

# Child Safeguarding Policy Statement of the Constituent Members of the Catholic Church in Ireland



The Gospel teaches the importance of ensuring that the Catholic Church community is a warm, welcoming, and safe place for children.

*Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. (Mark 10:14-15)*

Children are gifts from God, to be cherished and recognised for the joyful contribution they make as valued members of the Church.

Our challenge is to follow the example of Jesus in cherishing them. Safeguarding is key to this important task and should be seen, not as a burden, but as an opportunity to embrace and encourage children's ministry, following the example of Jesus Christ.

This Church body pledges to safeguard children and young people from harm and to support them in their development as valued and integral members of the Catholic Church in Ireland. The Church's ministry will be inclusive and will uphold their rights.

Consistent with Gospel values, and with civil and criminal law, those who minister will do so with dignity and integrity, honoring their calling to ensure that children and young people are welcomed, cherished and protected, following the example set by Jesus.

This Safeguarding Children Policy will be honoured and complied with by all ordained clerics, by vowed female and male religious, and by all lay staff and volunteers in the Catholic Church in Ireland.

*+ Alphonsus Cullinan*

Most Reverend Alphonsus Cullinan



## IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN CONTACT DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- **Designated Liaison Person:** Mr Stephen Plunkett (085) 1651518
- **Deputy Designated Liaison Person:** Ms Anne Walsh (089) 4858845
- **Tusla, Child & Family Agency:**
  - Clonmel 052 6177302
  - Dungarvan 053 9198134
  - Waterford 051 842847
- **An Garda Síochána:**
  - Cahir: 052 744 5630
  - Clonmel: 052 617 7640
  - Dungarvan: 058 48600
  - Waterford: 051 305300