

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd



Safeguarding Newsletter, Irish Province

Issue 1: October 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

Sr. Cait O'Leary Province Leader

Tony Murphy DLP

Sr. Evelyn Fergus, Deputy DLP

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

- Audits completed and annual report for 2020 completed.
- Review and development of various guidances.
- Meetings held with local representatives from each community and with the archivists.
- Review of case files by DLP



Safeguarding at Congregational Level

The Congregational Safeguarding Policy is under review and will now include Adults at risk of harm. Our Safeguarding Policy & Procedures should comply with the Congregational Policy.

The Congregational Reporting Requirements:

All Child Protections Concerns within the Province will be dealt with by Sr. Cait O'Leary with the assistance of Tony Murphy DLP (Designated Liaison Person).



As part of the Congregational Policy the Congregational Safeguarding Advisor; Sandra Neville will be notified of all reports by the Province Leader or the DLP.



Sandra will communicate this report to the Congregational Safeguarding Committee and the Congregational Leadership Team.

News Board Items

- ◆ We will shortly be circulating **“Notes on ministering/working or visiting minors and adults in need of protection and at risk of harm”** to all the Sisters.
- ◆ The Leadership Team are currently reviewing our **“Adults at Risk of Harm”** Guidance and once approved will be sent to all communities.
- ◆ The NBSCCCI has invited a number of theologians from across the world to prepare and present short (10 minute) video addressing a **“A Theology of Safeguarding”**. You can access these on the following link: <https://www.safeguarding.ie/national-conference-2022>
- ◆ The June edition of the NBSCCCI Newsletter is available at www.safeguarding.ie (News & Events Section)

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



I Just >>> want to thank you <<< Lord

Thanks a Bundle, Lord
by Daphne Askew
[Banner Cross Methodist
Church, UK]



If you have a child protection concern please contact:

Tony Murphy,
Designated Liaison Person
Email: dlp@rgs.ie
Mobile: 087 2211235

Or

You can report your concern(s) directly to:
An Garda Síochána Helpline,
Tel: 1800 555 222,
TUSLA (Child and Family Agency): www.tusla.ie or
contact Tusla local Social Work Department

*For all life's blessings that are free,
For good things that we hear and see,
And most of all for loving me,
Thanks a bundle, Lord.*

*For Mums and Dads who've put us right,
For sisters to play and brothers to fight,
For homes where we live, for beds at night,
Thanks a bundle, Lord.*

*For all the different things we do,
For lovely people, friendships true,
Because I'm me and you are you,
Thanks a bundle, Lord.*

*For life's long road that we all tread,
For giving us our daily bread,
For days gone by, and years ahead,
Thanks a bundle, Lord.*

*For health and strength each day to face,
For giving us a little place
within the world, our own small space,
Thanks a bundle, Lord.*

*For being there to help us through
those days when we are feeling blue,
Times when we don't know what to do,
Thanks a bundle, Lord.*

*For those we love who've gone before,
We long to see them all once more.
One day we will, of that we're sure,
Thanks a bundle, Lord.*

*For giving us this lovely day,
Please give us many more, we pray,
But just before 'AMEN' we say
Thanks a bundle Lord.*