



# SAFEGUARDING MATTERS

in the Catholic Church in Scotland

December 2022

## What needs to improve?

For some years in Scotland information has been collected about all those who work with children and vulnerable adults on Church premises across the country. Every parish, diocese, religious congregation and Catholic organisation is required to complete an annual Safeguarding audit form, answering questions about how they are complying with the safeguarding standards of **IN GOD'S IMAGE**. The annual audits are now managed by the SCSSA.



### What is the point of an annual audit?

The audit is intended to provide a transparent view of how effectively the Catholic Church in Scotland is developing a culture of safeguarding that respects, protects and nurtures the dignity of all people, keeps them safe and is compliant with legislation.

The purpose of the audit exercise is NOT merely to record statistics, although it is important that faith communities can demonstrate that they are managing safeguarding effectively by keeping accurate records of WHO was responsible, WHEN they were involved and WHAT their duties were.

Much more importantly, completing the audit provides those responsible for Safeguarding in faith communities with the ideal opportunity to:

- reflect on their practice
- demonstrate how well they are meeting safeguarding standards
- identify examples of good practice that can be shared with others
- make plans for improvement
- share their plans with others.

### What is audited?

The SCSSA uses various online audit forms to gather information from all Catholic faith communities on:

- safeguarding risk assessments of premises and activities
- the vetting and training of clergy, religious, employees and volunteers
- all allegations of abuse
- the outcomes of investigations
- identified training needs
- what improvements are planned.

### How can this newsletter help you?

INSIDE you will find advice about how to prepare for completing your audit, some information about the actions required after Audit forms are distributed **by 9th January 2023**.

### INSIDE PAGES:

- p2: Steps on the road to completing your Audit
- p3: Tips on working with the Audit form
- p4: Other Safeguarding News

*If you wish to offer your views on how Safeguarding can be improved, please email:*  
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