



Missionary Society of St. Columban

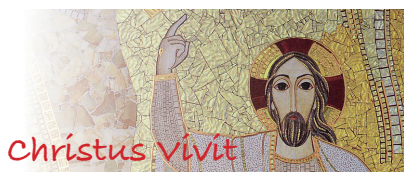
Dalغان Park, Navan, Co Meath



Safeguarding Newsletter, Region of Ireland

Issue 6: July 2021

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)*

Safeguarding Committee News

Chairperson

Sandra Neville

Committee Members

Fr Donie Hogan

Michael O'Sullivan

Fr Padraig O'Donovan

The Safeguarding Committee met on four occasions during 2020. The work of the Committee continued and a number of required tasks are completed and or ongoing as follow:

- Audits completed and annual report for 2020 completed, same displayed on the website (Safeguarding Section).
- Mandated Person List revised and updated.
- Committee members attended trainings provided by the NBSCCCI.
- Safeguarding Newsletter developed and circulated in June 2020.
- Garda Vetting of Members and staff is up to date.

Supports for Survivors / Complainants

Towards Peace



Towards Peace (www.towardspeace.ie) is a service offering spiritual support for anybody who has been abused, physically, emotionally, sexually, spiritually, in a religious/church environment. It is a pathway, a safe space where people who have been hurt can connect with their own spirituality, their sense of God and their own journey Towards Peace. The service is free and is also available to the families of those who have been affected.

Towards Peace understands spirituality as a way of being in, and relating to the world, connected to God and to one's deepest self. Through one to one meetings with a trained and qualified spiritual companion, Towards Peace offers safe spaces for people to attend to their own spiritual life.

Towards Peace continues to operate during the current restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 crisis. While, face to face meetings are on hold for the moment, if anyone wishes to access the Service, via telephone or SKYPE or seek further information, they can contact the office at (086) 7710533, office hours are Monday and Tuesday 9am-4pm and Wednesday 9am – 12 noon.



Towards Healing

(www.towardshealing.ie) is a Counselling and Support Service for Survivors of Institutional, Clerical and Religious abuse, funded by the Catholic Church.

Towards Healing provides a counselling helpline, individual face to face counselling for survivors, telephone counselling, workshops and advocacy service.

It provides services to clients regardless of where they currently live.

The Helpline operates as follows:

Monday – Thursday from 11am to 8pm

and Fridays from 11am to 6pm.

Freephone Number (Ireland) 1800 303416

Freephone number (UK) 0800 0963315



Safeguarding News from the Philippines – July 2021

Until March 2020, when the long pandemic lockdown here in the Philippines began, our Regional Child Protection Team met regularly. However, since the pandemic lockdown we have only been able to meet on a few occasions through Zoom conference calls.

This is our team: Leo Distor (Regional Child Protection Officer), Robert Samson (Deputy Child Protection Officer), Mercy Cabrillas (Child Protection Liaison Officer) and Paul Glynn (Regional Director).

Robert has spent many years both in Ireland and in the Philippines training church groups and organizations in the areas of safeguarding, child protection awareness and policy development. We are blessed to have his expertise from both the Irish and the Philippine context. We are equally blessed to have Mercy on our team. She is a social worker with a vast experience of responding to sexually abused and prostituted children, psychosocial intervention, trauma therapy and legal case management. Leo is the first line of contact for anyone who (God forbid) makes a complaint or allegation regarding the Columbans here. Robert and Mercy are then able to assist Leo straight away. Mercy has vast experience of working with the police and the other statutory authorities dealing with safeguarding and abuse.

Though we seem to have done all the necessary preparations to equip us well to prevent any form of child abuse under our care, we still need to be cautious, attentive and aware of our roles. In 2019 we launched our Regional “Policy on Preventing and Dealing with the Abuse of Children and Vulnerable Adults”. This consisted of all Columbans and coworkers



in the Region undergoing the necessary safeguarding training. This training included a thorough examination and explanation of our regional policy and a public commitment made by each of us to fulfilling the policy. This was done by means of a public signing ceremony before each of us formally received a copy of the policy during our 2019 Regional Assembly.

Sadly, the pandemic has prevented us from fulfilling our plans to facilitate our various Columban ministries and parishes in drawing up policies specific to each of their own particular circumstances and providing safeguarding training for the parishioners, coworkers and beneficiaries of our various grass-roots engagements. Hopefully the pandemic will soon end and we will be able to do this.

Robert Samson and Paul Glynn

NEWS BOARD

- ◆ The NBSCCCI National Conference, 2022. “Theology of Safeguarding”. In preparation for the National Conference, the NBSCCCI has invited a number of theologians from across the world to prepare and present short (10 minute) video addressing particular questions which will assist in developing conversations around “A Theology of Safeguarding”.
- ◆ The videos will be on the NBSCCCI’s website commencing in January 2021, with a new video being uploaded every month thereafter until September 2021. www.safeguarding.ie
- ◆ Presenters include: Fr Hans Zollner, Patricia Kenny, Dr Ethna Regan, Dr Marcia Bunge, Sr Nuala Kenny, Fr Paddy Boyle, Una Allen, Dr Jesse Rogers and Mr Alan Kearns. www.safeguarding.ie see – National Conference 2022
- ◆ The NBSCCCI Safeguarding Newsletter for June 2021 is available on the website; www.safeguarding.ie

If you have a safeguarding concern please contact:

Sandra Neville, Designated Liaison Person

Email: sandra.neville@columban.ie or Mobile: 087 9844779

Or

You can report your concern(s) directly to:

An Garda Síochána Helpline, Tel: 1800 555 222,

and,

TUSLA (Child and Family Agency): www.tusla.ie

or contact Tusla local Social Work Department Navan: 046 9098560