



# Spiritan Safeguarding Office

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Thank you for visiting the pages of the Spiritan Safeguarding Office. This office was established in 2012 to assist survivors and their families who suffered sexual abuse by members of the Spiritan Congregation. For many years some people have been ashamed or afraid to come forward to speak of the profound harm they experienced as children and young adults. Please be assured that our office will do all that it can to provide a place of safety, respect and support for survivors and their families on their journey of healing.

All survivors of sexual abuse by members of the Spiritan Congregation are eligible for the services of the Spiritan Safeguarding Office regardless of any legal actions they may have initiated or are contemplating.

## AIMS

The Spiritan Safeguarding Office will:

- Respond to every allegation and suspicion of sexual abuse both present and historical
- Provide timely assistance, pastoral/spiritual care, support, counselling referrals and other support as requested
- Reach out to those people who have not yet disclosed their experience of abuse and who now may wish to do so.

## INVITATION

If you were sexually abused by a Spiritan, or if you have a concern that abuse took place please contact the Spiritan Safeguarding Office.

This invitation is extended to people who:

- are reporting an allegation or concern of sex abuse for the first time;
- have already engaged with the Spiritans in regard to sex abuse and who feel that they were treated in an unsatisfactory manner.

We would particularly like to hear from those who contacted the Spiritans about their own experience but who did not leave a name or contact details.

## STAFF

The Spiritan Safeguarding Office is staffed by:

- **Mr. Liam Lally** who is the **Designated Person** for dealing with allegations of child sexual abuse. Liam is a former teacher and principal who has been a counsellor and supervisor for over thirty years and has been involved in many voluntary organisations.
- **Ms Jane Ferguson** is the **Support Person** (for survivors of abuse and their families). Trained as a psychotherapist and supervisor, Jane has previously worked as teacher/lecturer and has been involved in the pastoral field for many years.