



DIOCESE OF **Hexham & Newcastle**

Parish Secretary

**Darlington North Parishes,
Darlington**



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 parishes of The Holy Family, St. Anne's, St Thomas Aquinas and Ss. William of York and Francis De Sales and their 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
- Develop good relationships with all volunteers, especially those supporting with administrative tasks
- Prepare and print the bulletin
- Ensure any notices for the Notice Boards are prepared, printed and distributed
- Respond to enquiries for Sacramental Certificates
- Record details and prepare any Diocesan paperwork pertaining to baptisms, marriages and funerals
- Support the Priest and Parish Finance Committee in maintaining effective systems:
 - Pay invoices and other expenditure and file all related documents
 - Update the Online Parish Accounting System (OPAS)
 - Maintain book-keeping records on a weekly basis
 - Support the Gift Aid organiser, as required
- Record minutes of Parish group meetings, as required
- Manage bookings for the church hall, and take responsibility for issuing of associated invoices
- Set up and maintain filing systems, ensuring compliance with data protection legislation
- Order office stationery and Church sundries including Mass sheets, candles and offertory envelopes



- 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, as and when required
- Order as necessary cleaning materials
- Prepare and type documentation, as requested by the Clergy
- 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

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 25th November 2024**

PAY AND CONDITIONS

What we will offer you

- Salary: £8,030.88 per annum and a workplace pension scheme where we match up to a maximum of 7.5% of your salary
- Hours: Part-time, 12 hours per week. Working pattern to be agreed at interview.
- Permanent contract subject to 6 months probationary period

Location

The post will be based at St Thomas Aquinas presbytery, 249, North Road, Darlington DL1 2PU

Benefits

- Holidays: 28 days holiday per year plus statutory holidays (86.5 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

