



Safeguarding Message
from
Most Rev William Crean
Bishop of Cloyne

30th / 31st March 2019

My Dear Friends,

I take this opportunity on Safeguarding Sunday to reflect on some aspects of Safeguarding and recent events in the Church during the past year. I wish to express my gratitude to all the women and men throughout the diocese engaged in Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Due to their dedication and commitment, the Church in Cloyne has put in place good structures to ensure that children and young people can take part in the life of the Church in a safe and compassionate way. I am thankful to the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee and all Safeguarding personnel for their engagement to this task. On my visits to parishes for Confirmation I have met many Parish Safeguarding Representatives and seen the work they do. They are an inspiration to us all.

We have witnessed how children and young people can take part in the life of the Church through the events of the World Meeting of Families, World Youth Day in Panama and the Synod on Youth last year. At the conclusion of that Synod, the following was stated;

young people,

“... help to enrich what the Church is and not only what she does. They are her present and not only her future. The young are actively involved in many Church activities in which they offer their services generously.”
(No 54 - Final Document of the Synod of Bishops on Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment)

Children and young people have a right to see in us adult Christians the true face of Jesus and be able to participate in the life of the Church without fear. Unfortunately for some children throughout the world and in our own country that has not been the case. Many children and young people experienced abuse and suffer from that experience today.

Pope Francis addressed the issue of abuse in the Church before he came to Ireland in his letter to the People of God and also addressed it at the World Meeting of Families where he sought forgiveness for the crime and sins of abuse in the Church. At the recent summit on abuse in Rome with Bishops from around the world he said:

“if in the Church there should emerge even a single case of abuse – which already in itself represents an atrocity – that case will be faced with the utmost seriousness. Brothers and Sisters: in people’s justified anger, the Church sees the reflection of the wrath of God, betrayed and insulted by these deceitful consecrated persons. The echo of the silent cry of the little ones who, instead of finding in them fathers and spiritual guides encountered tormentors, will shake hearts dulled by hypocrisy and by power. It is our duty to pay close heed to this silent, choked cry.” (24th February 2019)

In the Church in Ireland we have and continue to work to help those who have suffered abuse and to ensure that abuse is never accepted or hidden away.

“The silence that shrouded this reality for so long has been lifted to reveal so many horrific stories of suffering at the hands of the most trusted in society, namely priests and religious. The lingering wounds both of body, spirit and emotion have wreaked havoc on the lives of so many. For the community of the Church it is rightly a source of deep shame and guilt. As Christian disciples we confess to evil deeds perpetrated on the most vulnerable and innocent and so we seek today to express our desire for atonement of these sins.” (Bishop Crean, Homily on 17th February)

We need to be constantly vigilant in the Church and in society to ensure abuse of children is never tolerated and is dealt with as a crime.

I also wish to offer a word of hope and thanks to priests and religious in the Diocese who are faithful ministers of the Gospel. Pope Francis said it best when he said:

“Allow me now to offer a heartfelt word of thanks to all those priests and consecrated persons who serve the Lord faithfully and totally, and who feel themselves dishonoured and discredited by the shameful conduct of some of their confreres. All of us – the Church, consecrated persons, the People of God, and even God himself – bear the effects of their infidelity. In the name of the whole Church, I thank the vast majority of priests who are not only faithful to their celibacy, but spend themselves in a ministry today made even more difficult by the scandals of few (but always too many) of their confreres. I also thank the faithful who are well aware of the goodness of their pastors and who continue to pray for them and to support them.” (24th February 2019)

It is my hope and vision that in our Diocese:

- young people will continue to be able to take part in the life of the Church:
- that all of us continue on the road to ensure that best practice in Safeguarding Standards are upheld:
- and that those who suffered abuse in the Church may find healing and peace.

As we go forward into the future may we do so with hope and trust in the Lord to guide and direct his Church. May we with humble hearts receive his word and have the courage to do what is right.

With prayerful good wishes

+ Wm Crean

Most Rev. William Crean, D.D.,
Bishop of Cloyne.

Safeguarding structures, people and policy in place in the Diocese.

The Diocese has:

- Diocesan Safeguarding Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Willie Keane. (15 members of lay people and priests)
- Safeguarding Office: Mallow Community Youth Centre, New Road, Mallow:
www.safeguardingchildrenclayne.ie Tel: 022-21009
- Vetting Coordinator and Training officer - Rosarie O'Riordan
- Parish Safeguarding children Representatives in each parish
- Designated Liaison Persons (DLP)
 - Fr. Patrick Winkle / Mr. Ger Crowley
- All Diocesan Priests ministering in the Diocese receive ongoing training for Safeguarding and are Garda Vetted.
- All people working with Children and vulnerable persons in the Diocese have to be Garda vetted and undergo training in the Diocesan Policy.
- National Case Management Reference Group Management
Reference Group acts as Advisory Panel for Management of Cases
- Vulnerable Adults: An interim policy is in place see www.cloynediocese.ie under Policies
- Annual Parish Audits are carried out.
- Parish Visitations take place to ensure best practice.
- Parish Information Sessions are given.

Contact details for Reporting

If you, or anyone you know, has a child protection concern, or wishes to report an allegation of child abuse directly to Church Authorities, please contact the Designated Liaison Person (DLP). Phone Number: 086 0368999

If you, or anyone you know, has a child protection concern or, wishes to report an allegation directly to the Statutory Authorities, please contact the Garda or Tusla (Child and Family Agency) and ask to speak to the Duty Social Worker.

Tusla (Child and Family Agency)

Mallow / Fermoy --- Phone Number: 022 – 54100

Cobh / Midleton / Macroom -- Phone Number: 021 – 4927000

TUSLA : www.tusla.ie

In cases of emergency please contact An Garda Síochána.

For those who have been abused in the Church and need counselling.

Toward Healing 1800 303416 www.towardshealing.ie

or text no. only 085 8022859

Monday - Thursday 11am -8pm: Friday 11am -4pm

For Spiritual Healing:

Towards Peace 01 5053028 Mobile: + 353 (0) 86 7710533

Monday – Wednesday: 10am – 5pm

Email: towardspeace@iecon.ie www.towardspeace.ie

National Safeguarding Board 01 5053124 www.safeguarding.ie