



**Missionary Society  
of St. Columban**  
Dalgan Park, Navan Co. Meath



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*Safeguarding Newsletter, Region of Ireland*  
Issue 9: June 2023

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***Lord Jesus, hear our voices as we pray for your care and protection of all whom we meet in our daily lives. We especially ask that all children and vulnerable adults you entrust to our care are protected and feel safe. Give us the wisdom and courage to listen with open hearts, see with open eyes, and speak out to ensure children and vulnerable adults are safe, loved, respected, and cared for.***

***We also pray for those who have been harmed.***

***Give them the courage to seek healing.***

***Lord, you call us to walk with integrity in the service of others. May we strive to understand our collective responsibility to work together to safeguard all who are vulnerable. Guide us as we build a community that fosters everyone to flourish and be safe. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.***

### ***Safeguarding Committee News***

#### ***Welcome***

We are happy to present our annual safeguarding newsletter and hope you will find something in it that touches your heart.

Since our last newsletter the committee has overseen the facilitation of safeguarding refresher sessions in Dalgan Park. Some of the members also attended sessions provided by the National Board of Safeguarding.

The ongoing renewal of Garda Vetting continues ensuring that the process is completed every 3 years and that every new staff member and member returning from overseas are fully compliant. More information on what has happened in safeguarding can be found in our Annual Report 2022 ([www.columbans.ie](http://www.columbans.ie)).

We wish to express our thanks to all those who assist in anyway on our safeguarding journey.

### ***Safeguarding News From Chile***



In 2015, on the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, guidelines from the Bishops' Conference was promulgated and decreed for each Diocese. At this time basic courses on *Prevention of Abuse of Minors & Vulnerable People*, were provided. In May, 43 people of our parish of San Matias in Santiago, attended the course. The general body of people coming to Church tend to be passive, with work and economic factors taking precedence and it takes a lot of motivation to become active agents in prevention of abuse. We are very happy that the pastoral agents of the parish took time to attend the course. There is a lot of awareness now in Chilean society about abuse. The anger towards the Church among the people is especially towards the hierarchy for having covered up abuse perpetrated by the clergy.

I will finish by saying that the Church in Chile has advanced greatly in the area of prevention and dealing with abuse especially at administration and the chancellery level. This will be in time a big contribution to Chilean society which is in crisis and needs to grow in respectful relationships, trust and confidence.

We, Columbans are obliged to follow the Diocesan Guidelines, those who do the course are credited and registered in the Diocese. The Columbans in Peru & Chile under the Director Tony Coney will be continuing with the theme of protection in coming assemblies.

***Fr Michale Howe, Country Leader, Chile***

## Update on Revision of Safeguarding Children, Policy and Standards for Catholic Church in Ireland (2016)

A draft is to be submitted to the Irish Catholic Bishops Conference (IEC) and The Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland (AMRI) by the end of May/June. Further consultation if approved by IEC and AMRI – June, July and August. Consideration of further amendments – September 2023. The National Board are considering the new policy to have three areas:



- Prevention: Standards 1,5 and 6
- Intervention: Standards 2,3 and 4
- Governance: Standards 7

### Scoping Inquiry into Schools run by Religious Orders

In the aftermath of revelations made regarding abuse of minors in schools run by the Spiritans, Carmelites and Jesuits, on 7th March Norma Foley, the Minister of Education, announced the setting up of a ‘scoping inquiry’ into allegations of historical sexual abuse at schools run by religious orders.

In response to this Pdraig McCarthy, a retired diocesan priest, wrote in a letter to the Irish Times on 13th March 2023:

‘This is a step in the right direction. Any abuse, even just one case is abhorrent. The Inquiry announced is, however, a highly discriminatory step. Religious orders are not the only organisations which provide such educational services. Is the Minister suggesting that those others are immune from such abuse, including schools run by the State itself? Studies of abuse in U.S. public schools also indicate serious levels of abuse. Why restrict the scoping inquiry to schools run by religious orders, if we are serious about discovering the full facts?’

It is of further concern that religious orders are characteristic of the Catholic church. To restrict the inquiry just to Catholic organisations would seem to suggest that the Catholic church is inherently more to be mistrusted than other organisations.’

Justine McCarthy, writing in the Irish Times on April 14th under the headline “Sectarian criteria undermines abuse inquiry before it begins”, expanded on what Pdraig McCarthy wrote with regard to the discriminatory nature of the scoping exercise.



*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)



If you have a safeguarding concern please contact:

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*You can report your concern(s) directly to:*

An Garda Síochána Helpline, Tel: 1800 555 222,

TUSLA (Child and Family Agency): [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie)

or contact the Tusla local Social Work Department