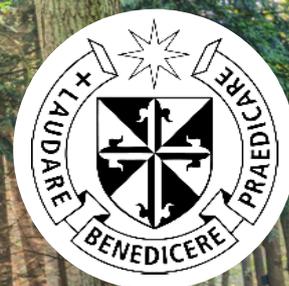


No. 1 October 2020

Irish Dominican Province

# SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER



## OPENING REFLECTION

If we journey together, young and old,  
we can be firmly rooted in the present, and from here,  
revisit the past and look to the future.

To revisit the past in order to learn from history  
and heal old wounds that at times still trouble us.

To look to the future in order to nourish our enthusiasm,  
cause dreams to emerge, awaken prophecies and  
enable hope to blossom.

Together, we can learn from one another, warm hearts,  
inspire minds with the light of the Gospel,  
and lend new strength to our hands.

Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*, no. 199, (25 March 2019)

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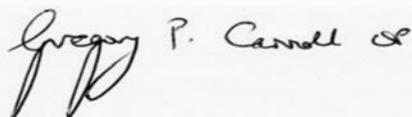


## A WORD OF WELCOME FROM THE PROVINCIAL

I welcome this first edition of the Safeguarding Newsletter as an important channel for communicating information about safeguarding to all of us in the Irish Province. The Safeguarding Committee plan to issue a Newsletter twice yearly to keep us all updated.

In this Newsletter, you will find answers to some common questions about our roles and responsibilities in creating and maintaining safe environments for all who visit our churches and communities. You can also read an interview with the Manager of Knockadoon Camp about safeguarding developments and you will find information about safeguarding training requirements.

I would like to thank the Safeguarding Committee and the Safeguarding Office who are a central support to the Irish Dominican Province in all aspects of creating safe environments.



**Fr. Gregory Carroll, O.P.**

Prior Provincial,  
Dominican Province of Ireland





## ROLE OF SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

The Dominican National Safeguarding Committee was established in October, 2018. Its role is primarily focused on creating, maintaining and monitoring a safe environment for all aspects of life and activity across all Dominican communities, churches and centres, and advising all communities in implementing best safeguarding practices. Its role is also to promote, develop and support child safeguarding as follows;

- ◆ in conjunction with the Provincial, ensuring that appropriate safeguarding personnel are in place;
  - ◆ developing a three-year child safeguarding plan which includes a training and communication strategy and the establishment of national and
- local child safeguarding policy and procedures;
  - ◆ ensuring the completion of an annual safeguarding audit of each Dominican community;
  - ◆ coordinating activities related to child safeguarding, e.g., training, safe recruitment of friars, staff and volunteers working with the Dominican Province of Ireland;
  - ◆ ensuring the completion of training needs assessments across the various safeguarding roles.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Chairperson

Mr Pat Connell, Member of An Garda Siochana

### Committee Members

Mr David Keville, Youth Worker

Fr Peter O’Kane, Staff of Priory Institute

Fr Damian Polly, Director of Knockadoon Camp,  
and

Ms Mary Tallon, Safeguarding Coordinator/DLP



*The Safeguarding Committee would like to take this opportunity to extend their thanks to Mrs Carolyne Rankin, retired school principal, who was a Committee member from October 2018 to December 2019.*



## INTRODUCTION FROM CHAIR OF THE DOMINICAN NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Dominican National Safeguarding Committee, we are pleased to launch the first issue of the Safeguarding Newsletter for the Irish Dominican Province. As a Committee, we wish to continuously promote and ensure best practice in working with children, young people, and vulnerable adults, who are part of Dominican ministries.

We hope the work carried out by the Dominican Province in safeguarding is recognised, and that this Newsletter will provide further support and guidance around the practical procedures involved in such an important area. Most importantly, we look forward to receiving feedback on any matters and concerns in this area and also any suggestions as to how we can continue to support the work that you do.



Mr Pat Connell

Chairperson





## TRAINING

Safeguarding Training is a good way to keep us up-to-date and informed about current child safeguarding guidelines, procedures and best practice.

### A. FULL DAY SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

1. All friars are required to attend an initial full-day safeguarding training event and thereafter are required to attend a refresher training event every three years. Currently there are approximately twenty friars who are due to attend a full day safeguarding training event later this year and/or when Covid 19/Government guidelines allow for this.
2. All Dominican staff and/or volunteers, working directly with children and young people are required to attend a full-day safeguarding training event if they have not already done so. Thereafter they are required to attend a refresher training event every three years. This training event will be organised by the Safeguarding Coordinator in conjunction with the local Prior.

### A. SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION SESSION

All staff and volunteers working in and/or involved in a Dominican community are asked to attend a one and half hour safeguarding information session.

It is intended that this training will take place in each community at a time and date suitable to ensure the maximum attendance.

If you would like to request specific safeguarding training, please contact the Safeguarding Committee via Mary Tallon, Safeguarding Coordinator/DLP at

**Mobile No: (089) 7087881**

**Email: [safeguardingoffice@dominicans.ie](mailto:safeguardingoffice@dominicans.ie)**



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We fully appreciate that the area of safeguarding can, at times be daunting. Mary Tallon, in the Safeguarding Office, would be happy to answer questions you may have. The following are some of the more frequent questions she receives.



QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
<p><b>I have had an enquiry from a local woman who wants to help out with the altar servers.</b></p> <p><b>As the Prior, what do I need to do?</b></p>	<p>Welcome and introduce her to the Dominican child safeguarding measures in place in your church. Advise her re the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete volunteer declaration/application forms (Form 5)</li> <li>• Complete a Garda Vetting application and</li> <li>• The requirement to attend a safeguarding training event.</li> <li>• To be inducted in the Dominican Safeguarding Statement, policy procedures and practices.</li> </ul> <p>(See Dominican Safeguarding Handbook, 2020, Standard 1, for further details.)</p>
<p><b>Can a Dominican/ Parish Church live-stream its activities/ ministries?</b></p>	<p>Live-streaming is allowed in all parishes/churches once the correct data protection requirements and safeguarding practices are applied at all times. For example, Section 2 (1) c (111) of the Data Protection Act requires that any data is “adequate, relevant and not excessive”, and fit for the purpose for which it is collected.</p> <p>Camera shots (images) of the congregation should be wide shots – minimising the possibility of easily identifying individuals with close-up images.</p> <p>Consent should be obtained of altar servers and others taking part in liturgies; and, in the case of children/young people, it is essential to have the consent of parents, carers and/or legal guardians. (See Dominican Safeguarding Handbook, 2020, Form 10).</p> <p>(See Dominican Safeguarding Handbook, 2020 , Appendix 1, and the Dominican Data Protection Policy, 2019 for further details)</p>



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



**A local youth club wants to rent the Dominican church hall.**

**What do I need to do?**

Welcome the youth club leader and advise them on the procedures for use of Dominican property and completion of the “Use of Dominican Property by External Groups Form”.

(See Dominican Safeguarding Handbook, 2020, Guidance 9 and Form 13).

This requires all external groups to confirm they have Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures in place and have the appropriate insurance (public liability and/or employers’ liability and professional indemnity, if appropriate), cover for the activity.

Provide a copy of Form 13 to the youth leader.



# SAFEGUARDING INTERVIEW

Mr. Chris Lawson, Knockadoon  
Camp Manager

## Role of Knockadoon Camp Manager

The role of the Camp Manager, under the direction of the Camp Director, is to carry out the daily functions required for running the Camp, including overseeing and supervising Camp staff, the upkeep and maintenance of the Camp, ensuring the provision of all required catering facilities to meet the needs of all groups using the Camp and liaising with all personnel, visitors, organisations, who use the Camp.

### 1. What safeguarding role do you have?

My current role is the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for Knockadoon Camp. Knockadoon is a residential summer camp that takes place in the Knockadoon Dominican Camp, Co. Cork. The purpose is to provide a safe place where young people can come together to enjoy themselves and relax in the company of their peers. The Camp offers young people a chance of a safe holiday away from their normal lives in which development as a human being and growth of one's Catholic faith is the central mission of the week.

### 2. How has safeguarding changed since you got involved in Dominican ministry?

In my 10+ years of involvement with the Dominicans, both professionally and in

a voluntary role, it has always been evident that safeguarding is a priority for them. It is a fantastic achievement for the Church to be able to



facilitate such a successful summer Camp whereby young people, youth leaders, volunteers, staff and Dominicans all share a safe and joyful environment each year round. This is down to the continued investment and support shown by the Dominicans in promoting safeguarding. For example, it is now required, each year, for all staff and youth leaders to complete the Safeguarding Training developed by the Dominican Province's DLP, to complete the Child Protection Online Training developed by TUSLA, while also being Garda vetted. These are further layers that are supported by the Camp's DLP (myself) and the Dominicans, who all undergo appropriate training for their roles.

The Dominicans has appointed a province-wide Coordinator of Safeguarding in Mary Tallon, who has been instrumental in helping to foster a safeguarding ethos both within Knockadoon Camp and throughout the Dominican community. I am extremely lucky to be able to work alongside Mary in my role as Knockadoon Camp's DLP and it is this type of investment into resources for us, by the Dominicans, which has helped paved the way forward for the Camp.



## SAFEGUARDING INTERVIEW

Mr. Chris Lawson, Knockadoon

Finally, the work of the Dominicans and the ethos of the Camp in general has been a key contributor to the attraction of many fantastic volunteers, who so willingly give up so much of their time (all year round) to train, fundraise and promote the camp in such a positive way. This continues to grow in strength each year as they strive to improve all aspects of the camp with safeguarding always at focal point.

### 3. How do you implement safeguarding practices in your role?

This happens in a variety of forms. As Knockadoon is a summer project, most of the work is seasonal and happens while on Camp.

Some of the key responsibilities of the DLP while on Camp are:

- Ensuring that all safeguarding reporting procedures are upheld while on Camp and that any concerns are referred promptly to the statutory authorities, i.e. TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, HSCT and An Garda Síochána/PSNI.
- Liaising with the DLP for the Dominican Province as required.
- Providing support for children, young people, staff and volunteers involved in any disclosure, whilst ensuring all information is kept confidential.
- Ensuring that safeguarding/child protection training is provided for all new

and existing staff, volunteers, and leaders involved with the Camp.

There is also strong emphasis on planning and training all year round. Some off-camp activities are:

- Attending safeguarding training and meetings as part of the Dominicans' Safeguarding Committee. This allows for the reviewing of all of Knockadoon Camp's policies annually, to ensure best practice is maintained.
- Meeting with all of the organisations that use Knockadoon Camp individually to ensure that key safeguarding principles are communicated and that the organisations are supported and confident in the procedures for camp.
- Ensuring all staff, youth leaders and volunteers are Garda vetted and have completed all necessary training in the lead up to the summer.

### 4. What challenges does it present to you?

The main challenge, really, is time. I work full-time as a lecturer and it can be difficult to manage a full-time job with these other important commitments. I am fortunate that I can use my holidays from the college to focus on all things 'Knockadoon'. The Camp is fundamentally a charitable organisation and the majority of the people involved in Knockadoon are volunteers. Time is a



## SAFEGUARDING INTERVIEW

### CONTINUED

challenge for everyone, but as I said previously, there is a fantastic culture of willingness that spurs Knockadoon Camp forward each year. Like myself, many people have been impacted so positively by their experiences of Knockadoon and are therefore willing to go that extra mile to ensure they can give something back to the next generation. I work as part of a fantastic group and proud to say that any challenges faced, are always responded with enthusiasm and positivity.

#### 5. What are your hopes for the future regarding the involvement of young people in Dominican ministry?

Knockadoon summer camp last year (2019) provided a safe holiday to nearly 800 young people from all across Ireland (North and South). It has also expanded in its support network of youth leaders, volunteers and staff, to ensure that the running of the camp is effective, enjoyable and safe. It is my hope to continue to help Knockadoon Camp reach more and more young people and that the Camp will continue to have a meaningful impact on their lives.

Finally, it is hoped that Knockadoon can become more sustainable, so that the fundraising efforts of each organisation that use the camp is not as intensive and that we can continue to develop the Camp's aging infrastructure.



## SAFEGUARDING OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS

**Name:** Ms. Mary Tallon  
Co Ordinator of  
Safeguarding/  
Designated Liaison Person

Fr. Pat Lucey, O.P.  
Deputy Designated Liaison Person

**Address:** Safeguarding Office,  
Dominican Provincialate,  
St. Mary's Priory,  
Tallaght Village, D24 X585

**Office Phone No:** (01) 4048121

**DLP Mobile Number:** (089) 7087881

**Email:** [safeguardingoffice@dominicans.ie](mailto:safeguardingoffice@dominicans.ie)

**OR**

You can report your concern directly to:

**An Garda Síochána Helpline:**

1800 555 222

**Tusla, Child and Family Agency:**

[www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie)



## CLOSING REFLECTION

“

Our generation will show that it can rise to the promise found in each young person when we know how to give them space. This means that we have to create the material and spiritual conditions for their full development; to give them a solid basis on which to build their lives; to guarantee their safety and their education to be everything they can be; to pass on to them lasting values that make life worth living; to give them a transcendent horizon for their thirst for authentic happiness and their creativity for the good; to give them the legacy of a world worthy of human life; and to awaken in them their greatest potential as builders of their own destiny, sharing responsibility for the future of everyone. If we can do all this, we anticipate today the future that enters the world through the window of the young.

”

Pope Francis, Address at World Youth Day Welcome Ceremony,

22 July 2013





Safeguarding Office, Dominican Provincialate,  
St. Mary's Priory, Tallaght Village, D24 X585