

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

April 2016

'Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.' Francis of Assisi

- The National Board for Safeguarding Children have introduced the new Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016, which has been adopted by every Diocese, Religious Congregation and Religious Order in Ireland. This Policy replaces the current Diocesan Safeguarding Policy. A copy will be sent out to every parish and it is hoped that in the next few months it will be available on our website.
- It is nearly that time of year for the Parish Audits. Towards the end of April you will receive your Parish Audit. We ask that it is returned by the **20th May 2016**. As we did last year, 6-8 parishes will be picked randomly to be visited by a member of the Safeguarding Committee to complete an onsite audit as part of the auditing process. The Safeguarding Committee will be holding 2 evenings on **Wednesday 27th April in Nenagh Pastoral Centre and Thursday 28th April in Ennis Pastoral Centre** (full details to follow later) where you can come and return or ask any questions relating to the Audit.
- May is a dedicated month to Safeguarding in the Diocese. We will be sending out some words to go into the Parish newsletters for that month.
- Due to the new Garda Vetting Legislation coming on line in April, any outstanding vetting forms must be sent to myself by the **9th April 2016**. After this date the current vetting forms will not be accepted for processing by the Garda Central Vetting Unit. On **29th April 2016**, a new Garda Vetting form will be issued by the Gardaí and will be available on the Diocesan Website. An up to date list of those who have been garda vetted over last 3 years and those who are due to be re-vetted will be sent out to the Parishes with a batch of new garda vetting forms. ****Please destroy all current Garda Vetting forms that you currently hold.***

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- Attached you will find the training plan for this year. We are holding a full day training for **new** Safeguarding Reps, leaders in Youth Ministry and Priests and any reps or priests who have not undertaken full days training in last 3 years. We are holding evening sessions across 5 locations in the Diocese for people who have or may have contact with children through the Diocese.

- Vulnerable Adults. We are currently looking at producing a policy for Vulnerable adults. We will keep you updated on this.

- Please check out our safeguarding webpage, which can be found at www.killaloediocese.ie here you will find all the forms/resources you may need, as well as a Q&A section. Any feedback on this page is welcomed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your commitment to Safeguarding in the Parish.

Cleo Yates
Director of Safeguarding