

SOUTHWARK DIOCESE SAFEGUARDING OFFICE NEWSLETTER

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Welcome

Welcome to another issue of the Safeguarding Newsletter. The safeguarding team hope you are all continuing to keep well and healthy. This issue is full of clickable links to some advice and information on domestic abuse and internet safety, an update on training and an introduction to the newly appointed Head of Safeguarding.

Please be reminded that if you have any concerns or need any advice, the safeguarding team are available on safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk

Head of Safeguarding – Mary Jane Crowley

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and my role to you all. I have been appointed as the Head of Safeguarding for the Archdiocese and I am extremely proud and excited to take on this role. As a parishioner of Our Lady of Lourdes, Brentwood, I am delighted to bring my experience in safeguarding to the service of Southwark Archdiocese.

I have extensive experience in Safeguarding, having spent over 20 years as a Detective in the Metropolitan Police. I then worked for four years as the Designated Safeguarding Lead for a Catholic Comprehensive school and advised their subsequent federation of primary and special needs schools. I then worked for the BBC as their senior safeguarding advisor following the enquiry into Jimmy Saville and beyond, working across the large reach of the organisation. Most recently I managed the large safeguarding team for The Scouts. I have a BSc in Psychology and a Masters in Advanced Child Protection.

I am looking forward to meeting you all in person when we are in different times. I look forward to working with all the Clergy, the Safeguarding Commission and all the PSRs. I am delighted to be leading the safeguarding team.

Click [HERE](#) to read Mary-Jane's full introduction on the safeguarding intranet. If you need to get in contact with Mary-Jane, you can email her at maryjanecrowley@rcaos.org.uk

Safeguarding Training

As we remain in a time of uncertainty, the safeguarding office will be unable to go ahead with the planned face to face training this year.

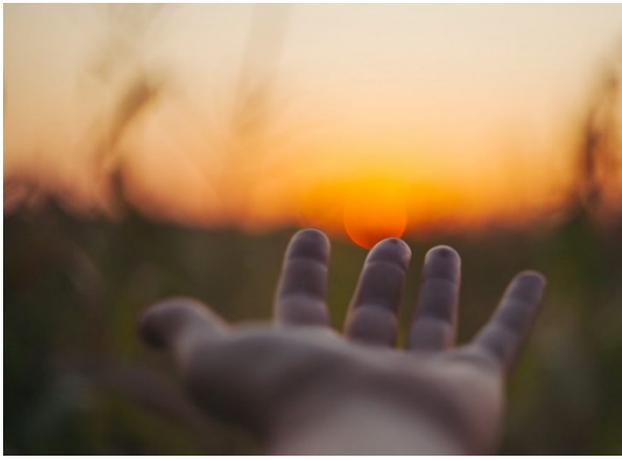
However, we ask that some of this time is still used to focus on Safeguarding. We request that all clergy and PSRs complete the 4 Educare courses: Child Protection, Child Exploitation, Online Safety & Safeguarding Adults. There is also a recommended course regarding Mental Capacity.

If you have already completed these, we request that you complete the Child Protection and Safeguarding Adults Refresher courses.

If you do not have access to Educare or would like some more information please contact the safeguarding office on safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk as soon as possible.

Safeguarding Audit

The safeguarding office will be in contact with PSRs and Parish Priests over the next couple of months to gain some insight into your Parish Safeguarding procedures. We will be distributing a questionnaire to understand your parish safeguarding capabilities and needs. We are here to offer as much support as possible and these audits will be helpful in highlighting areas of strength and identifying potential areas of need.



[Domestic Abuse Advice for parishes](#)

Every person has a right to live their life free from violence, abuse, intimidation and fear. Catholic parishes can play an important role in supporting people and fighting the scourge of domestic abuse. Please click the link above for me info.



[Helplines and Information](#)

In this section you will find information about how to report domestic abuse or get help. Please click the link above. If you are in immediate danger phone 999 and ask for the police.



[Support local domestic abuse charities and refuges](#)

Find out how you can help and support the domestic abuse charities and refuges in your area. Please click the link above

[Guidance on safeguarding whilst using videoconferencing platforms for ministry](#)

We are fortunate to have technology during this time to keep us all connected and able to communicate. We want to remind everyone the importance of safeguarding across virtual platforms. This ensures that our young people, adults at risk and parishes are kept safe. CSAS have produced a really helpful guidance document for parishes who are utilising videoconferencing platforms such as Zoom and Skype for ministry. If there are groups in your parish using online platforms please refer to this document for some internet safety considerations, please click the link above. If you require further support or advice please contact the safeguarding team.