Annual Safeguarding Announcement 2026

[Statement to be read out at Sunday Masses on 3/4 October by Parish Safeguarding Coordinator]

My name is _____ and I am the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator.

I have been asked to read out the annual safeguarding statement from Archbishop Nolan. This annual statement is read out around the time of the feast of the Holy Guardian Angels which, this year, fell on 2nd October.

I would like to speak to you today about our wider responsibilities as Catholic Christians. As members of our various parishes and groups we are in the privileged position to be able to notice when those around us may be subject to harm. For example, it is estimated that one in four women in Scotland experience abuse in their lifetime - they may be at Mass with you right now.

Our role is not to directly investigate or take control – that is the job of the statutory authorities, but we do have a responsibility to be vigilant and to pass on any concerns. If you do have any concerns, please don't keep them to yourself – please share them with myself as safeguarding coordinator, or with the Parish Priest, or with the Safeguarding Office. Looking out for each other is a crucial part of creating the 'culture of care' that we should all aspire to in our parishes and groups.

Archbishop Nolan would like to express his sincere thanks to our Clergy, Parish Safeguarding Coordinator(s), Safeguarding Staff, group leaders, and volunteers; as we work together in safeguarding.

Full details of safeguarding staff for the Archdiocese can be found on the Safeguarding page of the Archdiocesan website, there is also a poster at the back of this church with my contact details on it.

Thank you.