



## ARCHDIOCESE OF ST ANDREWS AND EDINBURGH

### Statement to the Parish on Safeguarding

The Bishops of Scotland have made the following commitment to Safeguarding:

*All components of the Catholic Church in Scotland, especially those in positions of leadership and responsibility, value the lives, wholeness, safety and well-being of each individual person within God's purpose for everyone.*

*We seek to uphold the highest safeguarding standards in our relationships with people of all ages who are involved in whatever capacity with the Church and its organisations.*

*And therefore, as a Church community, we accept that it is the responsibility of all of us - ordained, professed, employed and voluntary members - to work together to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from abuse or harm.*

**IN GOD'S IMAGE, p.3**

Pope Francis has asked that our families are made aware that they have every right to expect that they are safe and secure in 'Our Father's House'.

As part of our commitment to Safeguarding, it is vitally important that we remember those who have been harmed or abused either by a member of the Church, by members of their family or by any other person. We are asked to pray and to care for them.

The Archdiocese is fully committed to Safeguarding as an integral part of life in the Church. Both the Archdiocese and our parish embrace the special responsibility we have for all children, young people and vulnerable adults who are part of our faith community. In this church, we display a Safeguarding poster which provides contact details for our Parish Safeguarding Coordinator and the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Office. Please make contact with them if you have any concerns regarding the abuse or harm of any child, young person or vulnerable adult.

Safeguarding in our parish is a very important part of our community's commitment to caring for each other and for others. Each year, those directly responsible for Safeguarding here - our Parish Priest, our Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator and our parish Volunteers - commit ourselves to improving our practice. We commit to complying with the standards and the procedures laid out by the Bishops' Conference of

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Scotland, as set out in their document 'In God's Image' which can be found on their website. These standards, and the vigilance of those involved in the life of the parish, help us to ensure that everyone will be safe when they come to Mass and when they take part in any parish groups or activities.

Archbishop Cushley, Fr Basil and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team are grateful for all the hard work done by our Julie Roberts Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator and our parish volunteers. The dedication and motivation of the people in our parish continues to raise awareness of Safeguarding and highlights our shared responsibility in delivering a duty of care to all who engage with our parish community.