



## DIocese OF GALLOWAY

### Safeguarding Office

#### **ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT**

**OCTOBER 2025**

Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone. In the diocese we continue to develop and grow our Safeguarding policies and practices. We now have 41 Parish Safeguarding Coordinators, 9 Safeguarding Trainers, 7 DRAMT (Diocesan Risk Assessment Management Team) members and 13 DSAG (Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group) delegates who all play a part in making our Safeguarding procedures and processes fit for purpose.

In this important task we support volunteers throughout the diocese who serve in a variety of roles and ministries, including as Eucharistic Ministers, members of Saint Vincent De Paul, altar servers, pilgrimage volunteers and parish youth workers.

Diocesan Safeguarding engages with both local and national Safeguarding and is involved in different partnerships which seek to ensure that all individuals in the diocese are kept as safe as possible.

“In God’s Image V2” published by the Bishops Conference of Scotland provides us with the necessary framework to continue to build safe practices and to develop shared learning.

Our Diocesan Safeguarding Action Plan is supported by the Diocesan Risk Assessment Management Team (DRAMT), our Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group (DSAG) and our Safeguarding Operational Core Team (SOCT). The Action Plan is an ongoing barometer for improvement and continues to be reviewed and developed.

Our colleagues at the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (SCSSA) continue to work with the Archdioceses and Dioceses in Scotland, and the Agency meets regularly with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers. At these meetings issues such as Learning and Development and Practice Reviews are reflected upon to ensure consistency and uniformity for the Catholic Church in Scotland in all Safeguarding areas.

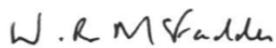
As a diocese we continue to review, assess and enhance our policies, procedures and practice guidelines. Most recently we have strengthened our processes involving Live Streaming and Dealing with Disruption and Disorder at Mass. Revised documents on both topics will be circulated this month.

At the end of September Lesley Anne Pratchett of Break the Silence was invited to deliver a presentation to a mixed group of volunteers and clergy at St John’s Church Hall in Cumnock, and her input and expertise on this subject was very helpful.

On Saturday 08 November 2025 members the Safeguarding Community from across Scotland will meet at Strathclyde University for the Annual Safeguarding Conference organised by the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (SCSSA). Networking at the Conference enables structured and informal learning, and delegates get the chance to make connections with our partner agencies including our Local Authorities and Police Scotland. The theme for this year is '*Journeying in Hope, Transforming the Safeguarding Culture of the Church.*' At the event the keynote speaker will be Matthew McVarish, an award winning human rights activist and a childhood abuse survivor. The Conference will also have representatives from the Lucy Faithfull Foundation who will lead times for reflection, structured feedback and conversation. In recent years Galloway has been well represented at The Conference, and we hope that this trend continues. It is not too late to book to participate in what should be a valuable learning experience, and if anyone is interested in taking part please contact your local Parish Safeguarding Coordinator.

The ongoing everyday work of parish volunteers continues to be valued and supported by the bishop, clergy and religious, and a sincere thanks is offered to all who connect the important task of Safeguarding with the life of prayer, worship and ministry in Galloway Diocese.

**Signed:**



Father William McFadden (Vicar General)



Tony Fisher (Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser)

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