

# Child Safeguarding Policy Statement of the Comboni Missionaries (Verona Fathers) in Ireland

The Gospel teaches the importance of ensuring that the Catholic Church Community is a warm, welcoming and safe place for children.

**“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it” (Mark 10:14-15).**

Children are gifts from God, to be cherished and recognised for the joyful contribution they make as valued members of the Church. Our challenge is to follow the example of Jesus in cherishing them. Safeguarding is key to this important task and should be seen, not as a burden, but as an opportunity to embrace and encourage children's ministry, following the example of Jesus Christ.

The **Comboni Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus** (Verona Fathers) pledge to safeguard children and young people from harm and to support them in their development as valued and integral members of the Catholic Church in Ireland. The Church's ministry will be inclusive and will uphold their rights.

Consistent with Gospel values, and with civil and criminal law, those who minister will do so with dignity and integrity, honouring their calling to ensure that children and young people are welcomed, cherished and protected, following the example set by Jesus.

This Safeguarding Children Policy will be honoured and complied with by all **Comboni Missionaries** (Ordained Ministers, Religious, Lay Staff and Volunteers) in the Catholic Church in Ireland.

## Details of personnel to contact if you are concerned about the welfare and safety of children

Designated Liaison Person:

**Mr. Andrew Fagan,  
Director of Child Safeguarding and Protection Service,  
Archdiocese of Dublin, Diocesan Offices, 20-30 Arran Quay,  
Dublin 7 – Tel.: 01 836 0314 / 0876853180**

**Mrs Noreen Furlong,  
Child Protection Representative of St. Anthony's Parish Church,  
Clontarf Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3 – Tel.: 01 833 3459 / 0864143888**

**POLICE: An Garda Síochána – Tel.: 01 666 3430 / 01 666 3435**  
As from March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017 there is a 24/7 An Garda Síochána  
dedicated telephone line for the reporting of child sexual abuse:  
**Freephone 1800 555 222.**

**TULSA: Child and Family Agency – Tel.: 01 856 6856**

**TOWARDS HEALING: Tel.: 01 800 666 666**

**CHILDLINE: Tel.: 01800 666 666**