

Chair of Safeguarding committee

On behalf of the Dominican National Safeguarding Committee, we are pleased to have our first dedicated Dominican Safeguarding Sunday.

As a Committee, we wish to promote continuously and ensure best practice in working with children, young people and vulnerable adults, who are part of the Dominican church, attending Mass, involved in choirs, altar servers, youth clubs, Sunday schools, Knockadoon Youth Camp, retreat and counselling centres and all other youth ministries.

We will continue to promote a place and culture of safety and fun for all involved in our church.

Pat Connell,
Committee Chair



Knockadoon Youth Camp (Dominican Youth Ministry)

Every year approximately 400 children and young people from many parts of Ireland, north and south, enjoy a fun filled, week's holidays in Knockadoon Summer Camp, where they have also an opportunity to learn more about their faith.

This is facilitated by Dominican brothers and a group of a hundred dedicated youth leaders. All involved have undergone child safeguarding training and Garda vetting.

Dominican Sunday School, Pope's Quay, Cork

The Sunday School is a ministry run by the Dominicans in conjunction with a group of parents of children and young people who attend.

It takes place every Sunday for an hour after the 12.30pm family Mass and provides faith formation for children of three different age groups, Catechism of the Good Shepherd for children under 8 years, "Kids Cat" for children aged 8 to 10 years and Faith and Life for children aged 11 to 14 years.

Faith formation is also available for parents. All involved are Garda vetted and undergo child safeguarding training.



DOMINICAN PROVINCE OF IRELAND Safeguarding Sunday

NOVEMBER 17, 2019

"We need to see each child as a gift, to be welcomed, cherished and protected...."
Pope Francis [2015]



MESSAGE FROM PRIOR PROVINCIAL OF THE DOMINICAN PROVINCE OF IRELAND

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to welcome and support this initiative of the Dominican National Safeguarding Committee to have an annual Safeguarding Sunday. In working alongside our National Safeguarding Committee, we strive to make every effort to ensure that children, young people and vulnerable adults who participate, attend or avail of any Dominican ministry, do so in a safe environment.

As part of the Catholic Church in Ireland, the Irish Dominican Province, recognising and upholding the dignity and rights of all children, young people and vulnerable adults is totally committed to ensuring their well-being, and will work in partnership with parents/guardians/carers to do this.

This Sunday, November 17, 2019, is an opportunity in the Irish Dominican Province not just to acknowledge the enormous pain and suffering caused to so many people who have been abused as children and the huge impact this has on their lives, but also never to forget the hurt and damage caused. It also provides an opportunity to restate our commitment to the fundamental right of each person to be respected, treasured and cared for. Our Province wants to provide an environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults that is welcoming, nurturing and safe.

I am happy to express these words of encouragement to you about the issue of safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults and wish to thank sincerely, all the members of the Province and those who work with us, to ensure our churches and other Dominican venues are safe for all. Our Christian faith should compel us to care for the young, the weak and vulnerable. Good safeguarding is simply part of who we are and what we do and should be for everyone and about everyone.

I ask you today, and always, to pray for all those who had their childhood destroyed either by church members or others; for those whose trust in the church has been damaged and for all those working diligently to ensure that our priories and churches are safe places for our children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Fr Gregory P Carroll OP
Prior Provincial

Developments to Date

- 2009** National Policy for Safeguarding Children adopted by the Dominican Province of Ireland.
- 2010** Dominican Province of Ireland publish their Child Safeguarding Policy.
- 2012** The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) published a review of Safeguarding Practices within the Dominican Province of Ireland.
- 2016** The Dominican Province of Ireland adopted the NBSCCCI updated policy for Safeguarding Children.
- 2017** TUSLA publish the audit of the Dominican Province of Ireland.
- 2018** The establishment of the Dominican Province of Ireland National Safeguarding Committee.



Dominican Safeguarding Structures

- Dominican Coordinator of Safeguarding/Dominican Designated Liaison Person (DLP)
- Dominican National Safeguarding Committee
- Dominican Provincial Advisory Committee
- Dominican/Diocesan Parish Safeguarding Representative/s



The Designated Liaison Person

Safeguarding within the Dominican Church Community is about making it a safe, welcoming and enriching place, for children, young people, vulnerable adults and those who may be at risk of harm.

As the Designated Liaison Person (DLP), I have specific responsibility for ensuring that effective procedures are followed within the Dominican Province of Ireland when dealing with any concern that a child, young person or vulnerable adult may have been, is being or is at risk of being abused.

My role as DLP is to promote safeguarding by:

- Facilitating people to make complaints about abuse
- Offering support
- Reporting any child protection concerns that relate to Dominican friars, staff or volunteers to the statutory authorities.
- Advising the Provincial on protective measures ensuring that all appropriate measures are taken to prevent any person who has offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult from doing so again.
- To ensure the implementation of the Dominican Province of Ireland safeguarding statement, reporting procedures and best practice guidelines.

Safeguarding in the Dominican Province of Ireland

We work in close cooperation with the statutory authorities, namely – An Garda Síochána / Police Service of Northern Ireland, Tusla/Health Services Social Care Trust, and the NBSCCCI.

If you have a concern or wish to discuss a safeguarding query, you can contact the DLP, Mary Tallon, on **089 708 7881** or email safeguardingoffice@dominicans.ie and/or you can also contact the following statutory services:

The local Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Duty Social Work Office at www.tusla.ie or the Health Services Social Care Trust at www.hcst.co.uk

An Garda Síochána – Confidential Number 1800 555 222

Police Service of Northern Ireland - 999 Emergencies 101 Non Emergencies

