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Dear Father, Deacon, Parish Safeguarding Representative,

Annual Day of Prayer for Survivors & Victims of Abuse in the Catholic Church in Ireland

For some years now the Irish Episcopal Conference has designated the first Friday of Lent as an annual Day of Prayer for survivors and victims of abuse in the Catholic Church in Ireland. This year that date falls on **Friday 20th February**. In previous years many of you lit Candles of Atonement in your churches to mark the day, and I ask that you participate in this important moment of prayer and reflection again this year.

In recent years we have also availed of the opportunity to brief the faithful of the diocese on the safeguarding arrangements that are in place in all our parishes, on the weekend before the Day of Prayer. The date this year will be **Sunday 15th February**. A Safeguarding Briefing will be circulated next week. We ask that this briefing be read out by yourself or the Parish Safeguarding Rep.

To assist with all these matters, please find attached some liturgical resources, including a Resource Pack and a Mass Booklet, which you may find useful.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank you and your parish team for your continued vigilance and dedication to safeguarding both children and vulnerable adults in all our parishes. Together with your volunteer Parish Safeguarding Representatives you are making an important contribution to our ongoing mission.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

+ Eamon Martin

Eamon Martin
Archbishop of Armagh

Stephen Sherry

Stephen Sherry
Director of Safeguarding