

DIOCESE OF GALLOWAY SAFEGUARDING BULLETIN



Welcome to the Bulletin

Welcome to the most recent edition of the Diocese of Galloway's Safeguarding Bulletin.

It is a time of considerable change in Safeguarding in the Scottish Catholic Church. The function of the National Office is being reviewed, with a new Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency being developed. A new national lead for Safeguarding has yet to be recruited to direct this agency.

In addition, *In God's Image* is being revised with an anticipated online publication date of early August 2021. The previous bulletin asked you to "Save the Date" of 2nd October, which is when the national webinar launching IGI will take place. More details will follow as they become available.

Please read this month's news, and contact a member of the Operations Core Team with any feedback.

"Abuse never stops when it stops."

Paul Stewart, former professional footballer for Manchester City, Tottenham Hotspur, Liverpool and England, has courageously spoken out about his experiences of child sexual abuse as part of the Truth Project. The Truth Project is part of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, and offers victims and survivors the chance to share their experiences and to be heard with respect. Victims and survivors have bravely spoken about the barriers they face in coming forward, how they hope to help others by sharing their experiences, and about the devastating, lifelong impact that child sexual abuse has on survivors and their families. Their experiences, published [here](#), highlight the importance of growing a culture of care in our parishes, where each person is treated with compassion and respect, and of ensuring a thorough understanding of Church safeguarding procedures.

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FR ZOLLNER TALK

The Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Northern Ireland recently hosted a presentation by Fr Hans Zollner, President of the Centre for Child Protection at the Pontifical University, Rome. Fr Hans' talk was on *Safeguarding Observations for the Evaluation and Revision of Canonical Penal Law* and he spoke passionately about the need to include survivor perspectives as part of a fundamental reform of ecclesiastic law. Fr Hans' talk is available [here](#).

LETTER TO A SUFFERING CHURCH

In 2019, American Bishop Robert Barron wrote *Letter to a Suffering Church* as a “cri de cœur”, a cry from the heart, in response to the sexual abuse scandal which he describes as “lacerating”. He calls the scandal a “diabolical masterpiece” and explains how it has corroded the credibility of Catholicism and crippled the Church’s work in evangelisation, catechesis, preaching, outreach to the poor, recruitment of vocations and education. Then, Bishop Barron turns to Scripture and Church history before rallying the faithful to stay in the pews and fight for the Church, quoting John 6:67-68: “Do you also want to go away?” But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” *Letter to a Suffering Church* is currently available [here](#) in kindle edition for 99p.

DSAG NEWS

The quarterly Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group meeting was held on 15th May. It was mostly virtual; however Gerry, Frances and Helena signed in from the diocesan office. Unknown to Gerry, this had been arranged so that a proper “thank you” and lunch could take place, with Bishop Nolan also present. Gerry has since then sent a letter addressed to all Safeguarding colleagues, thanking you all for the cheque, assorted bottles, and ukulele he received from your donations. Before that, the DSAG’s agenda was packed with updates on the diocesan safeguarding action plan and various strands of work that are ongoing. The IRG gave a very positive evaluation of the “impressive” models and working plans within Galloway. Minutes are available [here](#).

PARISH SAFEGUARDING TEAMS

The role of the Parish Safeguarding Coordinator has grown considerably in recent years. Changes to relevant legislation, external reviews and audit, and the introduction—and upcoming revised edition—of *In God’s Image* have all contributed to increased remit and responsibility, and the need for transparency and accountability to be incorporated into the role. In response to feedback from PSCs and clergy, a model for a structured team approach to parish safeguarding has been developed in Galloway. If you would like to know more or to join an initial meeting about how it will work, please get in touch with [Helena](#).

PVG UPDATES

The new online PVG system is well underway with an impressively quick and easy turnaround. The diocesan office is working on identifying and contacting volunteers whose PVGs are dated prior to 2016. PSCs will soon receive a coversheet with details of any information which we require to process PVG updates for volunteers within their own parishes. It is anticipated that by the end of 2021, all PVGs will be current.

SAFEGUARDING MATTERS

The first edition of the Bishops’ Conference of Scotland’s Safeguarding magazine is available [here](#) and contains information regarding revised *IGI*.

DEANERY MEETINGS

Dates for deanery meetings with PSCs have been circulated. In response to clergy feedback, parish priests will be invited to attend, and/or submit agenda items, if they wish to do so.

SOCIAL MEDIA SHARING

[This link](#) can be used to share this document on Facebook while retaining the hyperlinks.

SAFEGUARDING POST-COVID

A free online event is taking place on Fri, 11th June from 1:00—2:00 pm. It will explore safeguarding implications for hybrid (partially online) churches, and how to prepare for increased disclosures post-lockdown. Register [here](#).

SAFEGUARDING OPERATIONS TEAM (OT)

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