



## **Diocese of East Anglia**

### **Message from Bishop Alan Hopes March 20<sup>th</sup> 2020**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with regret that I have to inform you that Fr. Michael Ryan has recently been made the subject of allegations of the non-recent sexual abuse of children.

The allegations relate to Fr. Ryan's former ministry in Peru, South America, and have been referred to the statutory authorities including the Police. Whilst the investigation is ongoing Fr. Ryan has voluntarily withdrawn from all public ministry. This is a neutral act which makes no judgement on his guilt or innocence and is in keeping with the national safeguarding policies and procedures of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

I would like to affirm that the safeguarding of children and vulnerable people is of paramount importance to the Catholic Church and the Diocese is co-operating fully with the statutory authorities in this investigation. I know that this must have

come as a shock to you all, but I would ask you to keep all who are involved in this ongoing investigation, including Fr. Michael in your prayers.

It would be inappropriate for me to make any further comments at the present but please be assured of my prayers for you all at this time.

If anyone has any concerns arising from this statement then they may contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator at email:  
[safeguarding.coordinator@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.coordinator@rcdea.org.uk)

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan S Hopes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**The Right Reverend Alan S Hopes**  
**Bishop of East Anglia**