



THE BISHOP OF LEEDS

Public Notice regarding Safeguarding in the Diocese of Leeds

My dear People,

Many of you will have painful memories of the dreadful event that was the murder of the schoolgirls Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman by Ian Huntley. The government inquiry into those murders concluded that:

'For those agencies whose job it is to protect children and vulnerable people, the harsh reality is that if a sufficiently devious person is determined to seek out opportunities to work their evil, no one can guarantee that they will be stopped. Our task is to make it as difficult as possible for them to succeed' Bichard Report, 2004

On the 15th June 2010 Theresa May, Home Secretary announced that the plans to implement a new statutory, safeguarding requirement called the Vetting and Barring Scheme has been suspended and is to be reviewed. The time scale for the review is not known. However the duty to protect vulnerable groups has not changed in any way.

We have been blessed in our parishes by a huge number of talented and dedicated volunteers who nurture and lead our children and care for our vulnerable adults. As part of their commitment to this enterprise they have agreed to go through a recruitment process which includes obtaining a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

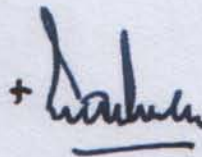
Any volunteer still working with vulnerable groups, and who does not yet have a CRB Disclosure obtained through the Church, must stand down from their duties from the 26th July 2010 until they have obtained a CRB Disclosure.

I would ask any volunteer who has to stand down to make contact as soon as possible with their parish safeguarding representative (N), who will guide them through the process of obtaining the CRB Disclosure .

We are proud of the Church's achievements in safeguarding and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all the work that parish safeguarding representatives have done over the past five or more years. I hope that they will continue to enjoy your wholehearted support. Our parishes could not function as true Christian communities without the untiring efforts of many dedicated volunteers, and I hope that you will do all that you can both to continue that invaluable work and to ensure that our children, young people and vulnerable adults are kept safe from harm.

With the assurance of my prayers
And my gratitude for all you do for the Church,

Devotedly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur Roche', with a small cross symbol to the left of the first letter. The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

✠Arthur Roche
Bishop of Leeds

To be read before the final blessing at all Masses celebrated in the
Diocese of Leeds on 24/25 July 2010.