

Annual Safeguarding Announcement

Safeguarding concerns all of us

It is the responsibility of all of us, clergy or lay to ensure that the church is a safe and welcoming place for everyone and to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are protected.

Pope Francis has asked that our families are made aware that they have a right to expect that they are safe and secure in “our father’s house”. The Bishops of Scotland are committed to ensuring this.

Safeguarding in the Catholic Church means doing everything we can to protect our children and vulnerable adults; firstly, by having a safe system of recruitment for clergy, religious, employees and all our volunteers; which includes PVG checks, references and safeguarding training; and secondly, by having a reporting system so people can come forward with their concerns, be listened to and have their concerns acted upon. Safeguarding also includes care and support for survivors.

We have a dedicated safeguarding team. The team includes the Vicar General for Safeguarding, Monsignor Allan Chambers and our Safeguarding Advisor is Mrs Angela Hughes. The Safeguarding team is based at Gillis and Angela can be contacted at any time to advise on any safeguarding matters.

There are trained safeguarding co-ordinators in every parish who, alongside the Parish Priest, ensure the safe recruitment of volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults in the church. Our parish Safeguarding Coordinators are Morag O’Dwyer and John McCormack.

There is a poster up at the back of the church with our details on it. Please contact one of us if you have any concerns about a safeguarding matter.

Please also have a look at the Archdiocesan Safeguarding page on the website for more information

We do an annual safeguarding audit to assess the safeguarding work being done in every parish and diocese. The Church in Scotland has a mandatory reporting policy. This means that if an allegation of abuse is received it is immediately reported to the police.

It is imperative that any abuse, historic or otherwise, will be met with a listening ear, and action taken to restore people’s trust in our Church and our clergy and religious.

Archbishop Leo Cushley, Canon Paul Kelly and the Safeguarding Team are grateful for all the hard work done by Parish Co-ordinators and Volunteers in every parish across the archdiocese in keeping the Church a welcoming and safe place for all.