



# **SAFEGUARDING IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Safeguarding is a duty that is rooted in the message of Jesus and in the mission of the Church. The Catholic Church in Scotland aspires to the highest standards with regard to the care and protection of children and vulnerable adults, and actively promotes justice for, and provides assistance to, those who have been abused.**

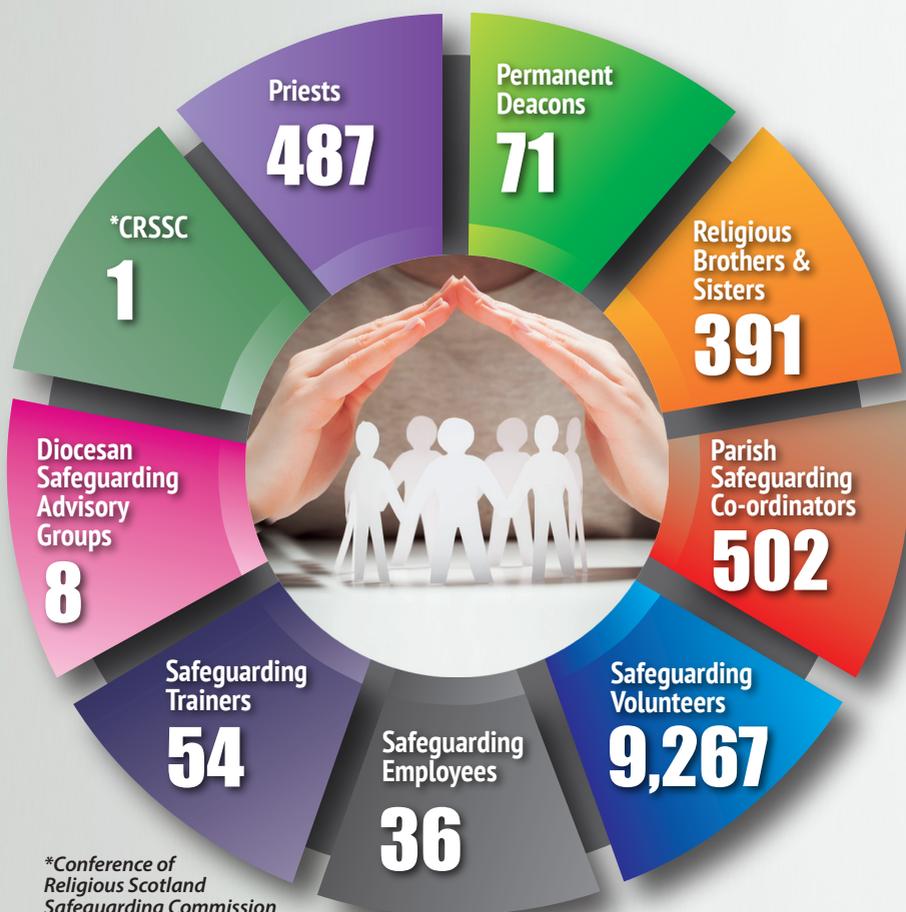
**Bishops' Conference of Scotland  
[www.bcos.org.uk/safeguarding](http://www.bcos.org.uk/safeguarding)**

# Our Safeguarding People

The following people work across



serving the needs of 678,300 Catholics in Scotland. (2017 figures)



The Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Service supports the above groups by providing training courses and developing policy advice.

# Our Safeguarding Policies

The Catholic Church in Scotland, in all parishes and dioceses, follows a set of policies and procedures which are detailed in a document signed by each Bishop on 19th March 2018. This document, titled **In God's Image**, instructs all those responsible for Safeguarding – clergy, religious, employees and volunteers - to follow the arrangements and to comply with the Safeguarding standards which are set out in detail. These include:



creating safe Church environments to protect children and vulnerable adults and to prevent harm or abuse



requiring compulsory PVG membership for all clergy, employees and volunteers who work with vulnerable groups



encouraging the public to report suspicions of abuse or harm



mandatory reporting of all allegations of abuse (recent or historic) involving Church personnel to the Police



providing support, care and advice for survivors of abuse when they disclose their experience



requiring every parish to appoint a safeguarding co-ordinator to support parish volunteers



appointing specialist safeguarding staff in each diocese



establishing a team to assess and manage risks in each diocese



requiring Bishops, clergy, religious, employees and volunteers to undertake regular training in safeguarding



undertaking annual safeguarding audits in every parish and diocese



publishing annual figures relating to disclosed allegations



establishing an Independent Review group to review and comment on the annual safeguarding audit



complying with safeguarding legislation in Scotland



aspiring to follow recognised best practice in safeguarding.

# What to do

If someone expresses concern or makes an allegation to you about abuse in the Church, you should:



**take the person seriously**



**ensure the immediate safety of the person who is at risk**



**take emergency action, if required, by contacting police, social work or medical services**



**encourage the complainant to contact the Safeguarding Adviser in the Diocese where the alleged incident(s) took place**



**ensure that the person knows that the Church has a mandatory reporting policy and that you must inform the Safeguarding Adviser**



**contact the Safeguarding Adviser yourself.**

To contact the Safeguarding Adviser in any Diocese in Scotland, phone:

<b>Diocese of Aberdeen</b>	<b>01224 319154</b>
<b>Diocese of Argyll &amp; the Isles</b>	<b>01631 567436</b>
<b>Diocese of Dunkeld</b>	<b>01382 225453</b>
<b>Diocese of Galloway</b>	<b>01292 266750</b>
<b>Archdiocese of Glasgow</b>	<b>0141 226 5898</b>
<b>Diocese of Motherwell</b>	<b>01698 269114</b>
<b>Diocese of Paisley</b>	<b>0141 847 6130</b>
<b>Archdiocese of St Andrews &amp; Edinburgh</b>	<b>0131 623 8943</b>

or contact the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Service:

**0141 353 1177**

[www.scottishcatholicsafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.scottishcatholicsafeguarding.org.uk)