

**Part H – Step A – The Parish Return Form**  
**Sections 1-5 to be completed and returned**  
**by 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:discernment.returns@diocesehn.org.uk)

<b>PARISH NAME:</b>	<b>ST CHARLES</b>
<b>PARISH TOWN:</b>	<b>GOSFORTH</b>
<b>DEANERY:</b>	<b>NEWCASTLE AND NORTH TYNESIDE</b>
<p><b>What was the process followed to reach these conclusions? <i>E.g. clergy &amp; laity involved, young people’s voices considered, prayer &amp; listening shaped decisions:</i></b></p> <p>Two open meetings for all parishioners involving clergy and laity followed by a third meeting jointly with Sacred Heart, North Gosforth.</p>	
<p><b>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></b></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.

<b>Mission: WORSHIP - Celebrating the Sacraments as Places of Encounter</b>
<p><b>Reflection and conclusions:</b>          Managing change is tricky needs careful-----          How can we get change to have women priests/deacons etc...</p>
<p><b>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>)</b></p> <p>Merging of Churches          Challenge our Bishops to discern on using married men, women priests, C of priests, overseas priests (reverse missions)          Age group worship: -e.g. Messy Church (Mothers and toddlers), Children's Mass, Teenage Mass, OAP Mass          More Eucharistic services. More Deacons, especially women</p>
<p><b>2. Why are we proposing this? (<i>Link to Mission.</i>)</b></p> <p>To keep Sunday Masses and all sacraments          Shortage of celebrants          Encourage young people to the church.          Could we have a mini bus to help elderly</p>
<p><b>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>)</b></p> <p>Cooperation of everyone          Some parishes will have to close</p>
<p><b>4. What will be the outcome if this action cannot happen?</b></p> <p>Potentially lose members of the congregation          Churches will have to close; there is little point in buildings being used for 2 or 3 services per week</p>
<p><b>5. How will worship be organised in the area if there are less priests and less worshippers?</b></p> <p>Church closures          Live stream and mor hands on support for priests</p>

## Mission: TEACH - Handing on the Faith

### Reflection and conclusions:

We have highly successful Catholic Schools in the area- must keep supporting these- they are the Church to our children

Gap – we lose teens

Needs to be Saturday 5pm.

Sunday 9 am too early

What is available to children who are not at Catholic Schools

### 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.*)

Teach through activities;- junior ceilidh, school choir, worship links (parish and school). Football, netball, film club

Group catechism training, confirmation etc... RCIA

Welcoming environment

Children's liturgy- successful/working/teaching the faith; Can we extend to older children to keep them – leadership possibilities

Youth Mass monthly -organised by youth

Youth Parish Council after children's liturgy age 10+

Cinema club

Dule of Edinburg award/Pope John Paul Award

Make contact with Jesmond Parish Church who have a very active youth parish

Deacons-introduce in schools

Women Deacons

Married Priests??

People coming into church need support afterwards – accompany people

Welcome people – let people know about coffee after Mass (Priest)

Mini bus -safeguarding

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

Fewer number of volunteers

To avoid losing young people after age 11- handing on the faith:

Bridging the gap between successful children's liturgy and young adults

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

More support to priests from Diocese on areas such as Safeguarding

Training of lay people

Youth leaders: support, guidance from YMT

Work with schools- bridge year 6/7

Space – not expensive

Nothing major needed, could happen within current provision

Could we ask YMT for advice?

? /speak to other churches, e.g. Elim church who are very youthful. Need genuine changes to keep youth, so must be prepared to adapt

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

Be less clerical

More lay leadership

Less rules

Less guilt

More priests retiring early

Volunteers reluctant to take on roles

Continue to lose young people by around 13 – loss of the future of the Church

Mass attendance go down further

**Mission: SERVE - Sharing Christ's Love in Action**

**Reflection and conclusions:**

Volunteering in the community—could we lead our young people in planning and delivering forms of service to the town?

More support for Community projects- homeless, refugees

Feels like we have a limited response to community needs locally

**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.*)**

Social action - local-national-international

SVP

Holy Island

J&P group

Publicise

Volunteers- need a up to date data base

Emailing bulletin and any changes to Mass times

Name badge Sundays

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

Café, Men's football team, Ceilidh

How do we include other cultures more – more ecumenical involvement

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

Share this better on social media- tell everyone what is going on in the parish- the outcomes of fundraising etc...: -

Volunteer from each group to share every time they meet-i.e.pics of activity at children's liturgy, or news/photos from the café. Can ask for volunteers this way.

Posters/QR codes everyone to help people follow the parish on social media

Church needs to be more welcoming to those of other faiths/ no faith

Church to become more active in initiatives such as Homelessness Sunday,

Refugee week, Holocaust Memorial

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

**The children will become like a museum**

**Mission: COMMUNITY – Building a Family of Faith**

**Reflection and conclusions:**

Our church benefits from location- close to large population and heavy foot traffic on the high street. WE can open our doors more- welcome people in

**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.*)**

Improv website.

Keep up to date, modernise. Support for social media improvements from Diocese

Communicate-email

Social – quiz, ceilidh

Cultures- Mass and coffee: Filipino, Hong Kong, African

The bulletin is on Facebook but the young people use TikTok and Instagram

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

Young people more interested in using social media options

Welcoming the wider community in will build a family of faith

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

Greater support form Diocesan IT

Staff to open up; already have the building; we already have the friendship café model

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

The demographic makeup of the church will continue to be made up of aging parishioners, many of whom will be dependent on livestream

## 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
<b>Saint, Charles Gosforth</b>	Church	200	5	40	Yes	Yes	80%	Local bus stops within a two minute walk of the church. Weekly service half hourly and weekends hourly.  Metro station 10 minute walk away
	Parish Centre	100	19 hours regular users + parties 2-4 hours each over weekends	40	Yes	Yes	75%	
	Presbytery	1 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
<b>Saint Charles, Gosforth</b>	Church	2 weekend masses Sat and Sun 2 weekly masses Wed and Fri Exposition before weekday mass Annual services – carols, November dead Christmas and Easter productions Lenten services Stations of the Cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Choral concerts</li> <li>- Organ recitals</li> <li>- Advertise church is open from 8-12 on weekdays</li> </ul>

## 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

Report produced annually of church finances.

Sustainable – Yes

Future costs for heating and lighting can be met for the forthcoming year

### Stewardship: BUILDINGS

Church and Parish Centre are being utilised on a regular basis and there isn't a weekend over the next three months which isn't being used for a social event of some kind eg. Parties, baptisms, weddings

### Stewardship: PEOPLE

*Please summarise your conclusions based on F3. discussions and the following questions:*

**How does your parish benefit from its Parish Finance Council and Parish Pastoral Council?**

The Finance committee have ensured the Spire Project came in on budget and sought out assistance from the Listed Buildings Grant in order to claim back VAT on the job (£5K). They are looking at planning in projects over the following financial year in an attempt to share the costs across it.

The Parish Council meetings get all the different groups together to discuss ways of streamlining projects and lightening the load on the parish priest

**Does your parish have active representation on the Partnership Development Group?**

Replacement required due to recent retirement

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

This matter is being looked into by the Parish Council

**Stewardship: SUSTAINABILITY**

*Please summarise your conclusions based on F4. discussions*

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

Shared services, amalgamation of St Charles and Sacred Heart, possibly also Jesmond, Holy Name.



**What are our next steps as a parish?**

- ensure church more accessible on a daily basis
- encourage more groups to utilise our parish centre
- catechising children and adults
- strengthen links with the parish catholic school
- Trying to encourage more volunteers
- Find out who is on the Parish Council and what they are doing

**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](mailto:discernment.returns@diocesehn.org.uk)** by **23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026**.