



Who we are.

LOUDfence began as a pro healing and reconciliation movement by Antonia Sobocki in the UK in 2020. It is inspired by Gospel values and aims to work with churches to actively foster a culture which is pro-safeguarding and truth telling. LOUDfence celebrates what we want to be. We are all called to care for and support those who have been injured by abuse directly or indirectly. Supporting those who wish to reclaim the practice of their faith is a form of restorative justice.

LOUDfence is a community activity of solidarity and support with abuse victims and survivors. It empowers parishioners and enables them to be part of the solution by giving them an avenue to express their feelings. To safeguard is to live out the values of the Gospel in their most literal sense.

Antonia (LOUDfence UK Director) said:

"As a survivor of familial child abuse, the church did exactly what it should have done. It loved, valued, included, and nurtured me. I think it would be no exaggeration to say the church became a kind of replacement family for me and I have always loved the church for how it has helped me. It is for this reason I work in Catholic activism".

"There have been serious safeguarding failings in the past, but I know that when the church gets it right, it can get it spectacularly right. This requires all of us to work together for that church we all love and value so much."

What is LOUDfence.

LOUDfence is an event where ribbons of all colours and styles are displayed as a visible act of solidarity which enables people to send and receive messages of care and support. The aim of LOUDfence is to give survivors, the entire church and wider society a voice.

It is important to remember LOUDfence is a celebration of survivor's courage and the empowerment and inclusion of the entire parish. It is our experience that LOUDfence is an opportunity for healing, understanding and the beginning of dialogue. It is a visible signal of support to those who have been wounded, marginalised, and excluded.

LOUDfence enables the beginning of a process of culture change within the church. We do this by celebrating what we want to be and by celebrating the virtue of protecting others by speaking out about our safeguarding concerns. Also, by supporting survivors and actively seeking to turn safeguarding into an act or primary evangelisation by example.





Shrewsbury Diocese 2023 - LOUDfence

Tuesday 14 November 2023.

Holy Apostles & Martyr's Church, Wallasey, Wirral

6:45pm Mass

A Mass will be celebrated by Vicar General Canon Moor in Wallasey. In preparation for this important date, any member of the parish community who wishes to share their prayers and reflections can do so by writing on the **dove image** sheets provided. People may understandably wish to remain anonymous, and their privacy will be respected.

These prayers and reflections will be sent back to the Diocesan Safeguarding Office by the **7 November 2023** and will be prepared and offered up for prayer during the Mass.

Not everyone will have the opportunity to write their prayers and reflections and the diocese would welcome any **digital submissions** to be made to safeguarding@dioceseofshrewsbury.org by 7th November 2023. These will be handwritten by the safeguarding team and offered up for prayer during the Mass.

If anyone would like to discuss the LOUDfence event or safeguarding in the diocese, please contact the Safeguarding Team on Tel.0151 652 9855 or via the email above.



The Safe Spaces service is there for those who have experienced church-related abuse of any kind. The helpline will be open 09:00-21:00 Monday to Friday. It will also be open 09:00-13:00 Saturdays, and 13:00-17:00 Sundays.

Tel: [0300 303 1056](tel:03003031056) (answerphone available outside of opening times)

Email: safespaces@firstlight.org.uk