

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE FOR PARISHES

The Catholic Church in Scotland is concerned with the lives, safety, wholeness and wellbeing of each individual person within God's purpose for everyone. It seeks to safeguard the welfare of children and young people who are involved in whatever capacity with the Church and its organisations. As a Church community, we accept that it is the responsibility of all of us, ordained, professed, paid and voluntary members to work together to prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The Scottish Bishops have expressed a very strong and sincere desire to follow Pope Francis's lead in asking that everyone is seen to take 'whatever steps are necessary to ensure the protection of minors and vulnerable adults and to respond to their needs with fairness and mercy'

Bishop Nolan has given his assurance that he will guide and help the diocese to remain at the forefront of Safeguarding. Like his brother Bishops, clergy and laity he will aid us in prevailing against those who would do us harm. We must also remember and pray for the survivors in our parishes and ensure that we continue to pray and care for them too.

Here in our parish Angelina will continue to work with others in the parish in continuing to deliver awareness training and robust recruitment for all volunteers. The PVG Scheme application and personal details forms must be completed as part of the recruitment process. Every day through the media we are made aware of the many and varied abuses in our society. This requires us to be ever vigilant.

The Pope again in his letter to all Bishops said 'families need to know that they have every right to turn to the Church with full confidence, for it is a safe and secure home' To follow from this we must understand that every time we come to Mass, services or social events, we share the responsibility for Safeguarding thus ensuring that our Diocesan Motto 'We are safe and welcome in our Father's House' is always upheld.

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