

Notice for Parish Bulletins – 4 October 2020

“Annual Safeguarding Report – Sunday 4 October 2020

The annual diocesan safeguarding announcement will be read out by Parish Priests in all parishes at Masses on Sunday 4 October 2020. Paisley diocese and our parish welcome the special responsibility we have for all children, young people and vulnerable adults in our community.

In our Church there are two posters. The first reaches out to survivors of abuse in the Church and invites them to contact our safeguarding team confidentially if they feel able. The Church has confidential and independent professional counselling services available to survivors of abuse within the Church. We also organised a presentation on **Saturday 3 October 2020** by Fr Dominic Allain about the ‘**Grief to Grace**’ retreat. ‘Grief to Grace’ has helped many abuse survivors to find help and healing, as the testimonies on their website report. <https://www.griegtograceuk.org/>. If you would be interested in attending a Grief to Grace retreat in Scotland next year, please contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser Mary Kearns in confidence on 07939 486290.

The second poster highlights our Safeguarding Manual with the contact details of your Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. Please contact our Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Mary Kearns (number in the previous paragraph), your Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator or Parish Priest if you have any concerns regarding the abuse or harm of any child, young person or vulnerable adult.

In 2018 the Scottish Bishops published a new and improved safeguarding manual called ‘In God’s Image’ which includes developments in best practice and implements the recommendations of the McLellan Commission. The Manual will be reviewed next year. If you would like to make any review points, please contact Mary Kearns who will arrange for them to be put forward. Our diocesan trainers deliver ongoing training to volunteers, parish safeguarding co-ordinators (PSCs) and clergy. Since October 2016 they have trained **1,363** volunteers, as well as PSCs and clergy. Training promotes vigilance and ensures those working with children and vulnerable adults know the Church’s system for reporting disclosures or concerns they may receive. Safeguarding involves the whole Church community. It is our responsibility as a community and as individuals to remain vigilant and to do everything in our power to keep our communities safe. Thank you for your support.