



Curial Office, 30 Lawside Rd. DUNDEE. DD3 6XY

Diocese of Dunkeld Annual Safeguarding Statement December 2023

This year started with the Diocese entering '**Sede vacante**' with the retirement of **Bishop Stephen Robson**. Bishop Stephen was a great advocate for the cause of safeguarding within our parishes, Diocese and throughout the country and his dedication to the mission in our diocese will be greatly missed. **Canon Kevin Golden**, as Administrator of the Diocese has accepted the leadership role for safeguarding in the Diocese and has done so with the same dedication and commitment shown previously by Bishop Stephen.

As a diocese, we will always pursue the highest safeguarding standards. We readily accept the responsibility to work together to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from abuse or harm. As ever, a significant part of this commitment is our responsibility to remember those who have been harmed or abused by a member of the Church.

As chair of the **Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group**, I would also want to thank and acknowledge the hard work, commitment and professionalism, both locally and nationally, of our **Diocese Safeguarding Advisor**, John Smith.

My thanks also go to the members of the **Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group** and the **Diocesan Risk Assessment Management Team**, who give many hours of their time on a voluntary basis, to assist the Diocese in achieving a high standard of safeguarding policies, protocols, and practices, in accordance with '**In God's Image**', for the benefit of all within the parishes who need safeguarding or support.

Safeguarding within our parishes, continues to be a vital element of our Diocesan life. On behalf of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group and with each priest of the Diocese, we remain grateful for the incredible efforts of

all our parish volunteers in their individual ministries. Can we also pay tribute to each of the **Parish Safeguarding Coordinators** and the tireless work they do on behalf of their parish communities.

The Diocese continues to work closely with the newly established **Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (SCSSA)**. This independent organisation has the task to ensure compliance with the standards as laid out in the document **'In God's Image'**, our instruction on safeguarding practice in the church in Scotland. The agency remains in its early stages of growth and continues to plan for the task at hand.

As always at this point in the year, we reach out to all survivors of abuse within the Catholic Church. There is no time limit for those who have suffered to come forward and tell us of their experience of abuse. We are committed to offering the best support possible to anyone who seeks our help.

We ask that you continue to keep in your prayers all survivors of abuse as we pray for their healing and comfort.

Roger Bromage
Independent Chair
On behalf of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group

If you are a survivor of abuse by someone within the Catholic Church and you want to find out what support is available, you can do so by contacting our Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser in confidence:

Email: safeguardingadvisor@dunkelldiocese.org.uk

Tel: 01382 225453 (Option 5)

Address: Safeguarding Advisor, Diocese of Dunkeld, Curial Office, 30 Lawside Road, Dundee. DD3 6SB

The Catholic Church in Scotland has a mandatory reporting policy. This means that ALL allegations of abuse are reported to the Police, whether the accused is alive or deceased. Although all allegations are reported to the Police, you have the right to decide whether or not to engage with the Police at this stage.

If you wish to make a statement to the Police, or if you decide that you are unable to do so at the moment, Safeguarding personnel are still available to offer you support.
