

# Safeguarding Newsletter

Diocese of Kerry  
Issue 9, April, 2025

## Safeguarding highlights 2024

The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland, published a new safeguarding policy: **A Safe and Welcoming Church**. This is the policy document that guides our safeguarding practice across the diocese.

**New safeguarding posters** were sent to all parishes. These posters are to replace the current safeguarding posters in all churches.

**SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT**  
DIOCESE OF KERRY

The Gospel teaches the importance of ensuring that the Catholic Church community is a warm, welcoming and safe place for children.

**Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. (Mark 10:14-15)**

Children are gifts from God, to be cherished and recognised for the joyful contribution they make as valued members of the Church.

Our challenge is to follow the example of Jesus in cherishing them. Safeguarding is key to this important task and should be seen, not as a burden, but as an opportunity to embrace and encourage children's ministry, following the example of Jesus Christ.

This Church body pledges to safeguard children and young people from harm and to support them in their development as valued and integral members of the Catholic Church in Ireland. The Church's ministry will be inclusive and will uphold their rights.

Consistent with Gospel values, and with civil and criminal law, those who minister will do so with dignity and integrity, honouring their calling to ensure that children and young people are welcomed, cherished and protected, following the example set by Jesus.

This Safeguarding Children Policy will be honoured and complied with by all ordained clerics, by vowed female and male religious, and by all lay staff and volunteers in the Catholic Church in Ireland.

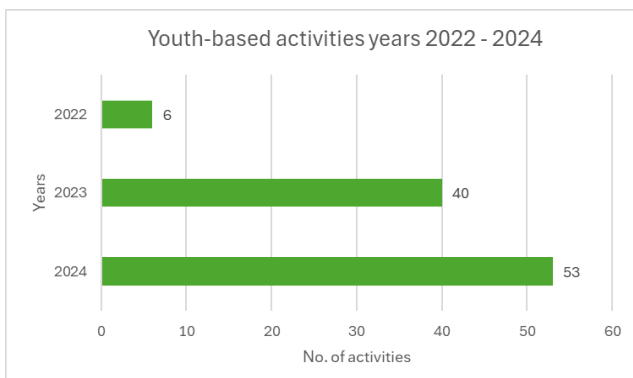
**If you have a concern about the welfare or safety of children or an adult who may be vulnerable, please contact any of the following:**

DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON FOR SAFEGUARDING	Diocese of Kerry	087 6362780
TUSLA: THE CHILD & FAMILY AGENCY HSE VULNERABLE ADULTS	North Kerry	062 7121566
	South Kerry	066 6071160
	North Cork	022 54100
	West Cork	023 90857
AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA	Lisimul	048 50820
	Tralee	066 7102390
	Killybegny	066 6071160
	Cahersiveen	066 9473660
	Bantry, Keshbeg	027 20860
GARDAÍ NATIONAL PROTECTIVE SERVICES BUREAU	Dublin	01 6663430

[www.dioceseofkerry.ie/safeguarding](http://www.dioceseofkerry.ie/safeguarding)  
for more information & to view the policy

## Some results from the safeguarding audits completed by parishes this year

Since covid we have seen an increase each year in youth based activities. It has taken time and hard work from Parish Reps, Volunteers and Priests to get these activities up and running again. This increase in numbers is a testament to the dedicated work we see at parish level.



This year we see a significant increase in the number of eucharistic ministers taking communion to nursing homes and private homes (8 Eucharistic Ministers in 2023 vs 19 Eucharistic Ministers in 2024). This is an important ministry and a great help to Priests, especially in parishes without a resident Priest.

## Breaking down the numbers

There are **127** Safeguarding Parish Representatives across the diocese. Reps are responsible for ensuring that youth based activities in the parish are safe for children and being run in accordance with the guidance from our safeguarding policy.

Diocesan Safeguarding Committee met on **5** occasions.

**259** parish vetting applications were processed.

**78** people attended safeguarding children training.

**45** people attended adults at-risk of abuse training.

## What is coming up before the summer

**Meeting:** Parish Reps to schedule a local meeting with the Parish Priest / Moderator in May. Agenda for this meeting will be circulated to reps and parishes by email.

**Safeguarding Children Refresher Training:** Please inform the following if their training is due for renewal (training must be renewed every 3 years): Parish Safeguarding Representatives, Sacristans, All Clergy (Priests and Deacons), Leaders of parish groups with under 18s.

- Wednesday 14th May, 7pm-8.30pm, Zoom
- Tuesday 20th May, 7pm-8.30pm, Zoom.

**Adult At-Risk Of Abuse Training:** Please inform the following if their training is due for renewal (training must be renewed every 3 years): All Clergy (Priests and Deacons), Eucharistic Ministers who visit nursing homes or private homes of non-family members, Lay Pastoral Leaders.

- Thursday 8th May, 7-9pm, Zoom

Bookings: [jacklynmccarthy@dioceseofkerry.org](mailto:jacklynmccarthy@dioceseofkerry.org)