

Part H – Step A – The Parish Return Form
Sections 1-5 to be completed and returned
by 23rd April 2026

FINAL EDITION 09 04 2026

Section 1: Introduction

In dialogue with your community, especially young people (in line with synod guidance) reflect on your local data sheets alongside the diocesan context. Please summarise your reflections from Part E, F and G by completing this template and returning it by 23 April 2026 to discernment.returns@diocesehn.org.uk

PARISH NAME:	SACRED HEART
PARISH TOWN:	NORTH GOSFORTH
DEANERY:	NEWCASTLE AND NORTH TYNESIDE
<p>What was the process followed to reach these conclusions? <i>E.g. clergy & laity involved, young people’s voices considered, prayer & listening shaped decisions:</i></p> <p>Two open meetings for all parishioners involving clergy and laity followed by a third meeting jointly with St Charles Parish, Gosforth.</p>	
<p>Beacons of Mission: <i>Practices that either show signs of hope others could learn from, or faithful responses uniquely shaped by your local context:</i></p>	

Section 2: Mission Discernment

Please use the suggested prompts at **Part E of The Mission Discernment Toolkit** to guide your conversations and complete the following section.

Mission: WORSHIP - Celebrating the Sacraments as Places of Encounter

Reflection and conclusions:

Worship is the beating heart of the Church. It supports many events and helps the congregation to focus on spiritual and liturgical matters.

There are a lot of community activities and a sense of belonging – community and roots with people you know is important.

Response to an awareness of God.

The Church provides space for the Blessed Sacrament. So, we need a Church for this- we must have a sacred place.

Does the church have to be the Sacred place?

We need to allow the Lord to talk to us and listen too.

1. What are we proposing to do? Concrete actions: (*Distinguish what you will do now, next, over a longer journey and who is responsible for leading it.*)

Training

? more responsibility for altar servers, e.g. candle at the lectern for the gospel, altar servers lead the procession of the gifts

Some tasks could be done by other people: -

Deacons

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

Lay Leaders – men and women

- Will need training

Parish coordination of some jobs that priests do to free the priest for liturgy and sacraments.

Eucharistic Services.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Prayer Groups

Singing

Family prayer

Peace candle at Mass, walk for peace, processions of witness.

To celebrate the Church as a place of worship every day.

Mass books for children. Reserve seats at the front for Children

More publicity/advertising of what already exists. We need to ask the children what they want.

Link with the school about how they are preparing.

Important to teach the Children about faith.

GCSE syllabus for religious studies is followed.

There is the 'Prayer and Liturgy Directory' which sets out how prayer and worship should be conducted in schools.

There are regular masses/services in the schools

St Oswald's children lead our Remembrance service every year

St Mary's students are on the rota for writing the prayers of the faithful

Our schools are too far away to have regular activities.

Invite parishioners to regular Masses in School- children will then recognise parishioners as part of their community

We need to involve a younger generation. Children need mystery, school/church liaisons.

Ask newly confirmed children to consider taking on more roles e.g. being Eucharistic Ministers. Celebrate them at Sunday Mass after their Confirmation.

Ask the young people to organise events in the hall.

We could have more interfaith events to strengthen the community and share ideas.

Look at the cost of buses involved in getting children from schools to church

2. Why are we proposing this? (*Link to Mission.*)

This is to have a strategy in place when the shortages hit.

We need to do it now

3. Dependencies: (*What will be needed to make this happen? (E.g. people, formation, finances, property decisions, Bishop approval, other parishes co-operating.)*)

Leaders/coordinators/stewards would need to be trained and supported.

Consider non-ordained employees for some tasks.

Priest could consecrate enough Blessed Sacrament to be used during the week.

Use of the internet: - Forum for Children and Parents

4. What will be the outcome if this action cannot happen?

If we depend solely on the priests, churches will have to close when we hit shortages: -

Would community come to one church from other churches?

Sacraments less often

Can we provide sacraments to the community without the priest being present?

5. How will worship be organised in the area if there are less priests and less worshippers?

If congregations also decline churches will need to be rationalised or used less.

Consider use of forums- e.g. Q&A for parents and children, media support, events in schools. "Live feeds" on social media, Mass service in schools.

Mission: TEACH - Handing on the Faith

Reflection and conclusions:

Although a lot of focus is on youth, and in particular using the sacraments as points of opportunity to teach, we need to maintain teaching through life, particularly on the role of the laity.

1. What are we proposing to do? Concrete actions: (*Distinguish what you will do now, next, over a longer journey and who is responsible for leading it.*)

We need to educate all ages about Our Lord and the importance of Church
Maintain the positives, Catholic schools and in particular how they demonstrate the faith, e.g. raising money on Lent.

Changes to sacrament preparation, e.g. invite Godparents to Baptism preparation and promote church roles at Confirmation. Need the parish to support confirmation service.

We need to educate the laity into what is possible in terms of laity activity, e.g. leading worship, prayers etc...

Is there a way to bring back prayer sponsors for first holy communion?

Buses getting children from new estates to catholic churches

Buses for all ages to events/learnings

Bring Baptisms back into Mass.

Make sure we are using the right mediums

Less lectures. More seminar type approach to Mass-with more interaction people will be more engaged

2. Why are we proposing this? (*Link to Mission.*)

We want to promote people's journey in faith. Give them the education and tools to grow and be more active in the parish.

3. Dependencies: (*What will be needed to make this happen? (E.g. people, formation, finances, property decisions, Bishop approval, other parishes co-operating.)*)

We need to use the appropriate mediums to engage people, e.g. youth missions using TikTok.

There would be some financial needs, but peoples time is the biggest

4. What will be the outcome if this action cannot happen?

The situation will continue as is

Mission: SERVE - Sharing Christ's Love in Action
<p>Reflection and conclusions: Understand what we are doing now and understand where we want to be and where we need to be.</p>
<p>1. What are we proposing to do? Concrete actions: (<i>Distinguish what you will do now, next, over a longer journey and who is responsible for leading it.</i>) Succession planning for existing "service" activities Audit current activities: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What meets Diocesan objectives? • What are the gaps? • How to fill the gaps. • Including "unseen" work, e.g. gardeners • Which activities are external, which are internal • Ask families to write a "Postcard from the Future" in 5-8 years what have we achieved? <p>Parish Pastoral Council- there should be a Diocesan wide standard for this- will need an edict from the Bishop</p>
<p>2. Why are we proposing this? (<i>Link to Mission.</i>)</p> <p>Most current volunteers are "aging" and we need the activities to continue We need a statement about how the parish serves parishioners and the community</p>
<p>3. Dependencies: (<i>What will be needed to make this happen? (E.g. people, formation, finances, property decisions, Bishop approval, other parishes co-operating.)</i>) Crossover between groups at St Charles- join them. E.g. POSH (Pantomime Group), Justice and peace Group, International food festival . Use of the Hall- e.g. POSH, Families, Various groups, other activities How to join up the different activities of different groups: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to share the good work • Feed in to Parish council <p>Keep a Parish Register which includes skills Include different cultural traditions in our Sunday liturgies Social Media We could do better with e.g. Youth group- How do we support young people- there is not much else for them to do locally</p>
<p>4. What will be the outcome if this action cannot happen?</p> <p>Things will end Pray together- ask the Lord to help us continue as Church Encourage children to 'make a prayer' so that we can, as a parish, unite in this</p>

Mission: COMMUNITY – Building a Family of Faith
<p>Reflection and conclusions: Developing live stream is very important Children are very important to future inclusion Develop children’s liturgy</p>
<p>1. What are we proposing to do? Concrete actions: (<i>Distinguish what you will do now, next, over a longer journey and who is responsible for leading it.</i>) Encourage people to come into the hall to socialise Speak to St Oswald’s School; to ask children to sing/music during Mass Develop groups, e/g/SVP and raise awareness during Mass Live stream talks about Catholic Social Teaching, Rosary Hearing impaired signing at Mass</p>
<p>2. Why are we proposing this? (<i>Link to Mission.</i>) Develop our Community/Encourage youth engagement</p>
<p>3. Dependencies: <i>What will be needed to make this happen? (E.g. people, formation, finances, property decisions, Bishop approval, other parishes co-operating.)</i> People willing to lead and others to join</p>
<p>4. What will be the outcome if this action cannot happen? Less engagement</p>

Section 3 - Stewardship and Our Common Home (Property)

Accessibility (to be completed by Parish)

Site Name	Building Name	Estimated Occupancy Capacity	Estimated hours of use per week	Estimated number of car parking spaces	Level access into and within the building (Yes/No)	Accessible WC within the building (Yes/No)	% of people travelling by car	Describe local public transport links
Sacred Heart, North Gosforth	Church	200	5 hours	42	Yes	No	80%	outside church gates. Newcastle to - -43 Cramlington & Morpeth -44 Dinnington via Hazlerigg -45 Dinnington via Brunswick Each service is every 30 mins - thus 6 buses per hour pass the Church
	Church Hall - main hall & meeting room	Hall - 100 Meeting room - 12	15 hours plus hours for occasional use (see below)	42	Yes	Yes	70%	“””””

	Presbyter y - 2 bedroom s. Small office for parish use	1 retired priest	All week	1	Yes	Yes	N/A	“”””””””
--	--	---------------------	----------	---	-----	-----	-----	----------

Notes: **Estimated occupancy capacity** – This is simply intended to be a reasonable estimate of the capacity of our churches, halls and meeting spaces. In the future it may be necessary to check these capacity figures against the site Fire Risk Assessment the survey programme for which is currently underway across our Diocese.

Existing and potential future uses (to be completed by Parish)

Site Name:	Building Name	Existing uses	Potential future uses
Sacred Heart, North Gosforth	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 Weekend Masses - Mass on Tuesday and Thursday - Exposition before weekday Mass - Mass for the sick twice a year - Annual services- carol service, service for those who have died (in November), service for the victims and survivors of abuse, Christmas and Easter productions by primary school. Red Wednesday (Aid for the Church in Need), Lenten lunches, Lenten devotions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More use of services of Word and Communion - More regular non-eucharistic services
	Church Hall	<p>Weekly use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sunday - coffee after Mass - Toddlers - Irish Dance group - Art group <p>Monthly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Choir - First Communion preparation sessions September - February - Parish Drama Group rehearsal and performance of pantomime <p>Occasional use:</p>	Re-start Children's Liturgy

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marriage preparation days/Marriage Care - Numerous children's parties each year - Marriage celebrations - Baptism celebrations - Regular parish meetings – including parish council, finance committee, Emmaus, discussion group, Book group - Parish social events eg Choir/talent evenings, Food festival, Christmas party following annual carol service, Easter games including jarping. - Parish school/Christmas fund raiser - Collection point for annual Parish Christmas Toy/Gift appeal. - Macmillan Coffee Morning Re-start Children's Liturgy - Lenten lunches – in conjunction with Christian churches in the area. - Fish and chip lunch after Masses for the sick 	
--	--	--	--

Section 4: Stewardship Review Discernment

Please use the suggested prompts at **Part F of The Mission Discernment Toolkit** to guide your conversations and complete the following section.

Stewardship: FINANCES	
<i>Please summarise your conclusions based on F1. discussions</i>	
Transparency-	We need to know what they are?
Sustainable-	Probably
More costs expected-	Building renovation- we need funds and are currently appealing for funds for building renovations for our Grade II listed Church

Stewardship: BUILDINGS	
<i>Please summarise your conclusions based on F2. discussions</i>	
The hall is used, Church could be more	
Sponsor the flashing	
Fund raising	
Buildings safe-	No

Stewardship: PEOPLE	
<i>Please summarise your conclusions based on F3. discussions and the following questions:</i>	
How does your parish benefit from its Parish Finance Council and Parish Pastoral Council?	
The meetings could be on a more regular basis and structured following the guidelines of a standard Parish Pastoral Council constitution- this would require the Bishop to instruct all parishes to follow.	
Does your parish have active representation on the Partnership Development Group?	
Yes	

Are there potential lay leaders in the parish and would they be willing to be trained?

Lots of buildings

We have livestream and Eucharistic minister visits

SVP, Food Bank, Toy fund, Mary's Place

Stewardship: SUSTAINABILITY

Please summarise your conclusions based on F4. discussions

What is your assessment on sustaining current mission provision over the next 10 years?

Open minds be prepared to move on

Shared services

Sustainability of Church Hall- Is there room for expansion?

Encourage younger people to be included

- Children being involved with greeting with adult from family

More involvement of women

Fundraise for flashing per section

Collaborate with churches- other faiths

Solar panels on house?

Extra radiant heaters

Always need more volunteers

Leadership is not sustainable

Men priests allowed to marry

Ordained women. Women Deacons- Church is missing a huge resource

Ordination of women is URGENT

Nun's more involved

Not developing vocations

Leaders who give enthusiasm to encourage evangelisation, service and formation

Section 5: Snapshot Summary and Parish Conclusions

Please refer to **Part G of The Mission Discernment Toolkit** to guide your conversations and complete the following section. Provide clear, honest, and prayerful conclusions.

What is thriving and must be strengthened?

THRIVING

*Parish community events held in the church hall -e.g. international food festival, Easter activities, quiz nights, Performers of the Sacred heart (POSH) pantomime group, teas/coffees and other social events

Increasing ethnicity of the parishioners

Our parish is thriving in parts. We have a wide number of readers, including children, but we need discussion/ reflection/ prayer in our parish so that we know what we are passing on.

Rally good at community, very welcoming.

STRENGTHENED

Adult education needed on faith.

Adult group in the parish eg Emmaus

Curiosity about people- talking to each other

Resilience- past experiences, being responsive to change

Families coming into parish for Baptism, weddings, funerals should be made aware, in advance, of the live stream

What should be adjusted?

**Mass MUST be livelier, hymns should be upbeat

Emphasis on lay leadership, not clerical led

More involvement of laity

Lift women above solar panels!

Release the gift of music- can our children sing and sign? Usually get more response if the laity ask for money, rather than the priest.

Need to embrace technology

Enlarge the print on the newsletter

What drains Mission, is unsustainable, and needs to be released?

Resistance to change among some individuals in the parish (and higher in the Church)*

Archaic views about women

Attachment to buildings – some will need to close

Competing personal commitments

Clergy domination- more laity preparation for services

Frustration that we are repeating ourselves over the years and ignored

Recognise ourselves as '@priest, prophet, and king' – Where are we going to exercise these?

Where is the Holy Spirit prompting bold steps?

Fell uplifted after Mas if the above points are fulfilled (* + **)

Know and mirror the Holy Father's teaching

The Mass is a very prescribed 'event'- can the Holy Spirit help us to take BOLD STEPS – inspire us to take/fulfil our baptismal calling.

Can we go back laity writing bidding prayers

As a table we are not there yet, we need to pray together

Make room for all of the gifts that are available in the parish already

What are our next steps as a parish?

Laity should be encouraged more in liturgical ways

Look at ways parishioners can be involved- use our talents.

More serious discussion without prescribed agendas, Come together to try and change/ improve how we are currently and how we leave it for the next generation.

Encourage youth to participate.

Parish vigil – we need a series of prayer meetings for our parish, a specific day to discuss/pray on granular changes to our community. A day of reflection.

A REMINDER OF NEXT STEPS

Once completed, the parish should **submit this Part H** which is a summary of findings from The Local Mission Discernment (Part E), The Stewardship Review (Part F), and The Parish Snapshot Summary and Conclusions (Part G) to **discernment.returns@diocesehn.org.uk** by **23rd April 2026**.