

Safeguarding Perspectives - Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage

Every year the diocese brings about ninety young people and ten leaders to Lourdes. We travel as volunteers to assist the larger pilgrimage and become part of the wider team of helpers who generously give of their time to ensure the Limerick pilgrims have as enjoyable an experience as possible. It is an experience of wall to wall goodness and the positivity is tangible. We all share a common purpose so young and old work beside each other in very rich and life-giving way.



Safeguarding:

The Safeguarding elements of our preparation are an integral part of ensuring that everyone is safe while participating in the pilgrimage.

Youth Participants:

All pilgrims complete an application pack. This pack includes the practical details of the trip, personal details of the youth pilgrims, parental consent and a signed code of behaviour. Every youth pilgrim completes garda vetting. We meet with both the new and the older youth pilgrims at least twice before the trip in an effort to get to know them better and to help them get to know each other. They receive a safeguarding input highlighting our safeguarding policy and procedures. They are given practical information about best practice when it comes to working with the patients, adults and each other. They are made aware of what to do if they have any concerns or if anyone makes them feel uneasy.

Parents:

We also have a pre-departure meeting with parents to go through the details of the trip and to share with them some safeguarding information. Also this is an opportunity to chat to parents about various concerns, ailments or issues that their children may have that we need to look out for.

Youth Leaders:

We also ensure our leaders cooperate with our safeguarding procedures. They fill in application forms, provide referees, sign codes of behaviour and declaration forms, complete garda vetting and they receive a safeguarding input as part of our preparations.

Adult Participants:

All the other adult working groups on the pilgrimage also receive an input on safeguarding to remind them about best practice and to also remind them of who are the designated liaison people on the pilgrimage, should they have any concern or query.



Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Persons

Message from Bishop Leahy

The summer months have been busy for the Diocesan Safeguarding Service as it completes a full review of all the procedures and guidance for Parishes and Diocesan activities with children. These will be published later in the year and a new dedicated 'Safeguarding' section of the Diocesan website will present the information in accessible format. A special edition of our Safeguarding Newsletter will be circulated when this is live.

The Diocese actively promotes the welfare of children and encourages their participation in the life of the Church. I wish to acknowledge the work of the many people throughout the Diocese who so generously promote the welfare of children and their own families.



+Brendan Leahy
Bishop of Limerick

Safeguarding Service - Contact Details

- **Director of Safeguarding** (*Designated Person*)
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- **Assistant Designated Liaison Person**
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- **Parish Safeguarding Support Worker**
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If you have a safeguarding concern or wish to raise a matter from the past, you may contact any of the following:

An Garda Síochána

Divisional Headquarters,
Henry Street, Limerick.
061-212400

Tusla, Child and Family Agency

Mid West, Ballycummin Ave,
Raheen Business Park,
Raheen, Limerick
061-482792

Mr Ger Crowley

Diocesan Director of Safeguarding
(Designated Liaison Person),
Diocesan Office,
Social Services Centre,
Henry Street, Limerick
087-3233564
ger@ldo.ie

*Safeguarding
Policy &
Procedures*

<http://www.limerickdiocese.org>

- **Safeguarding Committee**
(training & information)
Chair: Teresa Bulfin Tel: 061-315856
- **Case Advisory Committee**
Chair: Gerry Mahon Tel: 061-315856
- **Vetting Committee**
Chair: John Murphy Tel: 061-315856
Email: vetting@ldo.ie

*Suggestions for future issues of this Safeguarding publication would be most welcome.
Please contact david@ldo.ie*

PARISH SAFEGUARDING CHECKLIST

The following checklist will assist every Parish to determine what needs to be in place to ensure the implementation of a safe environment for children and young people.

Information to be displayed and available:

- Diocesan **Safeguarding Children Policy Statement** in all appropriate places;
- Poster and leaflet providing **information for young people**;
- Poster and leaflet providing **information for parents/guardians**;
- Diocesan **Sacristy Safeguarding Protocol Poster**;
- Copy of the **Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016**, in each Parish Office and Sacristy.



Requirements in respect of Volunteers who have access to, or have an involvement with children, young people and/or vulnerable persons within and on behalf of the Parish:

- Completed the appropriate **Volunteer Application form**.
- Submitted the required **References**.
- Completed **Confidentiality Declaration forms**
- Undergone **Garda Vetting**;
- Received the appropriate **Safeguarding Information and/or Training**;

- Been advised as to the content of the **Diocesan Safeguarding Policy & Procedures**;
- Signed the agreement to comply with the **Diocesan Safeguarding Policy & Procedures**.
- Forms and paperwork relating to the above are securely stored locally.

Parish Safeguarding Representative:

- Has the Parish appointed Parish Safeguarding Representative(s) who have been appropriately trained and Garda vetted?

Registers for individuals/groups/organisations, involving children, associated with the Parish or Diocese, for example:

- Altar Servers;
- Youth Choir;
- Adult Choir with children involved;
- Sacramental preparation (includes Do This in Memory and You shall be My Witnesses Programmes);

- Children's Liturgy;
- Mass Readers;
- Youth Club;
- Youth Retreat;
- Other groups.



Groups/organisations involved with children on behalf of the Parish:

- Has each group been **approved** to work within the Parish by the Parish Priest?
- Has each group been provided with the **Information Pack** for Parish groups involving children?
- Is each group **complying** with the **requirement** in the Information Pack for Parish groups involving children?

Children involved in ministry:

- Has each parent/child signed a **Joint Consent form**?
- Has each parent/child received a copy of the **Information Leaflet** for parents/children involved in Parish/Diocesan youth activities?

Training

- Have all Safeguarding Representatives and Leaders of Groups working with young people, attended the **One Day Training Programme**?
- Have all other staff who have ministry with children attended a **Safeguarding Information Session**?
- Is there any other form of role-specific training which would enhance safeguarding in your parish?

Non-church groups working with children and using church property.

- Has each group completed the appropriate **Application form**?
- Has the Parish Priest given **permission**?
- Has each group confirmed that it has:

- Its own **Insurance** indemnifying the Church;

- Its own Safeguarding Policy including **Vetting**.

Sacristy:

- Is the **Sacristy Poster** on display in the Sacristy?
- Is the **Sacristy Protocol** followed?

- Is the **Sacristy sign in/out book** always completed?
- Are visiting clergy asked for **Celebret/Letter of Permission to Minister**?

The Storage of Records and Information:

- Are all safeguarding-related information/records stored securely?

Dealing with Complaints or Concerns:

- Have all safeguarding complaints/concerns been reported to the Designated Liaison Person/Director of Safeguarding?

This checklist is to be read in association with the Parish Audit form.

All procedure forms are available on the Diocesan website www.limerickdiocese.org

