



DIOCESE OF GALLOWAY, CANDIDA CASA, 8 CORSEHILL ROAD, AYR KA7 2ST

DECREE

Promulgation of the Instruction on Safeguarding "In God's Image"

Whereas preventing and dealing with the abuse of children and vulnerable adults at risk within the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland requires comprehensive provision by the Church's own competent authorities in full collaboration with the relevant civil statutory authorities;

Whereas, since 1998, the Roman Catholic Bishops of Scotland have sought, through various initiatives and measures, to develop norms and policies capable of delivering an effective Safeguarding regime;

Whereas the Holy See, since 2001, has established a special law for dealing with cases of the abuse of minors and adults habitually lacking the use of reason by members of the clergy and has directed the Bishops of the Church to promote every pastoral measure possible to address the harm that has been caused and to prevent further harm;

Whereas, in 2013, as part of its response to the urgings of the Holy See and to the reality on the ground, the Bishops' Conference of Scotland commissioned Dr Andrew McLellan to prepare a review of the current Safeguarding policies, procedures and practice within the Catholic Church in Scotland;

Whereas, in fulfilment of their pastoral and canonical responsibilities, and heedful of the directions of the Holy See and of the recommendations of the McLellan Report, the Bishops of Scotland commissioned the General Secretariat of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland to draft a new document containing a comprehensive blueprint for Safeguarding within the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland;

Whereas, meeting in assembly on 12th March 2018, the Bishops examined and approved the draft document presented by the General Secretariat in the form of an Instruction entitled "*In God's Image: Instruction on Safeguarding for implementation in all Catholic canonical jurisdictions in Scotland and by all other groups and organisations in Scotland subject to a legitimate canonical authority of the Catholic Church.*"

Whereas, at the same meeting, each residential Bishop solemnly undertook to promulgate this Instruction by Decree on 29th April 2018 for observance in his own territory;

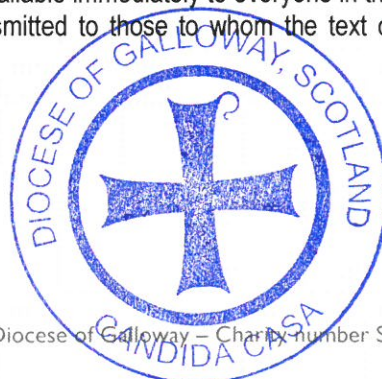
And in view of canon 34 §§1-2 of the Code of Canon Law (1983):

I HEREBY DECREE

1. That the Instruction, "In God's Image" is duly adopted as the normative framework for Safeguarding in this Diocese of Galloway;
2. That the Instruction enters into force on 21st May 2018;
3. That the Instruction is to be observed for an initial *ad experimentum* period of three years;
4. That difficulties in implementing the Instruction, or observations on its content, be reported to the General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland;
5. That the text of the Instruction be made available immediately to everyone in the Diocese with Safeguarding responsibilities;
6. And that the text of this Decree be transmitted to those to whom the text of the Instruction is sent and be published on the Diocesan website.

Given at Ayr on this 29th day of April 2018

Signature of Bishop



RC Diocese of Galloway - Charity number SC010576

Signature of Notary