

Rome 2019

Pope Francis called together Presidents of Bishops' Conferences for a Meeting on Child Safeguarding. The four-day meeting took place in Rome on 21-24th February 2019. The long term outcomes will undoubtedly impact on our practice here in Ireland, and the National Board will work closely with Church authorities and Church personnel to ensure they offer support in developing and maintaining best practice standards on all aspects of child safeguarding in the Catholic Church in Ireland.



Amongst his closing remarks, Pope Francis said "The Church thus restates "her firm resolve to pursue unstintingly a path of purification, questioning how best to protect children, to avoid these tragedies, to bring healing and restoration to the victims, and to improve the training imparted in seminaries".

Garda Vetting

Sandra keeps a database on all those who have been vetted through the Region. She will keep people informed as to when the vetting is for renewal.

For those members who have availed of the vetting process through the Diocese in which they reside and minister, Sandra would appreciate if they could forward a copy of that vetting outcome to her here in Dalgan to ensure her records are up to date.

Thank you!



If you have a safeguarding concern please contact:

Sandra Neville,
Designated Liaison Person
Email: sandra.neville@columban.ie
Mobile: 087 9844779

Or you can report your concern directly to:

An Garda Síochána Helpline
Tel: 1800 555 222
or
TUSLA (Child and Family Agency)
Tel: 046 909 7870



Missionary Society of St Columban

Dalgan Park, Navan, Co. Meath



Safeguarding Newsletter, Region of Ireland

Issue 4 : June 2019

Summer Sun

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Great is the sun, and wide he goes
Through empty heaven with repose;
And in the blue and glowing days
More thick than rain he showers his rays....
Above the hills, along the blue,
Round the bright air with footing true,
To please the child, to paint the rose,
The gardener of the World, he goes.



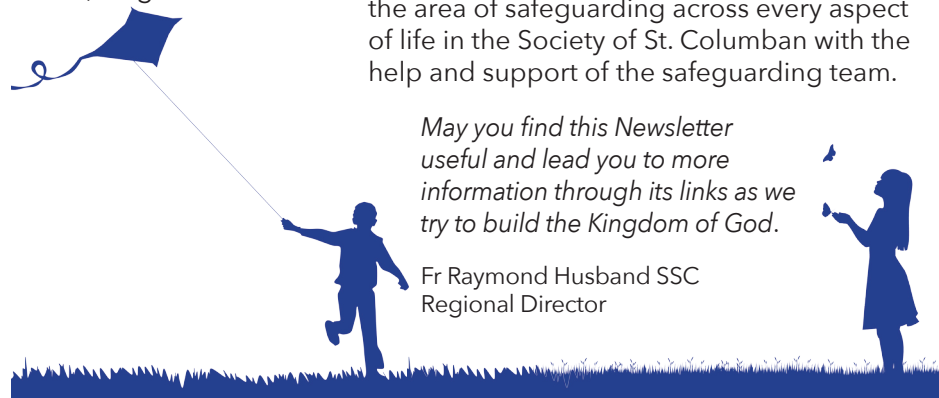
Welcome

Since I began my journey as Regional Director I have had time to reflect on the area of safeguarding, I think of the words of Jesus that reveal his tender and gentle attitude to children and all those who are vulnerable. Here in our Region we aim to reflect this attitude of Jesus in all activities involving children, young people and vulnerable persons. We will uphold their fundamental rights, care for and protect them in accordance with the teaching of the Gospel and national legislation. We value and encourage the active participation of all in the life of the Church. This will be achieved through the development of best practice in the area of safeguarding across every aspect of life in the Society of St. Columban with the help and support of the safeguarding team.



*May you find this Newsletter
useful and lead you to more
information through its links as we
try to build the Kingdom of God.*

Fr Raymond Husband SSC
Regional Director



Pope's Visit to Ireland August 2018

Final address to the Irish Bishops 26th August 2018:

"A recurrent theme of my visit, of course, has been the Church's need to acknowledge and remedy, with evangelical honesty and courage past failures – grave sins – with regard to the protection of children and vulnerable adults. Among these, women who were mistreated.

In recent years, you as a body have resolutely moved forward, not only by undertaking paths of purification and reconciliation with victims and survivors of abuse, but also have set in place a stringent set of norms aimed at ensuring the safety of young people.

In Ireland, as elsewhere, the honesty and integrity with which the Church chooses to confront this painful chapter of her history can offer an example and a warning to society as a whole. Continue on this path.... Whenever you and your people feel that you are a "little flock" facing challenges and difficulties, do not grow discouraged. As Saint John of the Cross teaches us, it is in the dark night that the light of faith shines purest in our hearts".



NBSCCCI News (www.safeguarding.ie)



NBSCCCI National Conference 2018 - Be not Afraid

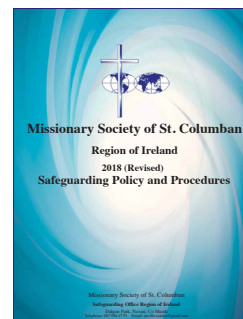
The National Board's conference was held in Kilkenny on October 26th & 27th. The theme of the conference – Be not Afraid – was chosen to encourage all Church personnel, clerics, religious, lay men, women and children to not allow fears to impede them in continuing to push the boundaries of safeguarding practice. In doing so, we can grow in confidence that we are promoting good safeguarding of children, caring for those who have been harmed and supporting respondents and their families.

The speakers explored ways of having confidence to engage with complainants, respondent's families and ministering with children with drive and energy.

Some of the presentations made to the National Conference can be found at: <https://www.safeguarding.ie/component/eventbooking/national-safeguarding-conference-2018>

Update - Society website, www.columbans.ie

We have not published in print format our Safeguarding Policies & Procedures because of the need to revise and update on a regular basis to comply with current legislation and best practice. In recent months we made some changes to the document to include the topic of mandated persons (see next section). You will find all documents pertaining to Safeguarding in the safeguarding section of the website: www.columbans.ie including the Policies & Procedures.



GDPR - General Data Protection Regulation

As you all know, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into effect throughout the EU (including Ireland and UK) on 25th May 2018 and is now the law. It aims to give us a greater level of control over our personal data.

This year the Region appointed Fr Seán Dwan as Data Protection

Coordinator. His role is to advise, implement policies and to monitor compliance with Data Protection Regulation.

Children First

Mandated Persons: The Role of Mandated Persons:

From December 2017 under the Children First Act 2015 people holding certain positions (a mandated person) are required by law to report to Tusla where he or she "knows, believes or has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is being harmed, has been harmed or is at risk of being harmed". Mandated Persons (as defined under the Children First Act 2015) are people who have contact with children and/or their families and who, because of their qualifications, training and/or employment role, are in a key position to help protect children from harm. Included in the definition of mandated persons are **Clergy, DLP's and Paid Pastoral Care workers.**

The Region requires that all those who minister, comply with the requirements of our Reporting Procedures and meet their obligations under the Children First Act 2015.