from the parish and surrounding area have the chance to build up a circle of friends and share experiences in a relaxing, safe and friendly environment. The group meets on a monthly basis, perhaps seven times per year and the year concludes with a fun day out. Each monthly meeting is different with activities ranging from quizzes to team-building fun activities and guest speakers who come to share their life stories and offer some advice.

There is no charge involved for participants. All that is asked of the young people is that they complete an application form and commit to the youth nights for the one hour monthly meetings. Their parents sign the consent permission slip and include their mobile telephone numbers so that they, the parents, can be contacted by text regarding the meetings.

Journey in Faith has a part to play in young peoples lives. It is interesting, fun and creates a view and a balance to help young people in life. Youth from the parish are welcome to come along, just get in touch and find out more.

Rev. Joe Walsh

What are youth looking for?

- Adventure (Discipleship)
- Connection (Belonging)
- A safe place to learn and grow (Total personal and spiritual growth)



The Report includes the following statements:

- There is a strong sense of leadership shown by Archbishop Clifford as voiced by all personnel within the diocese. He has a clear focus on doing the right thing, taking prompt action and ensuring that risk is minimised. The reviewers experienced a man of strong views, determination and a willingness to take advice and act upon that advice.
- The reviewers wish to acknowledge the significant amount of work that is taking place at both diocesan and parish level to raise awareness of child abuse and to ensure preventative action through the implementation of good practice procedures. Evidence to support this was seen in detailed records provided by the safeguarding co-ordinator of her meetings, training sessions and visits to parishes.
- Overall the reviewers felt that all cases were well managed. There was clarity around the need to notify the civil authorities.
- The reviewers also met two safeguarding representatives and again were hugely impressed by the calibre and commitment of these volunteers. In particular the reviewers felt that these two safeguarding representatives had gone the “extra mile” in ensuring adequate safeguards, particularly in relation to supporting children to engage in Church life through school and related activities. It was evident that the representatives take their responsibilities extremely seriously.
- Archbishop Clifford is fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and committed group of people within the safeguarding arm of his structure. All policies are now well developed.
- The engagement and participation of children is to be applauded and should be developed further
- It is very evident that safeguarding is a live issue in Cashel and Emly. The policies and procedure document was redrafted in 2013 and was updated in line with national legislation and church guidance. Having a full-time coordinator has helped to instill enthusiasm for safeguarding.

