



Safeguarding Message

December 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

As Advent has begun, we have embarked on a new year in the Church's Liturgical Year. It is a time of looking forward in hope. During the past two years we have become very familiar with the phrase, "Keeping people safe". This phrase reminds us of our responsibility to help keep ourselves and others safe particularly those who may be vulnerable and need more support.

In the Church we have been familiar for some time now about our **Safeguarding** responsibilities, particularly towards children and young people. While there has been a great reduction in children and young people faith activities or involvement in parishes this past year, we hope that 2022 will change that. In this context I urge parishes and church personnel to recommit themselves to ensuring that all Safeguarding Procedures are put in place. The importance of safe recruitment is essential in planning for youth activities.

The Bishops of the Province of Cashel and Emly have come together with their safeguarding personnel to issue a policy document on **Safeguarding Adults at Risk**, (Vulnerable Persons). This Policy has been prepared to help us recognize and respond to situations of harm to adults who may be vulnerable. This vulnerability may arise due to, for example, age and/or disability which may impact on a person's capacity to protect themselves from harm or exploitation. Information and Training on this will be rolled out in the coming year.

The National Board for Safeguarding will be reviewing the National Policy and Guidance in the coming year to ensure it continues to be fit for purpose. We as a Diocese will have an audit in the Spring / Summer of 2022 conducted by independent assessors on behalf of the National Board. This will enable us as a Diocese to continue to go forward in offering safe environments and structures for children and young people to be active in the Church.

I thank all who are involved in the work of Safeguarding in the Diocese, your involvement is vital for the work of safeguarding. For anyone who wishes to raise a concern or report abuse in the Diocese I encourage you to contact the Designated Liaison Person. There is help and support within the Church and wider Society. People need not keep it to themselves.

Keeping people safe, this is an ongoing work which we undertake because of our belief in the innate dignity of every human person and our faith in the Lord Jesus who inspires us to continue to minister to young people that they too may know and follow him as disciples.

Wishing you every blessing and peace.

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