

**THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN
SCOTLAND AWARENESS AND
SAFETY DOCUMENT.**

As you know there is a very well organised Volunteer preparation and selection process across the Catholic Church in Scotland. It is known as "Awareness and Safety in our Catholic Communities". We would like to make you aware of the following principle:

POLICY STATEMENT

(Section 1): "The Catholic Church in Scotland is concerned with the lives, safety, wholeness and well-being of each individual person within God's purpose for everyone. It seeks to safeguard the welfare of people of all ages 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 adults at risk." This statement and further information is available on the parish website.

In each parish the parish priest is to ensure that this statement is a lived reality and he is to be assisted in that task with the help of parish co-ordinators.

Our parish co-ordinators for this area of concern are Mr John Lawson and Mrs Catherine Lavell. If you have a worry about the well being of any child or adult at risk at any activity involving the church please call:

John on 01387 252737/07 980 635 345 or
Catherine on 01387 259630/07904427792.

You may of course also call Fr Jim on 01387 252603.

Our National Safeguarding Prayer

Lord Jesus we praise you for calling us to the service of others.
We pray for a generosity of spirit to ensure the vulnerable are protected.
We pray for a compassionate heart
so that we will reach out to those who are wounded by abuse.
We pray for courage and determination
as we seek the safety of everyone in our parish communities.
We dedicate ourselves to this work of service
and pray that you will help us to do your will at all times and in all places.
Amen.



St Teresa's Parish Community

Our Parish Priest is: Fr Jim Hayes

St Teresa's Presbytery, Glasgow Street,
Dumfries. DG2 9DE. Tel: (01387) 252603.

Email Fr Jim at: priest@stteresaschurch.com

Website: www.stteresaschurch.com

A parish of the RC Diocese of Galloway. Charity Number: SC 010576.

GALLOWAY DIOCESE 2017 SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

On behalf of our Diocese's Safeguarding Service and with Fr Jim's blessing and encouragement we would like to take this opportunity as your Parish Safeguarding Coordinator to update you on the key themes and priorities for 2017.

The commitment set out in the response to the McLellan Commission report in August 2015 remains the message to be reinforced across our parish communities.

'We accept that Safeguarding is the responsibility of the whole church, all of the baptised as well as ordained, professed, those who are employed and those who volunteer, working together to create and maintain safe environments'

In promoting this there are key themes arising from the principal recommendations of the McLellan commission linked to the implementation plan agreed by the Bishops Conference of Scotland which will be the focus for our diocesan safeguarding service in 2017. We recognize that our volunteers, Parish Safeguarding Coordinators, Advisers and Clergy need ongoing training and support to allow them to sustain their roles. Through 2017 the roll out of the national training programme reflecting the commitment to the development of undertaking regular and high quality training and continuous professional development as identified in McLellan's recommendations will offer a staged programme of opportunities for all involved in assuring Safeguarding in our parish communities.

'Support for the survivors of abuse must be an absolute priority for the Catholic Church in Scotland in the field of Safeguarding.' Media would suggest that our church has not visibly progressed our engagement with survivors and although this essentially is misinformation it is recognised that we need to offer clearer and a more robust public information pathway for access to support

including the National Counselling Service for those who have been abused in the Catholic Church. Work continues ensuring a consistent approach to Safeguarding across all sectors of the church throughout Scotland. This will be seen in the roll out of both the national training programme the assurance of safe recruitment practices for all volunteers engaged in regulated work; internal and external scrutiny of process and practice through both the annual audit requirements and development of an independent review body to monitor the effectiveness of the delivery of the agreed implementation plan.

The resourcefulness of volunteers and Parish Safeguarding Coordinators supporting their Parish Priests is critical to the continued improvement of safeguarding practices across our diocese. However, as we thank and remember their continuing commitment we need to recognise that we, all of us also have a role to play.

Pope Francis in his letter on the Feast of The Innocents 28 December 2016 asks us to renew our complete commitment to ensuring that the atrocities that occasioned in our church in the past will no longer take place in our midst; that we find the courage needed to take all necessary measures so that such crimes may never be repeated.

Our parish feast day will be celebrated on Sunday 1st October. Our annual ministry reflection evening will take place in the parish Hall on Monday 2nd October from 7pm till 9pm. The evening will end by 9pm. The evening will consist mainly of the new mandatory Safeguarding training course to which all those involved in our parish ministries are encouraged to attend.

Best wishes,

John *Catherine*
Parish Safeguarding Co-Ordinators