

Safeguarding Sunday

26 November 2023



Boys and Girls, Pray and Play Group, Ennis Friary 2023



Message from the Minister Provincial

As we mark our annual, Safeguarding Sunday, we are reminded of the importance of ensuring that relationships within our Church continues to express respect for children and young people who are so precious in God's sight.

Our procedures must protect people from harm and disrespect. Respect must be translated into policies, procedures and guidelines that spell out in detail how as Catholics and Franciscans we keep children and young people safe and hold adults responsible. This is vital. Pope Francis has said: *"Constant attention is required... so that the Church may not only be a safe place for minors, and a place of healing, but may prove completely trustworthy in promoting their rights worldwide"*.

Whilst we are all responsible for the safety and well-being of the children and young people we minister with, on this day we also thank God and the people involved for the enormous work that has been done to ensure that children and young people continue to be safe in all of our Church settings.

And yet, we must never become complacent, and we need to keep working to ensure that our Church and our ministries continue to be places that are inviting and safe for our children and young people.

Safeguarding Sunday reminds us, too, of our greater responsibility to people who, like children and young people, have less power in our Church. In the relationships of priests/friars with members of our church congregation, spiritual guides with clients, managers with employees, and volunteers with those they help, the people with less power must be protected and nurtured. This respect gives flesh to Christ's mission in day-to-day life.

We continue to extend an invitation to you the parents/carers, grandparents, uncles, aunts and young people to consider re-engaging with the church, perhaps as altar servers, members of children's choirs, children's liturgy groups, pray and play groups, readers or other youth ministries and /or as helpers in these youth ministries.

Just launched



Safeguarding Children Policy & Procedure Handbook 2023

www.franciscanssafeguardingoffice.com

Synod 2023

One of the key priorities identified in advance of the 2023 synod was an "increased commitment and resources by church leaders to promote safeguarding everywhere and giving safeguarding a more prominent place aiming for a number of goals, one of which is "Protecting all children with appropriate safety policies and procedures and being a place of welcome, empathy and reconciliation for those impacted by abuse.

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility



Thanks to the Boys and Girls, Pray and Play Group, Ennis Friary 2023 for the artwork.

Let's all play our part

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