

**NOTICE FROM BISHOP PAUL SWARBRICK TO BE CIRCULATED IN ALL PARISHES ON THE
WEEKEND 7TH/8TH NOVEMBER 2020**

On Tuesday, the Independent Inquiry into Child Abuse (IICSA), will publish its report into the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Whilst the Church with its different dioceses and religious orders will be the focus of the report, our hearts go out to anyone who has suffered abuse in a Church setting. Such acts represent a gross breach of trust and are truly reprehensible. We acknowledge that victims and survivors have usually endured years of pain, made worse by the failures to listen and respond to their voices.

We anticipate the report will make many recommendations to the Church. The Bishops and the institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life in England and Wales have already commissioned an independent review of our Catholic safeguarding arrangements, especially at national level. This has been undertaken under the leadership of Ian Elliot, a renowned safeguarding consultant. His report is also due to be published soon.

The following are places which offer support and advice:

1) Safe Spaces, which is run by Victim Support on behalf of the Catholic and Anglican churches, is for anyone who feels they have experienced Church-related abuse of any form in England or Wales (whether this is in the past or is happening now). A confidential telephone helpline and live chat facility is available from Monday – Saturday from 10.00am – 6.00pm (Thursdays 12.00- 8.00pm).

Telephone 0300 303 1056. Live Chat www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk

2) The Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator: Jane Robinson janer@lancasterrcdiocese.org.uk

Telephone 07935931947. All concerns and allegations regarding abuse in the Church should be reported here. It is national policy that all such reports are referred to the statutory authorities.