



WHY SAFEGUARDING?

On 29th March 2019, as part of a major safeguarding initiative, Pope Francis issued a decree binding on Church bodies which he introduced as follows:

“The protection of minors and vulnerable persons is an integral part of the gospel message that the Church and all its members are called to spread throughout the world.

In fact, Christ himself entrusted us with the care and protection of the smallest and most defenceless: “whoever welcomes one child like this in my name, welcomes me” (Mt 18: 5).

Therefore, we all have the duty to generously welcome minors and vulnerable people and to create a safe environment for them, taking their interests first.

This requires a continuous and profound conversion, in which personal holiness and moral commitment can contribute to promoting the credibility of the Gospel proclamation and to renewing the educational mission of the Church.”

Pope Francis emphasises how safeguarding is an integral part of our conversion, personal holiness and commitment to the Gospel message.

Complying with domestic and international legal standards and with best practice recommended by experts in society, as approved by the Catholic Church in Ireland, is the specific role of St. Brigid’s Parish Safeguarding Committee. That role also depends on our commitment to the spiritual basis of all that we do.

It requires, as Pope Francis says, personal holiness, conversion and moral commitment and in the light of that message, we offer the following safeguarding prayer to all of our parishioners:

Lord Jesus,

Hear our voices as we pray for your care and protection.

Strengthen and guide us as we strive to make our Catholic communities a safe place for all.

Give us the wisdom and courage to listen with open hearts, see with open eyes, and speak out to ensure children and adults are safe, loved, respected, and cared for.

We also pray for those who have been harmed. Give them the courage to seek the truth and to heal.

May we all strive to understand our collective responsibility to work together to safeguard our Catholic communities.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

(The Safeguarding Prayer is published with the permission of the Archdiocese of Perth, Western Australia)