



CLOYNE DIOCESAN CENTRE

Cobh, Co. Cork. P24 RK54

Tel: 021 481 1430

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Email: info@cloynediocese.ie

www.cloynediocese.ie

Our Ref: 1812/20

27th November 2020

Dear Friends,

In these COVID -19 times, we are experiencing challenges of every kind and living with so many restrictions our social interaction has been limited. Our experience of Church has been tested and our pastoral activities have been curtailed. It is a time like none we have experienced in our lifetime. Little did we think that a day would come when people would not be able to gather for Masses, not because of persecution but because of a deadly virus. In staying apart, we are caring for one another.

I take this opportunity to pen this short message about Safeguarding in the Church, to acknowledge the work done in parishes and to assure people that this most important area in pastoral life is continuing. While ministry with the young and vulnerable in a one-to-one contact is limited, nevertheless, we need to be constantly vigilant to ensure that Safeguarding practices and procedures are complied with. With so many Parishes offering on line services we are more aware than ever of the importance of the internet and the world wide web. However, there is also a risk when using these, especially for young people. I thank all who are using these technologies to keep in contact with the people of the parishes and as a means of spreading the Gospel. I encourage you to ensure that you abide by procedures and policy relating to Safeguarding when using these. I urge parents and guardians to also be attentive to guiding and protecting their children in the area of these technologies. While they probably know a lot about how to use them, they may not be aware of the dangers and how easily one can be drawn into the dark area of the web.

We have found with the restrictions that we have more time on our hands and this can lead to more personal reflection and for issues in the past to arise again. For those who have been abused, these times can be difficult and can lead to more thoughts on experiences of the past. Indeed, for anyone who has been abused, I encourage you to seek support and for anyone who has been abused by clergy or religious you are welcome to come forward to tell your story. This may be in relation to people who are alive or deceased. A person can go directly to the statutory agencies to report abuse, TUSLA and Gardaí and also use the system in place now for reporting in the Church through the Designated Liaison Person whose contact details you can find in this message. In the Diocese we have a good Safeguarding structure and, in every parish, there are women and men committed to ensure that the best practices are adhered to.



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Where the person who abused is deceased, we have found, that the person who was abused coming forward to record their story of what happened to them, helps in their healing.

I thank all those involved in Safeguarding in the diocese. Your commitment and generosity is of vital importance to ensure that the young and vulnerable can participate safely in the life of the Church.

I wish every one peace at this time and please God we will be safe in these COVID -19 days.

With every good wish and blessing,

+ William Crean

Most Rev William Crean, DD

Bishop of Cloyne

REPORTING

If a person has a Safeguarding concern or wishes to report an allegation of child abuse or to record historical abuse, contact the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person and or Gardaí and TUSLA

Designated Liaison Person(DLP):

Fr. Patrick Winkle and Mr. Ger Crowley: 086-0368999

Email: dlp@cloynediocese.ie

An Garda Síochána

For allegations that relate to clerics/religious: 01-6663430 or 01-6663435

For allegations that do not relate to clerics/religious: Local Garda Station

Tusla

Cobh/Midleton/Macroon areas : 021-4927000

Mallow/Fermoy areas : 022-54100