

Safeguarding Newsletter

Diocese of Kerry
Issue 7, March, 2023

Parish self-audit

Every year each parish completes a safeguarding self-audit. The following are findings from the most recent audit, assessing activities from Sept 2021 – Sept 2022:

- ❖ Majority of parishes have copies of the correct safeguarding policies and procedural documents.
- ❖ 130 Parish Safeguarding Representative across the diocese. Number of Reps has remained consistent throughout covid.
- ❖ During the audit period, 6 parishes ran activities with under 18s.
- ❖ Significant improvement in the display of signage informing the public about the use of for CCTV / Webcam in relevant parishes.
- ❖ 22 parishes do not have a GDPR notice for their sacristy register. Please refer to this newsletter for information on this notice:
<https://www.dioceseofkerry.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Diocesan-Safeguarding-Newsletter-Issue-5-1.pdf>
- ❖ In 8 parishes, Eucharistic Ministers visit nursing homes and/or private homes. It is important that these Eucharistic Ministers are vetted and attend adults at-risk of abuse training.
- ❖ Increase in the number of non-church groups using church property. A small number of these groups have not completed the appropriate form. This form ensures that each group has their own insurance and safeguarding policy. Link to the form:
<https://www.dioceseofkerry.ie/safeguarding/safeguardingforms/>



Training and vetting in 2022

Training

- ❖ Safeguarding Children Training: 36 parishes availed of training, total of 119 people attended.
- ❖ Adult at-risk of abuse training (relevant for Priests and Eucharistic ministers who visit nursing homes or private homes of non-family members): 35 Priests attended.

Vetting

- ❖ In line with recommendations from the National Vetting Bureau, vetting must be renewed every 3 years.
- ❖ 33 parishes processed vetting applications, total of 195 people vetted.

Meeting & dinner for Parish Reps

Meeting and dinner for Parish Safeguarding Reps is taking place in the following locations:

- ❖ The Brehon Hotel, Killarney, Thursday 23rd March, 7pm
- ❖ The Meadowlands Hotel, Tralee, Tuesday 28th March, 7pm

This is an opportunity to bring Reps together to discuss their role and function. It is also a chance to provide some important updates. If you are a Parish Rep and have not already informed the diocese of your attendance please email jacklynmccarthy@dioceseofkerry.org

Adults at-risk of abuse training programme

This training is relevant for:

- ❖ All Clergy (Priests and Deacons)
- ❖ Eucharistic Ministers who visit nursing homes or private homes of non-family members

The session will be offered online on the following dates:

- ❖ Wednesday, 3rd May, 7-9pm
- ❖ Thursday, 11th May, 2-4pm
- ❖ Thursday, 18th May, 7-9pm

To book a place contact:

jacklynmccarthy@dioceseofkerry.org

The Diocesan Adults At-Risk Policy can be found here:

<https://www.dioceseofkerry.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Adult-Safeguarding-Policy.pdf>

Safeguarding Children Training Programme

This training is relevant for:

- ❖ Parish Safeguarding Reps
- ❖ Sacristans
- ❖ Clergy (Priests & Deacons)
- ❖ Any Leaders of youth-based activities.

Zoom training dates:

- ❖ Thursday, April 20th, 7-9pm – Zoom
- ❖ Wednesday, April 26th, 7-9pm – Zoom

In person training date:

- ❖ Saturday, April 29th, 10-1pm, Brehon Hotel, Killarney

Celebret cards & signing the sacristy register

This is an important reminder for all Priests and Sacristans.

All Clergy from outside the diocese must be asked to produce a valid celebret card and sign the sacristy register before ministering in any Church.

Our Diocesan Safeguarding Handbook clearly states that this applies to all visiting Priests (ministering short term; including concelebration).

It includes once off ministries including weddings, funerals, baptisms.

There is a requirement to adhere to this guidance consistently across all parishes in the diocese.

Checklist for bringing back altar servers

Altar servers and their parents/guardians must complete a joint consent form. Altar servers must also be involved in deciding their own code of behaviour. It can be helpful to have an information evening in which the consent forms and code of behaviour can be discussed and completed.

If altar servers are required to get ready in the sacristy then supervision is required.

Adults who supervise altar servers must complete: Garda vetting and sign the agreement form for adults supervising children. Both of these forms are on the diocesan website.

It is important that the sacristy register is signed by everyone in the sacristy at Masses where altar servers are present.

