



# Safeguarding Development Newsletter

(Issue 15 – Feb. 2021)

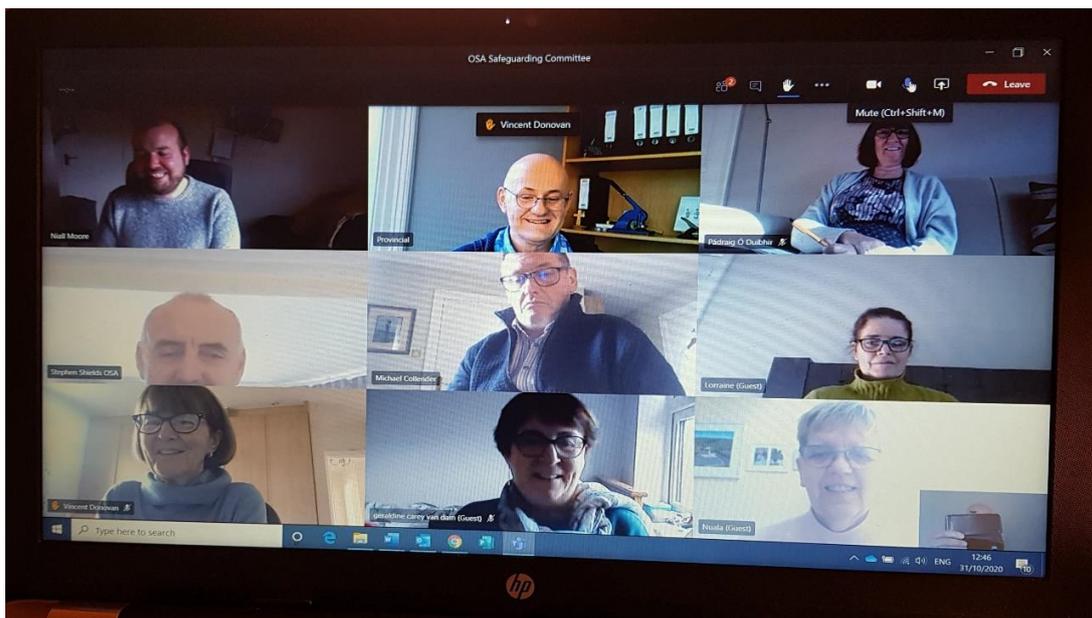


*“May the God of hope bring you such joy and peace in your faith that the power of the Holy Spirit will remove all bounds to hope.” (Rom. 15:13)*

## **Safeguarding Development Group Training (31 Oct. 2020)**

SDG members attended online training focused on the evolving role of a 'Safeguarding Committee'. During the training, areas of current practice were identified for further attention and work has begun on the following:

- a. *Develop relevant guidance for each Local Safeguarding Group (LSGs) regarding the completion of 'Child Safeguarding Risk Assessments'.*
- b. *Inform LSGs of the new TUSLA requirement for 'Safeguarding Notices' to include a reference to the Child Safeguarding Statement on the OSA website.*
- c. *Compile and maintain details of friar's work that is external to the Augustinian Province. This includes work with those under 18 years and adults.*
- d. *Establish & maintain a register of Safeguarding training for friars in active ministry.*
- e. *Explore how & when outstanding Safeguarding training can be delivered in 2021 (e.g. Information Session, Mandated Persons, Full Day &/or Refresher Session).*



(Top left to right: Dr. Niall Moore (Director of Training NBSCCI), Fr. John Hennebry (Provincial), Pauline Uí Dhuibhir (SDG Chair), Br. Stephen Shields, Fr. Michael Collender, Lorraine Collins, Joan Donovan, Geraldine Care Van Dam & Nuala Fahey).

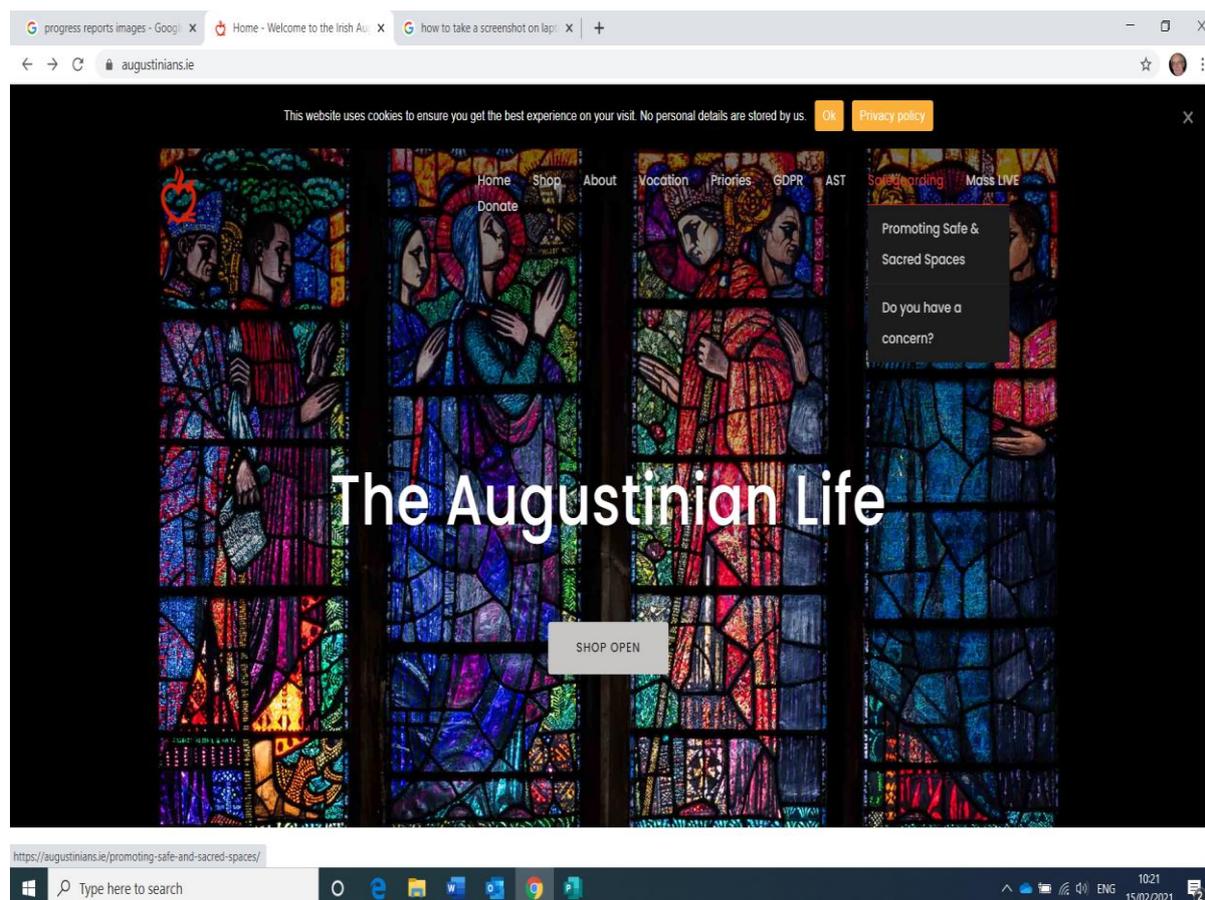
## Progress Report May '19 – September '20

Despite Covid restrictions and the limitations they posed, nine completed Progress Reports were received in September 2020. SDG members received a 'Summary Overview' of these reports and reviewed the contents. The group acknowledges that immense work is being done at local level and the achievement of standards is improving year on year. It is planned to provide each LSG with individual feedback on their report. Work has started on a revised 'Progress Report' format to enhance ease of completion. This will be available in May 2021.



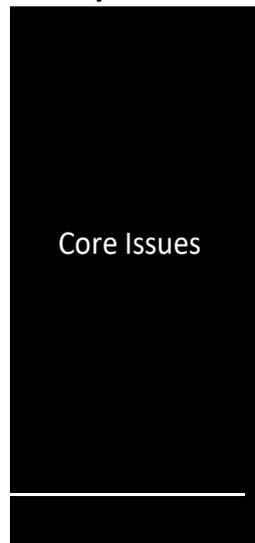
## Augustinian Website

The newly revamped Augustinian website [www.Augustinian.ie](http://www.Augustinian.ie) has a Child-Safeguarding Section which has useful resources for all Local Safeguarding Groups. We will endeavour to update these resources at regular intervals.



## Working with Children On-line (28 Jan 2021)

A workshop (NBSCCCI) to address issues of safe ministry while working with children online was attended by six SDG members. As Covid-19 restrictions continue to temporarily interrupt various ministries, some churches/parishes may like to consider starting or continuing an activity for children online. If you would like to explore this, please contact the Safeguarding Officer to discuss further.



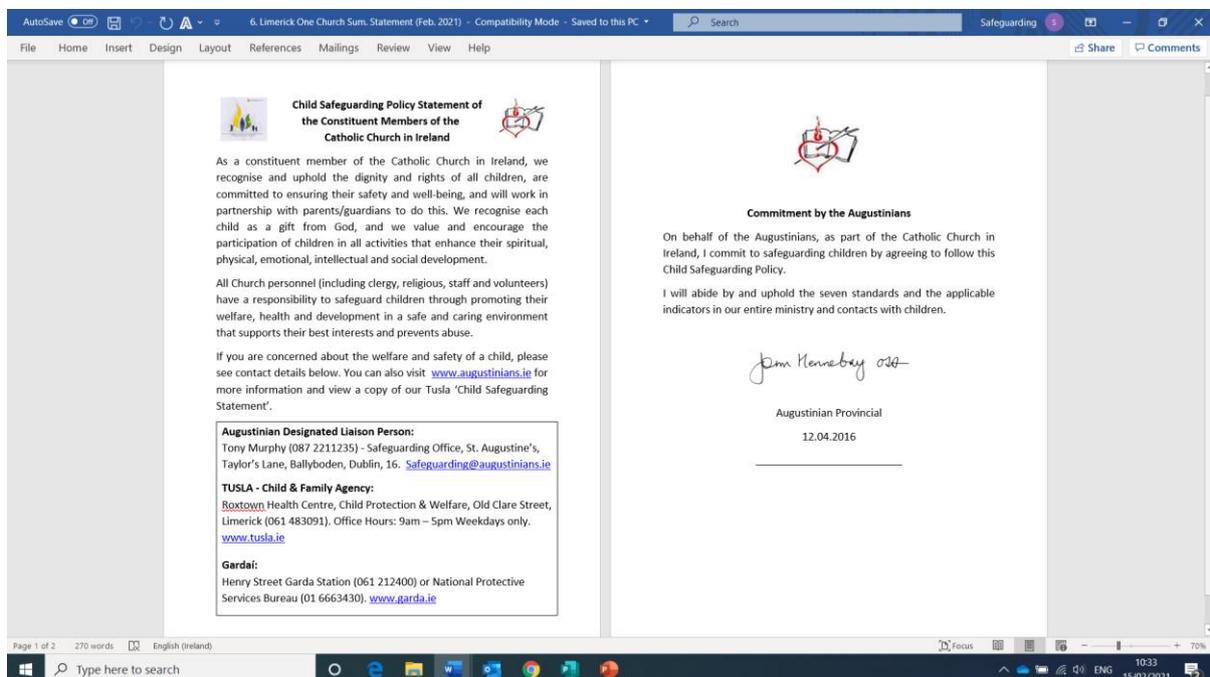
 Identify Risks to children and how these will be managed.

 Requires a clear code of online behaviour for both adults and children involved

 Clarity around how the engagement will be monitored, from a child safeguarding perspective

## Child Safeguarding Statements (Church Notices)

Revised notices will issue shortly to each Prior and LSG. The notice will contain some change of contact details and an obligatory reference to the separate and completed *Tusla Child Safeguarding Statement* now available for view on the OSA website.



The Child Safeguarding & Protection Service of the Dublin Archdiocese will circulate updated notices shortly to parishes and the Galway Diocese has the matter currently under review.

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessments

Under Children First 2015 any group or organisation planning to commence or already involved with children or young people is obliged to undertake an annually child safeguarding risk assessment. The SDG are finalising a user-friendly resource outlining examples of child safeguarding risk assessment issues for LSGs. This document will prove helpful when Activity Leaders or Co-ordinators set about completing the task. The Prior/PP is ultimately responsible for sign-off on the



assessment report and should satisfy himself that any shortcoming identified are addressed. All such local reports must be stored securely, and a copy is to be sent to the Safeguarding Office as Tusla can, at any time, request to examine the individual reports held by the Augustinians.

## OSA - NBSCCCI Review 2021

Fr. John Hennebray (Prior Provincial) has invited the NBSCCCI to conduct a review of child protection and safeguarding procedures in the Augustinian Province during 2021. The review may have to be divided into two parts: Child Protection/Case Management (May/June) and then Child Safeguarding later in the year when it is hoped that reviewers will be able to meet children and leaders in person as they return to church activities. For now, that second part is undecided but will become clearer in due course. Ultimately, the review will help us identify the practices that are working well and the areas in which we can improve.



# Invitation

## OSA Safeguarding Network

**(10.00am – 12.30pm) Saturday, 22 May 2021**

Previously we have come together once a year since 2017 in either the Ashling Hotel or the Horse & Jockey Hotel. Not so in the past year. To avoid leaving it too long, please put the date above in your diary. We will hold a virtual get-together on Zoom. The programme will be discussed and finalised by the SDG over the next two meetings and then circulated. Why do it? So that we can reconnect, share some updates with you all and look to a better future for Augustinian ministries.



### Feedback Welcome

If you have any thoughts or questions having read this Newsletter, please let us know by emailing [Safeguarding@augustinians.ie](mailto:Safeguarding@augustinians.ie) or contact

Tony Murphy - 087 2211235.

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