

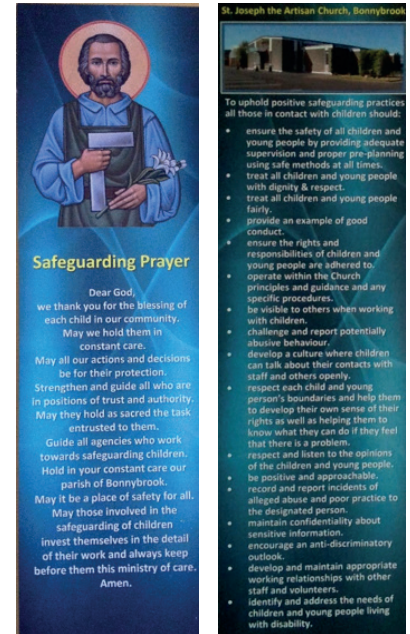


NEWSLETTER

MARKING SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY IN BONNYBROOK PARISH

Sunday, 22 September was diocesan Safeguarding Day. CSPS distributed materials for use in the parishes of the Diocese and some parishes took their own initiatives. One such was the parish of St Joseph the Artisan in Bonnybrook. Shown here are two sides of a book marker, one with a safeguarding prayer and the other a list of good safeguarding practices. A bookmark was given to every person attending Mass and some people asked for extra ones. This is the third year that the bookmarkers have been given out.

This is a simple, effective and relatively inexpensive way to get the message of safeguarding out. Congratulations to the Moderator, Fr Joe Jones, Sr Sheila Murphy, Parish Safeguarding Representative and the other members of the parish team on their excellent initiative.



VULNERABLE ADULTS

The diocesan Safeguarding Vulnerable Adult Policy was completed in July. The policy is available on our website: www.cps.dublindiocese.ie and it has been emailed out to parishes, priests and parish safeguarding representatives.

We decided not to print a lot of hard copies for environmental reasons and also because we anticipate significant developments in relation to safeguarding of vulnerable adults over the next few years. Legislation is going through the Oireachtas and the Church is reviewing its own approach to dealing with abuse of vulnerable adults.

We have been getting an increasing number of queries in relation to vulnerable adult issues over the past few years so it is appropriate that we have a policy in place. We plan to have information sessions about vulnerable adult safeguarding. Many of the principles that underpin good child safeguarding also underpin vulnerable adult safeguarding. Caring for others, upholding their dignity and treating them with the

utmost respect are central to our gospel values. Our more modern understanding of good safeguarding practice does not change these fundamental values in any way but rather adds an emphasis on the need for transparency and accountability.



We have been asked whether Parish Safeguarding Representatives will be asked to take on an additional responsibility for vulnerable adults. We have not formulated a policy in relation to this matter. We are happy for this matter to be decided at parish level. Some Parish Safeguarding Representatives may be happy to assume this responsibility, others may not. CSPS will provide support to those who do take it on.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Last year nearly 3,000 people attended safeguarding training in the Archdiocese of Dublin. Those who attended included priests, deacons, parish pastoral workers and other people employed by the Diocese and the parishes. The majority were lay volunteers. The training takes a variety of forms: there is one day training for those working directly with children and shorter, two hour information sessions for others involved in parish work. Nearly 1,000 attended one day training sessions. Giving up a day in all the busyness of life is no small sacrifice. It says something very significant about the Diocese's commitment to safeguarding that so many turned up for training last year. The numbers who do so have been increasing, year on year, for the past five years.

The training is delivered by members of the CSPA team, by one person who works with the diocesan HR office and by six volunteer trainers. The volunteer trainers are Mary Stringer, Maire Ni Shiodhail, Frances Stephenson, Louise Gaskin, George Maybury and Ronan Ormsby. They trained for the role over three weekends with the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland. They work on Saturdays, in pairs, sometimes alongside a member of the CSPA team and sometimes with another volunteer. CSPA could not deliver so much training to so many people without our volunteer trainers.



Ronan Ormsby delivering training in Portmarnock Parish Centre on 12 October 2019

The volunteer trainers make an enormous contribution to the work we do in the Archdiocese of Dublin to keep children safe and protect them from abuse. It is not just that they deliver training but that they do it very well. We know this from the increasing numbers of people who come to training. The word is out that the training is good and people come to it.

We are very grateful to our volunteer trainers for their contribution.

FILM REVIEW: TELL NO ONE

Tell No One is a documentary film about the abuse of children in the Catholic Church in Poland. It is available on Youtube with English subtitles and it runs for two hours. It is not easy to watch.

The film tells individual stories of people who were abused by priests or whose family members were abused and their attempts to address this with those who abused them and with church authorities. It is a story that is familiar to us: lives destroyed, a failure of church authorities to respond appropriately, offending priests moved from one place to another. Yet, however familiar the ways in which the events unfold, each story is a unique one of damage, trauma and betrayal. There is one particularly heart rending moment when one man describes how he told his wife years after his marriage about the abuse he suffered. She could not accept that, having been abused once, he went back to the same priest who continued to abuse him. Rather than finding support, the man experienced criticism and rejection. Time and again, we see how those who have been abused are made to carry a burden of shame that is not theirs but rather belongs to the person who abused them.

A psychologist interviewed for the film addressed the issue of why children keep going back to abusive situations. She talked about grooming, how abusers gain the trust of their victims and how confusing it is for children to deal with a situation where an apparently good person does something that causes them pain and confusion. She said that it is unrealistic to expect children to deal with such complex situations alone. She pointed out that adults who have greater understanding and problem solving skills than children find it hard to extricate themselves from abusive situations. She gave the example of victims of domestic violence and how women often go back to abusive partners, even after experiencing extreme violence.



The film conveys its message through images as much as through interviews. There are shots of beautiful and substantial churches and other church buildings. There are religious images, in particular, crucifixion scenes (both paintings and sculptures), and posters on themes of healing and hope. The message being conveyed is that the Church is a rich and powerful institution that says one thing but does another.

Clerical child abuse has done enormous damage to the Church in Poland as elsewhere. But the damage done has not been confined to the Church. In Poland, as in Ireland, the Church was so much part of the everyday lives of the people that the fabric of society has been rent asunder. It is painful to watch those parts of the film that dealt with the allegations of abuse by priests who were close to Pope Saint John Paul II and Lech Walesa, the leader of Solidarity and later President of Poland.

Many of those interviewed stated that things have changed for the better since Pope Francis became Pope. Our hopes and our prayers go with him.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Archbishop Martin has invited the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) to conduct a review of safeguarding practice in the Diocese and its parishes. The review will take place in November.

If you have any views on this matter which you would like to share with the reviewers please contact CSPA and we will pass on your contact details to the reviewers. Alternatively you can contact the National Board directly on 01-5053124 or admin@safeguarding.ie

SHARING BEST PRACTICE

In our last edition we featured the Family Mass in Gardiner Street Church and this time we wrote a piece about marking Safeguarding Sunday in Bonnybrook Parish. It is our intention to continue to use the Newsletter to highlight good safeguarding practice in parishes. If you have a 'good news' story to share with us we would be delighted to hear it. Please contact Andrew Fagan on 01 8360314 or andrew.fagan@dublindiocese.ie