

Our Safeguarding Culture of Care

"What we now call safeguarding – how we keep all, especially children and vulnerable adults, safe within our Catholic community – comes from the very heart of God's love made incarnate in his Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord."

(IN GOD'S IMAGE v2**)**

THE BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF SCOTLAND

Our Core Safeguarding message

- We regard as our paramount concern the safety of children and vulnerable adults.
- We demonstrate zero tolerance of abuse.
- We report all allegations of abuse to the statutory authorities.
- We show compassion for all who have suffered experience of abuse.
- We acknowledge and learn from our past failings.
- We open our safeguarding procedures to independent scrutiny.
- We provide training and support for all who are responsible for safeguarding.
- Together we commit to continuous improvement in our safeguarding practice.



IN GOD'S IMAGE has been published to explain and to direct the approach to safeguarding that must be followed throughout the Catholic Church in Scotland.

First published in 2018 for a trial 3-year period, it was revised to take account of evolving guidance and legislation and to come into force on 8th September 2021.

Our Safeguarding Standards

01 Creating and maintaining safe Church environments

02 Safely recruiting clergy, religious, lay employees and volunteers

03 Responding to safeguarding concerns and allegations of abuse

04 Providing care and support for those who have experienced abuse

05 Managing and providing care for respondents to allegations of abuse

06 Working together to develop a culture of care

07 Training and support for all responsible for safeguarding

08 Planning for continuous improvement in safeguarding

IN GOD'S IMAGE elaborates on each standard and provides detailed guidance on the procedures to be followed and on the evidence that will demonstrate compliance.

SCAN this QR code to read IN GOD'S IMAGE v2.

What To Do

If someone expresses concern or makes an allegation to you about abuse in the Church, you should:

- take the person seriously
- ensure the immediate safety of any person at risk
- in an emergency, contact the police, social work or medical services
- encourage the person to contact the Safeguarding Adviser in the Diocese or the Religious community where the alleged incident took place
- ensure that the person knows that the Church has a mandatory reporting policy and that you must inform the Diocese or Religious community who will inform the Police
- contact the Safeguarding Adviser and provide details.

To refer a safeguarding concern to a diocese, phone:

Aberdeen	01224 319154
Argyll & the Isles	07938 253133
Dunkeld	01382 225453
Galloway	01292 266750
Glasgow	0141 226 5898
Motherwell	01698 269114
Paisley	0141 847 6138
St Andrews & Edinburgh	0131 623 8949

or phone our national office on 0141 332 7177