

ALERT

SCAM DIRECTED AT PARISHES AND PARISH PRIEST

This alert is being sent out to advise all Clergy and Safeguarding Staff please circulate as widely as possible .

We have become aware of a group of individuals who are scanning parish websites from which they gather information on the parish in order to target the Parish Priest.

As an example the scammers will identify that the parish was looking to raise money for a significant project such as a major renovation, an individual over social media will then make contact and befriend the Parish Priest telling him that they are due to come into a significant amount of money and would like to make a sizeable donation to the project.

They will then start asking for money to pay fees etc to get the money released.

They will ask that the money is sent via an untraceable means normally a pre paid card of some sort.

BE AWARE THIS IS ONE OF THE OLDEST SCAMS IN THE BOOK.

In addition to straightforward fraud the individual will also endeavour to get the Priest to behave inappropriately on line. If they manage to get inappropriate conduct they will then subsequently use this to blackmail the individual.

Please be aware this going on.

Simple Tips

- If something seems too good to be true then it probably is.
- Take extreme care as to what information is displayed on Parish websites and social media (Facebook, Twitter, What's App etc)
- Under no circumstances pay an individual who you meet on line without being very clear who they are. Never pay money other than into traceable bank accounts.
- This is only one potential scam please be aware of emails, Texts or calls purporting to come from your bank or a government agency saying you have a refund or are owed some money these are almost always a scam. No such organisation will ask you for personal details by this means.
- If you have any concerns report the matter to your local safeguarding Office or seek professional advice

For further information www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk



Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organisations and the police. They spend hours researching you for their scams, hoping you'll let your guard down for just a moment.

Stop and think. It could protect you and your money.



TO STOP FRAUD™

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