



# SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER 2025



## MESSAGE FROM BISHOP PHONSIE

I wish to thank all our LSRs, Priests, Stephen Plunkett and the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee who help to keep us all mindful of the constant need to respect the dignity of our young people and their place in the Church.

Later this year in April an Italian teenager will be made a saint in our Church. **Carlo Acutis** was just 15 when he died in 2006. He lived a life of love and service and is truly an example to us all. He shows us how essential it is to keep building a Church which is safe and welcoming to all our people especially the young, so that, together we can all grow closer to Jesus Christ who is the only Lord and Saviour.



+ Phonsie Callinan



## Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

DLPs are an extremely important lynchpin of the safeguarding apparatus of our Church. The DLP is a key safeguarding appointment, and they have been pivotal in driving forward many of the positive developments in safeguarding.

Fr. John Harris has fulfilled the role of Designated Liaison Person in recent years. Fr. John's valuable knowledge, expertise and professionalism have been a vital part of our safeguarding journey. Fr. John will be stepping back from the role and passing the role of DLP to Mr. Stephen Plunkett from January 2025. The Diocese thanks all previous DLP's and Fr. John for his input and dedication to the DLP role.

The new DLP phone number is 085 165 1518 (reflected on all communications and documentation from January 2025). The previous number will stay in operation for a transitional period.

Many thanks to Ms. Anne Walshe who will continue as Deputy Designated Liaison Person on (089) 4858845.

# Strategic Review of Child Safeguarding in the Catholic Church in Ireland

- In November 2021, a strategic review of the structures and services regarding child safeguarding across the Catholic Church's ministries and services in Ireland, North and South was commissioned. This was a completely independent review.
- There was a consensus that the Church in Ireland has travelled a considerable distance when compared to 20 years ago. The establishment of the National Board in 2006 was reported as significant in improving the safeguarding apparatus in the Catholic Church, with firm ownership, much greater levels of awareness and, most importantly, substantial policies, procedures and processes that have been built up over this time, giving significant legitimacy to a culture of safeguarding that is embedded deeply within the Catholic Church in Ireland today.
- Credit is due to everybody involved in the delivery of this progress to date, which includes all of those who have volunteered with Youth ministry in their parishes and the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore. The Diocese would like to convey a deep gratitude for your support and hard work.



Thanks to all of you who continue to ensure that young people have safe access and a rich experience in their faith journey. The involvement of committed lay people as volunteers at local levels is crucial to making things work!

- To access the full report, log onto: <https://www.amri.ie/wpcontent/uploads/2024/12/RSM-Ireland-Review-of-Safeguarding-Final-Report-November-2024-ISSUED.pdf>

## Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Abuse 2025



First held in 2017, the Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of abuse is a prayer initiative of the IEC to be held across Ireland to pray for the recovery of all who have been impacted by abuse in our Church. All parishes and religious communities are encouraged to light a candle of atonement and to organize a service or moment of prayer on the first Friday of Lent. In 2025 this day will fall on Friday the 7th of March 2025. Resources for liturgies will be available at: <https://www.catholicbishops.ie>

# Revised Safeguarding Policy and National Office Changes

## Revised Safeguarding Policy

In addition to a new CEO, the 11th of June 2024 saw the introduction of the Church's revised safeguarding policy 'A Safe and Welcoming Church – Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland', to take us further on our collective journey in nurturing a culture of safeguarding in all our work.

The new policy sees a move from 7 standards to 3 standards and reminds us that:

- *Safeguarding is core to the Mission of the Church*
- *Consistent with Gospel values, those who minister will do so with dignity and integrity, honoring their calling to ensure that children are welcomed, cherished and protected, following the example set by Jesus.*



For further info: <https://www.safeguarding.ie/policy-guidance/policy-document>



## Safeguarding Training

The Diocese of Waterford and Lismore delivered 14 safeguarding training days in 2024 with 301 attendees over the calendar year.

In addition, 4 separate training days were held to deliver training for all Priests and Local Safeguarding Representatives on the new policy 'A Safe and Welcoming Church – Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland', after its introduction on the 11th of June 2024.

If you have any queries or would like to book in for child safeguarding training, please contact us at [safeguarding@waterfordlismore.ie](mailto:safeguarding@waterfordlismore.ie) or on 085 165 1518

**All Diocesan Safeguarding Policies, Procedures, Forms and other documents required are available at [www.waterfordlismore.ie/safeguarding-children](http://www.waterfordlismore.ie/safeguarding-children).**



# YOUTH PILGRIMAGES



## LOURDES:

Bringing Youth groups from the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore to Lourdes is a long standing tradition and one that serves a very important purpose. This year 30 teenagers from the three deaneries Waterford, Dungarvan and Clonmel have volunteered to travel along with 10 Youth Leaders.

On the pilgrimage they will spend time with the sick and the elderly, bringing them to Mass and the ceremonies. We look forward to a blessed pilgrimage with our Youth group from 4th - 9th of June 2025.



## MEDJUGORJE:

The first annual Pope John Paul II Award diocesan pilgrimage to Medjugorje took place in April 2024 with ten teenagers from three schools, along with leaders and spiritual directors Bishop Cullinan and Fr PJ Breen PP. It was so uplifting to see how our young people responded so joyfully to being surrounded by good people of faith in an atmosphere of prayer and fun. Many young people felt it was life-changing for them and have continued to volunteer in their parishes. You can watch a highlights video on <https://waterfordlismore.ie/pilgrimages/> We will return to Medjugorje in on 3rd - 10th May 2025.

FEEDBACK



FEEDBACK

The Diocese of Waterford and Lismore values any **feedback** on matters of Safeguarding Policy and Procedure.

**Please contact:** Stephen Plunkett Director of Safeguarding, St John's Pastoral Centre, John's Hill, Waterford or email [safeguarding@waterfordlismore.ie](mailto:safeguarding@waterfordlismore.ie)

## Diocesan Safeguarding Contact Details:

If you have a child safeguarding concern or wish to report an allegation, please contact one of the following:

- **Tusla, Child & Family Agency:** 051-842827
- **The Gardaí:** 051 - 305300
- **Garda National Protective Services Bureau:** 01-6663430 / 01-6663435
- **The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore** is Mr. Stephen Plunkett: 085 165 1518
- **The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP)** is Ms. Anne Walsh 089 4858845

[www.towardshealing.ie](http://www.towardshealing.ie) | [www.towardspeace.ie](http://www.towardspeace.ie)

