



DIOCESE OF **Hexham & Newcastle**

Parish Secretary

Our Lady of Mercy, Sunderland



Candidate Pack

INTRODUCTION

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is the sixth largest Diocese in England and Wales and is situated in the north-east of England. With an area of 3195 square miles, the boundaries are the border with Scotland in the north and the River Tees in the south. The Diocese consists of 152 separate parish communities, grouped together into 18 Partnerships, within five Episcopal Areas. The population of the region is 2,368,000, with an estimated Catholic population of 214,257.

There are 156 schools serving 54,000 pupils and their families. 151 schools are now within the four Catholic Education Trusts.

The Bishop of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is the Right Reverend Stephen Wright.

Diocesan Values

Integrity | Respect | Trust | Service | Compassion



PARISH SECRETARY

Job Description

To support the parish and Clergy with general administration.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Record, respond to and take enquiries by telephone, e-mail or written correspondence
- Deal with callers to the parish office
- Prepare and print the weekly bulletin
- Support parish communication by keeping the notice boards up to date
- Respond to enquiries for certificates of baptism etc
- Record details and prepare any Diocesan paperwork pertaining to baptisms, marriages and funerals
- Support the Parish Finance Committee to maintain effective systems:
 - Pay invoices and other expenditure and file all related documents
 - Maintain up to date book-keeping records
 - Update the Online Parish Accounting System (OPAS)
 - Bank collections and other monies received as required
- Support the Parish Gift Aid organiser as required
- Record minutes of Parish Council and finance meetings as required
- Manage bookings for the church hall, arrange key collection and payments
- Support with the organising of any work/repairs for the church, hall or presbytery
- Support the Parish Health and Safety Representative in ensuring completion of checks and the annual return
- Update and print volunteer lists for church duties
- Order and distribute stationery, cleaning materials and resources as required
- Liaise with the management company concerning the parish rented property
- Support parish outreach to homeless and needy
- Undertake other reasonable duties by request of the line manager

Post-holder must be conscientious and loyal to the aims and objectives of the Diocese, having regard at all times to its Catholic character.



Personal Specification

Essential Criteria

You must have:

- Experience in general office management and administrative procedures
- Excellent and up-to-date IT skills
- A good level of general education, including GCSE A*-C/L5+ in English and Maths or equivalent
- A good grasp of English grammar, accuracy and a high level of attention to detail
Excellent customer service skills with experience of dealing with sensitive situations
A good sense of responsibility and be self-motivated, with the ability to work independently with minimum supervision
- A professional approach with excellent interpersonal skills with the ability to develop good working relationships
- Good organisational and excellent planning skills
- Experience of co-ordinating diaries and people in a work environment
- The ability to work with complete confidentiality and integrity, adhering to all internal procedures
- The ability to work with volunteers in a supportive and encouraging manner
- A sense of humour

It will be good, but not essential, if you also have:

- A willingness and availability to work flexible hours when required



APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, please send:

- A letter of application saying why you want to work with us and what you'd bring to the role, with examples of how your skills and experience would enable you to fulfil your duties and responsibilities
- A CV, including the names of two people we may approach for professional references
Please send these by email to human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk

Deadline for applications: **12.00 noon on Wednesday 21 August 2024**

PAY AND CONDITIONS

What we will offer you

- Salary: £13,384.80 per annum and a workplace pension scheme where we match up to a maximum of 7.5% of your salary
- Hours: Part-time, 20 hours per week, generally Monday to Friday. Working pattern to be agreed at interview
- Permanent contract subject to 6 months probationary period

Location

St Mary's Presbytery, 27 Bridge Street, Sunderland SR1 1TQ

Benefits

- Holidays: 28 days holiday per year plus statutory holidays (144 hours pro rata per annum, including statutory holidays)
- Health and wellbeing support
- Cycle to Work Scheme



OTHER INFORMATION

This appointment will be subject to:

- Two satisfactory professional references
- Evidence of right to work in the UK
- Completion of mandatory safeguarding training

Safeguarding

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is committed to safeguarding all children and vulnerable groups at risk within its community. All employees are expected to contribute to the creation of a safe environment, challenge inappropriate behaviours and report concerns in line with procedures. In fulfilling the duties of this role, the post holder may come into contact with children or vulnerable adults. Therefore, they must adhere to diocesan safeguarding policies and procedures.

Data Protection

We won't hold the information you give us longer than necessary. Our Candidate Privacy Notice is available on our website www.diocesehn.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 1143450

Company Limited by Guarantee Company Number 7732977



Better Health
at Work Award
Bronze Award

