

Statement to the Parish on Safeguarding 2020

The Bishops of Scotland have made a commitment to Safeguarding:

In God's Image was published to explain, and direct, the approach to Safeguarding to be practised throughout the Catholic Church in Scotland. It outlines every effort necessary to protect our children, young people and vulnerable adults from all forms of harm and abuse. It instructs those responsible for managing Safeguarding arrangements in our Parishes, Catholic Organisations and Religious Institutes across the Diocese of Motherwell.

As a Parish Community we welcome, and fully appreciate, the contributions made by all who volunteer and offer their time, expertise, and skills, for the benefit of our parish. All our parish volunteers have completed the required elements of the Safe Recruitment process and only begin volunteering after being accepted for membership of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme (PVG), having provided referees, attended mandatory Safeguarding training, and finally having received a letter of approval to commence voluntary work. As an ongoing measure the Diocese updates every volunteer PVG membership every five years.

This information is presented to reassure you that all possible steps are taken to ensure that all children, young people and vulnerable adults are as safe as they can be when in the care of the Parish.

All components of the Catholic Church in Scotland, especially those in positions of leadership and responsibility, value the lives, wholeness, safety and well-being of each individual person within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to uphold the highest safeguarding standards in our relationships with people of all ages who are involved in whatever capacity with the Church and its organisations. And therefore, as a Church community, we accept that it is the responsibility of all of us - ordained, professed, employed and voluntary members - to work together to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from abuse or harm. IN GOD'S IMAGE, p.3

We hope that anyone considering becoming a Parish Volunteer will be encouraged by this information and will feel reassured that they, and those in their care, are well protected.

A digital copy of In God's Image can be found on the Bishops' Conference of Scotland website for all who wish to learn more about the Safeguarding Policies and Procedures of the Catholic Church in Scotland.

Today we pray for all those working in Safeguarding in our parish, our diocese, and across Scotland, and we remember especially the survivors of abuse as we pray for their healing and consolation.

+Joseph Toal

Bishop of Motherwell.

8th February 2020