

# Parish of Downpatrick

## Parish Safeguarding Committee Information for Parishioners

### Members

Very Rev. Fr. John Murray (Parish Priest)      Very Rev. Fr. Maurice Henry  
Miss Yvonne Maguire (Chairperson)          Mrs Colette Connor (Secretary)  
Mrs Patricia Magee                                  Miss Carmel O'Reilly  
Mrs Carmel Fitzsimons

### Contact Address For Parish Safeguarding Committee

Parochial House St. Patrick's Ave. Downpatrick BT30 6BN Tel : 02844612443/44612084  
Downpatrick Parish APP or Parish Website at [www.parishofdownpatrick.com](http://www.parishofdownpatrick.com)

The Parish Safeguarding Committee (PSC), supported and guided by the Diocesan Safeguarding Office, continues to play a vital role in ensuring that Diocesan Policies and Procedures on Safeguarding Children and Young People and Adult Safeguarding are complied with within the Parish. The remit of the Committee is to ensure the highest possible standards of practice in creating and maintaining a safe environment for children and adults in our Parish. We have embraced the Child Safeguarding in Down and Connor Best Practice Guidelines which was published by the Safeguarding Office. This details seven safeguarding standards developed by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) which include- 1. Creating and maintaining safe environments, 2. Procedures for responding to Child Protection Suspicions, Concerns, Knowledge, or Allegations, 3. Care and Support of the Complainant, 4. Care and Management of the Respondent, 5. Training and Support for Keeping Children Safe, 6. Communicating the Church's Safeguarding Message and 7. Quality Assuring Compliance with the Standards.

To date (September 2019 - March 2020) the PSC has completed the following tasks:

- The Annual Parish Audit of groups working with, or have access to children, young people and adults at risk.
- The Annual Audit of non-Parish/Commercial groups using Parish premises with updated license forms.
- Revised and updated, in conjunction with the Parish Secretary, the Eucharistic Minister Register for those Ministers who bring the Eucharist to children or adults in their homes, hospitals or care homes.
- Ensured that the adults responsible for Parish activities have been vetted, abide by the Down and Connor Safeguarding Procedures and have attended the Adult Safeguarding Seminar (February/March)
- Used the updated Diocesan Safeguarding Resource Pack (which can be accessed at [www.downandconnorsafeguarding.com](http://www.downandconnorsafeguarding.com)), as a basis for revising our Code of Practice for Adults working with Children and Young People, Social Media, Complaints and Whistle Blowing Policies.

While some work has been undertaken on the following, it has had to be paused due to the Coronavirus pandemic and will be resumed when it is deemed appropriate.

- Parish Safeguarding Notice Boards checked and updated with new posters and materials.
- Disseminated new information on Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at risk to Parish Groups, Volunteers, Employees and Parishioners through the Parish App, Parish website and a dedicated section in the weekly bulletin.

Any Parishioner requiring information relating to the work of the Committee or wishing to become involved in Parish volunteering, can contact the Committee at the above address.

Further information on Parish Safeguarding policies is available from posters, leaflets etc. which are on display in all the Church porches and Parish premises, or by visiting the Down and Connor Safeguarding Office at [www.downandconnorsafeguarding.com](http://www.downandconnorsafeguarding.com) or by contacting the Down and Connor Safeguarding Office, 120 Cliftonville Road, Belfast BT14 6LA Tel: 02890492783

*It is imperative that anyone wishing to establish a new group within the Parish must make contact with the Parish Office and follow set procedures.*