



# RCDOW Safeguarding News



WINTER – December 2020

## Foreword by Geraldine Allen

*Safeguarding Co-ordinator for the Diocese of Westminster*

Dear PSR,

*I had hoped that 2020 would be a year in which we could bring us all together via our Conferences, and strengthen the links between the Central Safeguarding Team and your work in the Parishes. We just managed one Conference before feeling the full impact of Covid 19 and since our contact has been virtual. Thank you all for your continued commitment to making this happen. In responding to your feedback, we have now set up 4 twilight Safeguarding Updates for 2021, during which we will spend some time listening to your feedback and experiences, as well as updating on current safeguarding practice.*

*I wish you the very best for a peaceful Christmas and healthy 2021*

Wishing you all the very best.

**Geraldine Allen**

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ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1P 1QJ

11 December 2020

Dear Friend,

These last few weeks, since the publication of the IICSA Report, have been difficult for us all. I want to write to you for a number of reasons.

Most of all I wish to thank you for your work as a Parish Safeguarding Representative. Some of you have held this post for many years; some may be comparatively new to the role. Each of you is an important part of our work of safeguarding, of ensuring that everyone is welcomed and held in respect and safety in our activities in parish life.

You may not have noticed but, in the IICSA Report, evidence of your work was given and accepted. I quote the evidence given by a former director of CSAS:

'Generally speaking, I believe it [the system of Parish Safeguarding Representatives] works well, reliant as it is on the tireless efforts of volunteers at parish level and mainly appropriately qualified staff in the safeguarding offices. A good level of competence and understanding has been built up since 2000.' (IICSA Report E.1.12) I thank you again for all you do.

The Report has three main areas of criticism of the work of Safeguarding in the Church as a whole. They are: a lack of urgency and priority given to safeguarding by the leadership in dioceses and religious orders; an inadequate and insensitive response to some of the survivors of abuse; a need to embed more evidently, in every aspect of our life, a 'culture of safeguarding' (IICSA Report, K.2.6). These we are tackling.

You may have also read about the Elliott Review. This fresh look at the weaknesses and strengths of our safeguarding structures and practices has been carried out, with great urgency, over the last eight months. Work has already begun on the implementation of its recommendations, which include giving a strong oversight and accountability to our work, improving the working relationships between dioceses and religious orders, establishing a framework of standards to which we must consistently aspire and on which we will be judged. This is a further step in our work. It both builds on existing strengths and corrects the fault-lines which have become evident. An important recommendation in the IICSA Report is for a much more rigorous pattern of training for everyone on the front line of safeguarding. Importantly it calls for a much deeper understanding of the trauma of abuse and its lasting effects on its survivors. Together with our Safeguarding Office we are actively drawing up plans and resources for this training, in which you will be included and, I hope, able to play an important part in your parish.

I wanted to write this letter to you to assure you of my appreciation of your work and to encourage you in it. Together with Geraldine Allen, who leads Safeguarding Team, I urge you not to hesitate to ask for additional support or guidance. Do keep in touch with this Team and the regular updates that it sends to you.

I am sending a copy of this letter to your Parish Priest, so that he knows what I have written and so that, if you wish, you could talk over with him its points and your reaction to them. It may be very important to do so at this difficult time.

With all good wishes and prayers,

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols  
Archbishop of Westminster

## 4 AREAS of PSR's WORK



These are:

- **RESPONDING TO CONCERNS**

PSRs are the first point of contact for the parish community should they wish to disclose a safeguarding concern hence the PSR is responsible to check their dedicated SG email address on a regular basis and at least once a week. Should PSRs become aware of any concern they have to pass this on to the central safeguarding team within the first 24/48 hours of learning about the concern. This is a vital area of work in order to assure an appropriate response to anyone in need of support. The email address can also be set up on the PSR's mobile phone as long as this is secured with safety access codes at all times to enhance third parties' data protection.

- **SAFE RECRUITMENT**

The process of securely recruiting anyone who wish to work/volunteer in the parishes with groups of vulnerable like children and/or adults at risk. This process includes the initial processing of DBS applications including ID verification, interviews, and reference requests for example.

- **CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

An incredibly important part of a PSR's work to be carried out with the collaboration of parish priests, activity group leaders, parish admins and any volunteer in contact with vulnerable groups. It is about knowing and implementing both safeguarding policies and procedures whenever a parish activity especially for children and/or adults at risk takes place. CSAS (Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Services) is the web site to visit and the guidance "Creating a safer environment" should be a central piece of this work with which every person working/volunteering at the parish should be familiar with. This includes use of social media, photographing and videoing, off-site trips, bullying and more. <https://www.csas.uk.net/procedures-manual/#cat-4> Please click on the link to be directed on the page where to find the above mentioned guidance (Procedures Manual – Chapter 4, Creating a safer environment).

- **ADVANCING A "CULTURE OF SAFEGUARDING"**

This part of the work aims at educating the parish communities with a basic understanding of what safeguarding means and does to keep everybody safe from harm and abuse. PSRs should encourage the community to enrol in SG EduCare online modules by contacting Mr Gabriele Sedda at [gabrielesedda@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:gabrielesedda@rcdow.org.uk) to be registered and start/complete these safeguarding courses. Also safeguarding literature should be regularly distributed in the parish. This ranges from leaflets to support survivors of abuse to Alpha Cards to recognise and responding to abuse and more. A so called "safeguarding corner" in the parishes consisting of a small table to keep the literature would be ideal.



4 AREAS OF PSRs  
WORK.docx

## RESPONDING TO CONCERNS:

### **RESPONDING TO CONCERN:**

Please forward any concern to our caseworkers, Sarah and Rebecca by writing to [safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk)  
Thank you.

### **Safeguarding Adults**

Adult safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while making sure the person's wellbeing is promoted.

If you're concerned that someone is neglecting themselves or their environment and may be unable to protect themselves, you should speak to the Diocese Safeguarding Team or adult services in the local council area where the person lives. Wherever possible, you should do this with the agreement of the person. It's important to remember that if someone is able to make their own decisions (called having mental capacity), they have the right to make choices other people might think are unwise. If you believe that someone is not able to make their own decisions and this puts them at risk, speak to the Diocese Safeguarding Team or adults services at the local council in the area where they live. The local council must assess the concern in a way that puts the person first and balances their protection with their rights.

It is important to remember that for some people Christmas can be a very lonely time of year, even more so now with the current impact of Covid-19. Therefore, we ask that throughout this time you remain particularly vigilant of those around you who may be particularly vulnerable. There are a number of resources available for people who are experiencing difficulties at this time:

### **Anxiety UK**

Charity providing support if you have been diagnosed with an anxiety condition.

Phone: 03444 775 774 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 5.30pm)

Website: [www.anxietyuk.org.uk](http://www.anxietyuk.org.uk)

### **CALM**

CALM is the Campaign Against Living Miserably, for men aged 15 to 35.

Phone: 0800 58 58 58 (daily, 5pm to midnight)

Website: [www.thecalmzone.net](http://www.thecalmzone.net)

### **Mind**

Promotes the views and needs of people with mental health problems.

Phone: 0300 123 3393 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm)

Website: [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)

### **Samaritans**

Confidential support for people experiencing feelings of distress or despair.

Phone: 116 123 (free 24-hour helpline)

Website: [www.samaritans.org.uk](http://www.samaritans.org.uk)

# SAFE RECRUITMENT:

## DBS Matters

### Submitting Applications via Email

Please use the email address below to submit all documents for a DBS application (diocesan forms and ID documents (where applicable)):

[dbssubmissions@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:dbssubmissions@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

**N.B. This address is for application submissions only.** If you have any general queries, then please contact Jackie or Johanna on their normal email addresses.

### Diocesan forms and Ebulk Applications

A reminder that Ebulk applications will not be Countersigned (submitted to DBS) until all the necessary diocesan forms have been received at the Safeguarding Office. The forms required are;

#### New Volunteers

[Applicant Consent For DBS Processing \(DBS 17\)](#)

[Volunteer Registration Form](#)

[Volunteer Reference Form](#) x2

[Confirmation of ID \(DBS3a\)](#)

[Safeguarding Self Declaration \(DBS 4\)](#)

#### Re-Checks, Paid staff or Clergy

[Applicant Consent For DBS Processing \(DBS 17\)](#)

[Confirmation of ID \(DBS3a\)](#)

[Safeguarding Self Declaration \(DBS 4\)](#)

### References

References should be requested at the parish by the activity group leader or PSR. The references must be checked at the parish to assess the applicant's suitability before sending all the Safer Recruitment forms to the Safeguarding Office. Please include the role description when sending out a reference request; role descriptions and guidance on how to create one, can be found at <https://safeguardrcdow.org.uk/safer-recruitment/roledescriptions/>.

If anyone is having problems logging into the Resource area, then please contact Jackie.

# CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT:

## A focus on Covid-19

**NSPCC**  
‘Learning’



<http://email.nspcc.org.uk/q/11n3HAjshm8KfKzrEHC7Cnl/wv>

### Coronavirus: children and young people's mental health

**Source:** Rees Centre  
**Date:** 16 November 2020

The Rees Centre reports on the latest findings from the Co-SPACE study tracking children and young people's mental health throughout the COVID-19 crisis. The report finds that for participating primary school aged children behavioural, emotional, and restless/attentional difficulties have generally decreased from July, throughout the summer holidays, and as children returned to school in September.

**Read the news story:** [Return to school sees improvement in children's mental health](#)  
**Read the report:** [Changes in children mental health symptoms from March to October 2020](#)

### Personal safety

**Source:** Children's Commissioner for England  
**Date:** 25 November 2020

The Children's Commissioner for England has published a report looking at children and young people's views on personal safety in their local area. Recommendations from seven focus groups conducted with 66 children aged 7 to 18 in Sheffield include: planning guidance should be amended to include children's specific need for access to safe open spaces and play opportunities; local authorities should be required to consult with children when determining their spending on public spaces; and the Government should launch a campaign to make public spaces more child friendly.

**Read the news story:** [Mean streets](#)  
**Read the report:** [Mean streets \(PDF\)](#)

### Worried about a child?

If you're worried about a child or young person, you can contact the NSPCC helpline for support and advice for free - call us on [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000) or [contact us online](#).

Children can contact [Childline](#) any time to get support themselves.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/>

# Frequently asked questions

## Questions:

**Q:** Our parish wishes to develop a service to reach out to the most isolated people during the pandemic. What should it be considered to ensure the service is safe?

**Q:** My parish priest asked me how we can deliver our activities remotely and safely.

**Q:** When should I start re-checking all DBSs at the parish?

**Q:** I started the PSR's role long time ago before training was available. How can I refresh/update my knowledge about the role of PSR?

**For any additional clarification please write to:**

## Answers:

**A:** The recruitment and training of volunteers delivering this service is key to ensure that everyone is safe and that the volunteers know how to respond to callers. Please do get in contact with Caritas and ask if any similar service across the diocese has already been set and for further guidance about other volunteering initiatives at <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/>

**A:** CSAS have recently informed us that their current guidance on videoconferencing has been updated. Version 2 which is a more detailed guidance can now be found on the CSAS website at <https://www.csas.uk.net/safeguarding-resources/> - please scroll down to the bottom of the page where a consent form for videoconferencing can also be found.

**A:** The diocese of Westminster adopted a 3 years' re-check policy in the autumn of 2019. Everyone working in parishes with groups of vulnerable should be re-checked every 3 years. Please ask Jackie Krobo by writing to [jackiekrobo@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:jackiekrobo@rcdow.org.uk) to send you an updated DBS parish report which will inform you about the volunteers to contact and start the re-check. You can prioritise individuals for re-checks by looking at the DBS issue date which appears on the report.

**A:** The team have booked 4 dates in 2021 when a remote (Zoom) refresher training will be offered to long term PSRs. This will take place from 6.30 to 8.30pm to facilitate participation. Dates will soon be available on the RCDOW website in safeguarding area. PSRs will be contacted individually and invited to take part to the refresher training. Please do check your SG dedicated email address at least once a week to ensure:

- Any concern is collected and forwarded to the safeguarding team in a timely fashion – 24/48 hours after learning of it.
- You do not miss out on important information and details regarding your role as PSR – training and more.

[ariannasommariva@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ariannasommariva@rcdow.org.uk)

## ADVANCING A CULTURE OF SAFEGUARDING: E-Learning and other sources

### EDUCARE UPDATED SAFEGUARDING ONLINE MODULES FOR PSRs

EduCare have updated all their safeguarding online courses. All PSRs who completed online modules before 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 should complete the 2 refresher modules – **Child Protection Refresher and Safeguarding Adults refresher**. Gabriele sent the new registration link back in January 2018 to your personal email address. However, if this for any reason cannot be retrieved please do click on this link to

login [https://www.educare.co.uk/?ppc\\_keyword=educare&infinity=ict2~net~gaw~ar~413054435743~kw~educare~mt~e~cmp~UK-SE-EXACT%20Brand~ag~EduCare%20General&gclid=CjwKCAiAwrf-BRA9EiwAUWwKXgbQ8\\_JjVGiy15vDS8INsMkxhehFvJWDV1O5GYQb3Sx5R1fMSRexNRoCO6UQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.educare.co.uk/?ppc_keyword=educare&infinity=ict2~net~gaw~ar~413054435743~kw~educare~mt~e~cmp~UK-SE-EXACT%20Brand~ag~EduCare%20General&gclid=CjwKCAiAwrf-BRA9EiwAUWwKXgbQ8_JjVGiy15vDS8INsMkxhehFvJWDV1O5GYQb3Sx5R1fMSRexNRoCO6UQAvD_BwE)

If you have forgotten your password this can be easily re-set on the EduCare website by following the instructions. Please do let us know when the refreshers have been completed by writing to [ariannasommariva@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ariannasommariva@rcdow.org.uk)

Thank you.

### Data Protection myths: Do you always need to have consent?

The introduction of the new EU General Data Protection Regulation and the UK's new Data Protection Act 2018 have created a lot of activity and attention. But how much has been misguided? Is consent the holy grail of data protection? According to the ICO, it is not. They advise that even though the GDPR sets a high standard for consent, you often won't need it and suggest that if consent is difficult, you should look for a different lawful basis. There are six available lawful bases for processing data – consent, contract, legal obligation, vital interest, public task and legitimate interest. No single basis is 'better' or more important than the others – which basis is most appropriate to use will depend on your purpose and relationship with the individual. Your privacy notice should include your lawful basis for processing data as well as the purposes of processing it. When is consent appropriate? The ICO advise that if you cannot offer a genuine choice, then consent is not appropriate. If you would still process the personal data without consent, asking for consent is misleading and inherently unfair. And if you make consent a precondition of a service, it is unlikely to be the most appropriate lawful basis. The advice is to keep consents under review and refresh them if anything changes. Build regular consent reviews into your business processes.

<https://www.educare.co.uk/Media/EduCare%20Newsletter%20Issue%203.pdf>

### EXERCISE AND MENTAL HEALTH

The Running Mind is an initiative from Dame Kelly Holmes. The Double Gold Olympic medallist has spoken out about Mental Health in sport following on from her revelations about her own battles with depression and self-harm. The Running Mind is an initiative that she has created that aims to help and support people in sport with regards to Mental Health.

<https://www.educare.co.uk/Media/EduCare%20Newsletter%20Issue%203.pdf>



# SUPPORT TO SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

## **SAFE SPACES**

The Safe Spaces team are delighted to announce the development of their new website. The Safe Spaces Project are commissioned by the Church of England, the Catholic Church of England and Wales and the Church in Wales, to provide practical and emotional support to victims and survivors of church abuse via a range of virtual support methods. These include a phone line, emails, a live chat service and access to My-Support Space, which provides information, self-help and personalised support guides.

The Safe Spaces project went live on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020. At this time, the website was a holding page, as the intention is to co-produce a logo and branding with victims and survivors, as well as the website content. The holding page provided basic information about the service including opening hours and how to access support.

The website, which goes live on Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> November, will provide information on the Safe Spaces service, the types of support available, the small grants programme and how people can get involved with the service. It also includes a secure web referral form to enable survivors to self-refer, or agencies to refer someone with their consent. This will not be the end of the website's production, the website will be continually developed and regularly updated with useful information from the Safe Spaces Team. Safe Spaces service users and survivors of church based abuse will also be invited to provide feedback and to make recommendations for new content as the service develops.

The branding is currently being co-produced, following consultations via a questionnaire and webinar with survivors from the Church of England and the Catholic Church of England and Wales. Safe Spaces anticipate that the new agreed logo and colour palette will be uploaded to the website by the end of January 2021.

The team welcomes any feedback, so please do get in touch if you have any suggestions or comments. This can be done via a dedicated email [Safespacesfeedback@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:Safespacesfeedback@victimsupport.org.uk).  
<https://www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk/>

## **Hurt by Abuse Leaflets**

**NCSC have recently released two new HURT BY ABUSE leaflets which you can find here below attached to be printed, forwarded and shared with your parish communities;**

- **Break the silence, disclose the secret. A guide for victims and survivors.**
- **How to: Respond, Listen, Support Victims and Survivors of abuse.**



NCSC-Respond-List NCSC-Abuse-leaflet  
en-Support-MASTER-2019-Co-Ordinator



# IICSA REPORT

## CARDINAL PERSONAL STATEMENT ABOUT THE IICSA REPORT

Please click on this link to watch the Cardinal's statement.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgytclHjoRo&feature=youtu.be>

## CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

### *Statement on Safeguarding Friday 20th November 2020*

The account given in the IICSA Report of abuse known to be inflicted on children in the Catholic Church in England and Wales in the past 50 years is shocking and overwhelming. At our meeting this week, we Bishops have stood together in profound shame. We express our sorrow and contrition before God. We have reflected on our need to reach out afresh to those who bear the wounds of permanent damage caused by this abuse. We commit ourselves to listen more intently to those who have been abused so as to learn from them and benefit from their wisdom. It is through learning from their testimony that hearts are changed. We are grateful to those survivors who have come forward, not only to lay before us their experience of abuse, but to help us understand the depth of their pain. We invite anyone who has experienced abuse to come forward, no matter how long ago the abuse took place. We undertake to listen carefully to them with open heart and mind and support them on a journey of healing. We have carefully considered the recommendations of the IICSA Report and formally accepted them. We have already begun work towards their implementation. The IICSA's generic hearings into the Church began last October. Around that time, we commissioned an Independent Review of our Safeguarding Structures and Arrangements in the Catholic Church in England and Wales. This was carried out by Mr Ian Elliott, an experienced safeguarding professional who has worked across the world in this area. This week, alongside the IICSA Report, we have also examined in depth the Final Report of the Elliott Review and fully accepted its recommendations. It is a searching analysis of our safeguarding work, in its weaknesses and strengths. It proposes a number of remedial and forward-looking recommendations, which accord with the IICSA Report's own recommendations. The work of implementation will begin immediately. It will be carried out in close cooperation with the Religious Orders who play such an important part in the life of the Church. In all our activities, our desire and resolve are to be a Church in which every child and vulnerable person is not only safe but nurtured into human flourishing. These recommendations present us with steps towards this goal. Key to them is a standards-based approach to safeguarding together with a specially commissioned national body with powers of effective audit and oversight of safeguarding in both Dioceses and Religious Orders. Everyone in the Church will be required to work to clear, published standards of behaviour and action. Most significantly, the Elliott Report has been fashioned with the participation of survivors of abuse. Their insight and wisdom have been crucial. We thank them for their great courage and generosity in working with us and we look forward to continuing this growing collaboration. The Elliott Report builds on all that has been achieved in our safeguarding ministry in the past 20 years, achievements also recognised in the IICSA Report. Therefore, we thank profoundly all who contribute to the work of safeguarding in the Church today: the thousands of Parish Safeguarding Representatives, the professionals who work in our Safeguarding Offices in every Diocese, the Safeguarding Commissions who oversee this work and give objective and professional advice to guide our decisions, the staff of the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service and those who serve on the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission. These, and many others, have contributed greatly to the current work of safeguarding in the Church. Today, however, we acknowledge without hesitation, our failings, our mistakes, our lack of adequate cooperation. We express our deep sorrow and ask forgiveness, especially from victims and survivors. We affirm our resolve to effect the next step in our work of safeguarding and care for survivors. In prayer we turn to Christ the Good Shepherd, the fount of healing and compassion, asking that this moment of painful truth becomes a time of grace as we strive to fulfil the ministry entrusted to us as bishops in an unshakeable unity of purpose.

*In response to the IICSA recommendations and the Ian Elliot report, the Bishops Conference have appointed Carol Lawrence - COO of Shrewsbury Diocese to drive their implementation. She will be reporting her progress to the Bishops Conference in January 2021 and a 6-month timescale for completion has been set. The reports do not propose any changes to the PSR arrangements; one of their focusses is to move to a standards based approach. This involves the setting of National Standards that need to be implemented within the Diocese. As soon as we receive any further details we will update.*

For the full Elliot report, please read.... <http://catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/wp->

# YOU SAID ... WE DID

## Some of the things you asked us during 2020

- You asked us to involve the parish priests more in the safeguarding work at the parishes.
- We are:
  - Including parish priests in the newsletter mailing list.
  - Hand over a full package of safeguarding information when parish priests move to 'new' parishes or become parish priest for the first time.
  - Share with them the follow up email sent to newly appointed PSRs that contains an exhaustive point-by-point summary with links about the 4 areas of a PSR's work so that they can familiarise with the work that you all do.
- You asked us to include in the induction training power point presentation a scenario that illustrates a situation/concern involving a direct member of the parish so that you are better equipped to understand how correctly to respond to such concern.
- We are preparing a scenario as requested to be added to the PSR's induction training presentation to be available at the first induction on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
- You asked us to include some statistics regarding concerns raised against employed or volunteering members of the parish community.
- We will again include a slide to the training presentations to offer you a better idea of the work received by the central safeguarding team and the statistics formed around this work.
- You asked us to see something about the IICSA report.
- Above we have shared the personal statement video of Cardinal Vincent Nichols regarding the IICSA report and also the statement from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.
- You asked us the opportunity for PSRs to talk and share knowledge and experience.
- We hope to give you back this opportunity once the pandemic eases and we can resume PSRs deanery gathering in person or set up remote ones via Zoom in 2021.
- You asked us to consider changing the DBS diocesan forms which have often proven challenging and time consuming due to editable problems, format variations etc...
- We are working with the diocese of Southwark and our joint IT team to a revision/development of better and more user-friendly forms and hope to be able to have them available for you as soon as possible in 2021.
- You asked us to create a "Parish profile" to reflect individuality of every parish.
- We will be reflecting on this very good idea in the new year to see what elements of the profile to include in regard to safeguarding. If any of you has any suggestion, kindly forward them to [ariannasommariva@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ariannasommariva@rcdow.org.uk) please.
- You requested more information about how to re-access the EduCare safeguarding online modules.
- We have added the electronic version of the EduCare leaflets on the parish websites and we are available to provide additional support on the phone or via email. The general email to be registered or re-registered for the EduCare is [safeguardingadmin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:safeguardingadmin@rcdow.org.uk)

**Please, do continue to ask as your queries are an immense source of suggestions for the purpose of improving our support and service to you all even further.**

**THANK YOU**

# Pope: 'No pandemic can turn off the light of Christmas'

Pope Francis invites Christians to open their hearts to the light of Christmas and reach out to those in need.

**By Linda Bordoni**

There is no pandemic or crisis that can turn off the light of Christmas, Pope Francis affirmed, as he greeted the faithful present in St. Peter's Square and following through the media during the Sunday Angelus.

30/10/2020

**St Peter's Square: Christmas tree and nativity scene to be inaugurated on 11 December**

06/12/2020

**Pope at Angelus: 'Advent is a journey of conversion'**

Noting that the Vatican's Christmas tree has been erected in the Square and that the Nativity Scene will soon be unveiled, the Pope said that in many homes "these symbols of Christmas are being set up to the delight of children," and also to the delight of those who no longer are children.

"They are symbols, or signs of hope, especially during this difficult time," he said, and he invited Christians not to stop at the symbols, but to go beyond and understand their meaning: "Jesus, the love of God, who was revealed to us to reach that goodness which has been poured out on the world."

And assuring us all that no pandemic or crisis can "turn off that light," Pope Francis said: "Let us allow it to enter into our hearts and reach out toward those who are most in need."

Thus, he concluded: "God will once again be born in us and in our midst."

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12/pope-francis-angelus-light-of-christmas-pandemic-advent.html>

# CONTACT DETAILS the essentials

## **The Central Safeguarding Team:**

### **Episcopal Vicar for Safeguarding:**

Name: Rev Monsignor Séamus O'Boyle  
Email: [seamusoboyle@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:seamusoboyle@rcdow.org.uk)  
Phone: 020 7226 3277

### **Safeguarding Coordinator:**

Name: Geraldine Allen  
Email: [geraldineallen@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:geraldineallen@rcdow.org.uk)  
Phone: 020 7798 9350

### **Safeguarding Officer:**

Name: Natalie Creswick  
Email: [nataliecreswick@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:nataliecreswick@rcdow.org.uk)  
Phone: 020 7798 9359

### **Safeguarding Officer:**

Name: Sarah Robinson  
Email: [sarahrobinson@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:sarahrobinson@rcdow.org.uk)  
Phone: 020 7798 9186

### **Safeguarding Officer:**

Name: Rebecca Williams  
Email: [rebeccawilliams@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rebeccawilliams@rcdow.org.uk)  
Phone: 020 7798 9096

### **PA to Safeguarding Coordinator and Team and SG Commission Admin:**

Name: Gabriele Sedda  
Email: [gabrielesedda@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:gabrielesedda@rcdow.org.uk)  
Phone: 020 7798 9356

### **DBS Administrator:**

Name: Jackie Krobo  
Email: [jackiekrobo@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:jackiekrobo@rcdow.org.uk)  
Phone: 020 7798 9352

### **Safeguarding Support Officer:**

Name: Arianna Sommariva  
Email: [ariannasommariva@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ariannasommariva@rcdow.org.uk)  
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### **Safeguarding Support:**

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## **Other Contacts:**

### **Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS)**

Email: [admin@csas.uk.net](mailto:admin@csas.uk.net)  
Phone: 020 7901 1920  
Website: [www.csas.uk.net](http://www.csas.uk.net)

### **National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC)**

Website: [www.catholicssafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.catholicssafeguarding.org.uk)

## WINTER WISHES

*Warmest greetings of this festive season and best wishes for Happiness in the New Year*

*Fr SEAMUS, GERALDINE, NATALIE, REBECCA, SARAH, JACKIE, JOHANNA, GABRIELE, WARREN, ARIANNA*



**PLEASE NOTE:** The office will be closed from Wednesday 23/12/2020 from 5.00pm and will reopen on Monday 4/1/2020 at 9.00am.

Images in this newsletter kindly provided by children and young people of RCDOW parishes. THANK YOU to them all and the adults who helped in organising and delivering this lovely parish communities project.