

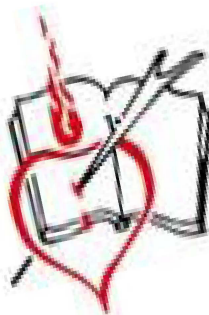


# Weekend

**28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

Lord, on this Safeguarding Weekend, bless us to be united in mind and heart in helping to make our worshipping community a safe place.

**Amen**





## **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, every day.**

If we journey together, young and old, we can be firmly rooted in the present, and from here, revisit the past, and look to the future.

- ❖ Revisit the past in order to learn from history and heal old wounds that at times still trouble us.
- ❖ Look to the future in order to nourish our enthusiasm, cause dreams to emerge, awaken prophecies and enable hope to blossom.

*Together, we can learn from one another, warm hearts, inspire minds with the light of the Gospel, and lend new strength to our hands.*

Pope Francis, Christus Vivit - "Christ is Alive"  
No 199 (March 2019)

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### **The Revised policy – *A Safe and Welcoming Church – Safeguarding Children and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2024***

This new child safeguarding policy builds on the foundations of past learning and experiences. It provides a new focus on leadership and governance to embed a culture of safeguarding where:

- The Church has an important role to play in creating and maintaining an environment in which children and young people can grow and flourish in their humanity and come to experience the dignity that Jesus proclaimed.
- Children will be welcome and safe.
- Church personnel will uphold the rights of children, in line with Gospel values.

Full policy available on [www.safeguarding.ie](http://www.safeguarding.ie)

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## Social Media

Social Media is great to be able to keep in contact, especially useful when teens /young people move away from home, their best friends, or go away to college for the first time and need to have as much contact as possible with the “old” world.

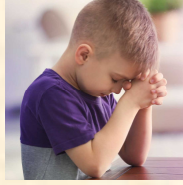
But, there can be some online challenges for young people, indeed for us all. It may help to talk to a trusted adult as online challenges can seem daunting. However, having an honest conversation about things that have upset you online is the best way to clear up any confusions you may have.

If you are being pressured to take part in an online challenge, remember to:

- Stop** – Take a moment. Don’t make any quick decision.
- Assess** – Assess any risks involved in taking part.
- Flag** – Express your concerns by talking to a trusted adult or friend.
- Exhale** – ***Just breathe***. You don’t have to make these decisions alone.



# I Just want to thank you Lord



For all life's blessings that are free,  
For good things that we hear and see,  
And most of all for loving me,  
Thanks a bundle, Lord.

For Mum's and Dad's who've put us right,  
For sisters to play and brothers to fight,  
For homes where we live, for beds at night,  
Thanks a bundle, Lord.

For all the different things we do,  
For lovely people, friendships true,  
Because I'm me and You are You,  
Thanks a bundle, Lord.

For life's long road that we all tread,  
For giving us our daily bread,  
For days gone by, and years ahead,  
Thanks a bundle, Lord.

For health and strength each day to face,  
For giving. Us a little space  
Within the world, our own small space,  
Thanks a bundle, Lord.

For being there to help us through  
those days when we are feeling blue,  
Times when we don't know what to do,  
Thanks a bundle, Lord.

For those we love who've gone before,  
We long to see them all once more.  
One day we will, of that we're sure,  
Thanks a bundle, Lord.

For giving us this lovely day,  
Please give us many more, we pray,  
But just before 'AMEN' we say – thanks a bundle Lord.





## SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY STATEMENT

The Gospel teaches the importance of ensuring that the Catholic Church community is a warm, welcoming and safe place for children.

**Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. (Mark 10:14-15)**

Children are gifts from God, to be cherished and recognised for the joyful contribution they make as valued members of the Church. Our challenge is to follow the example of Jesus in cherishing them. Safeguarding is key to this important task and should be seen, not as a burden, but as an opportunity to embrace and encourage children's ministry, following the example of Jesus Christ.

The Augustinian Province of Ireland pledges to safeguard children and young people from harm and to support them in their development as valued and integral members of the Catholic Church in Ireland. The Church's ministry will be inclusive and will uphold their rights.

Consistent with Gospel values, and with civil and criminal law, those who minister will do so with dignity and integrity, honouring their calling to ensure that children and young people are welcomed, cherished and protected, following the example set by Jesus.

This Safeguarding Children Policy will be honoured and complied with by all ordained clerics, by vowed female and male religious, and by all lay staff and volunteers in the Catholic Church in Ireland.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“The price of freedom is eternal vigilance” – Thomas Jefferson

Greetings and best wishes from the Provincial's office in John's Lane, Dublin. Once again, this Safeguarding Weekend (September 28/29) gives me an opportunity to remind ourselves of the necessity to keep the very important issue of safeguarding before our minds, especially in the wake of the recent sad and horrific revelations of abuse in schools run by the Catholic Church. These scandals serve as a stark reminder that when it comes to safeguarding and protecting children and those vulnerable among us, eternal vigilance is paramount!

Once again, this weekend gives me the opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all those who so graciously volunteer to keep our churches, not just Sacred places for worshipping God and the celebration of the sacraments, but SAFE places as well.

First and foremost, the members of your own Local Safeguarding Group (LSG) and the many other LSGs in our churches and Augustinian communities around the country.

Our Safeguarding Officer (SO) Avril, and her colleagues in the Province Safeguarding Development Group (SDG): Lorraine, Michael, Nuala, Mary H, Debbie and Mary B.

The Province Designated Liaison Person (DLP) Evelyn, and her colleagues in the Case Management Advisory Panel (CMAP): Paddy, Julie, Aidan and Ann.

Please keep all these people and groups in your prayers as on this Augustinian Safeguarding Weekend, they – and indeed ALL of us – rededicate ourselves to promoting and defending the human rights and dignity of every child and vulnerable person who comes into our church.

Where suitable and appropriate, this could mean involving children and young people in the life and ministry of their church. Ministries such as Altar Servers, Readers (Lectors), Ministers of the Eucharist, Youth Choirs, Children's Liturgy, etc. Given the present climate in the country, this can be a daunting and challenging task, but the words of our own St. Augustine are so true: "Let nothing of the past... no present things hinder us from giving thought to the future. Move on to what lies ahead" (*Commentary of Psalm 66, 10*). I commend those Friars and communities where these ministries and activities are already taking place!

Have a lovely and restful weekend and God bless you and your families!

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Tony Egan, O.S.A." with a stylized flourish underneath.

Fr. Tony Egan, OSA

(Prior Provincial, Province of Ireland)

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*“Let your old age be childlike,  
and your childhood like old age;*

*that is,*

*so that neither may your wisdom be with pride,  
nor your humility without wisdom.”*

