

## Down and Connor Diocesan Trust



### Ethos and Values required of all Employees

The main objects of the Diocese of Down and Connor ("the Diocese") are the advancement of the Catholic religion in the Catholic Diocese of Down and Connor, and the advancement of any charitable purpose supported by the Catholic Church in any part of the world. While remaining true to its own distinctive ethos, the Diocese places great value on togetherness with Christians of other traditions and those of other faiths and none. The Diocese is committed to the promotion of equality of opportunity.

Likewise, bearing in mind its main objects, there may be some circumstances in which the Diocese may rely on lawful exceptions to general principles.

The Diocese requires that all people working within its institutions and agencies, regardless of their faith tradition or perspective, demonstrate the highest standards of respect for the values, teaching and mission of the Catholic Church.

This includes:

#### **Respect for the inherent DIGNITY of every person:**

In all activities relating to your work, you will be required to demonstrate high standards of respect and courtesy towards every person with whom you have contact, and to contribute to a collaborative and supportive atmosphere among those with whom you work.

#### **Respect for Teaching and Practice:**

Our expectation is that everyone who works for the Diocese:

- will demonstrate high respect for the teaching, practice and religious symbols of the Catholic Church, and act in a manner that is consistent with the values and ethos of the Diocese.
- will adhere to high standards of ethics at all times and be personally active in supporting an ethical and courteous culture among all Diocesan staff.

## ROLE PROFILE: PARISH SECRETARY – PORTSTEWART/PORTRUSH/BALLYMONEY PARISHES

**Reporting to:** THE PARISH PRIEST/S

**Responsible for:**

- ❖ The Parish Secretary will provide confidential, efficient, effective administrative and secretarial support to the Priests, and assistance to visitors and parishioners who visit or make contact with the Parish offices.
- ❖ To effectively and efficiently manage and maintain the Parish Offices.

### Detailed Responsibilities of this Role:

In fulfilling this role, the job holder undertakes the following activities:

### Administrative Duties:

#### 1. Welcome

- While maintaining confidentiality on matters relating to the parishes at all times, meet and greet all callers to the offices/Churches and action requests/provide needed assistance or refer to appropriate person. When appropriate/requested, offer hospitality to visitors to the parishes.

#### 2. Answer telephone

- Deal with all telephone calls, taking details of name, contact details, type of query and communication of same to the Priests, or appropriate personnel.
- Action all answer machine messages.

#### 3. Dealing with mail:

- Deal with incoming Email communications and respond as required;
- Post – Sorting/distributing incoming mail and posting all outgoing mail.
- Drafting responses to mail as appropriate.

### Specific Administrative Duties:

Updating Parish Registers, overseeing Database Entry and updating where necessary:

#### 4. Typing, booklet production, printing Parishes publications, social media accounts:

- Type all requests by the Priests, as and when required;
- Prepare files and paperwork for the Priests attending meetings, in a timely manner;
- Maintain a highly effective and user-friendly up to date and Diocesan/GDPR compliant filing system to include archiving;
- Collate information for the weekly parish bulletins; Prepare and print the weekly bulletins, newsletters, and other booklets, brochures, forms and flyers that may be periodically requested by staff and/or committees, from time to time;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Update bulletin announcements on parish Facebook page;</li> <li>- Co-ordinate with printers as and when required;</li> <li>- Manage the parish social media accounts and ensure the Parish website account is relevant and up-to-date.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Supporting the Sacramental Life of the Parishes and updating Registers:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Register and process details of new parishioners and update database. Action requests for parishes information booklets, volunteer options, envelopes/Gift Aid forms, etc. and follow up in collaboration with Priests with a 'welcome call' /arrange house blessing, if requested and appropriate;</li> <li>- Liaise with the Priests re Mass intentions;</li> <li>- <u>Baptisms</u>: Assist with co-ordinating Baptism preparation meetings;</li> <li>- <u>Weddings</u>: Process Wedding Booking Request forms, co-ordinate bookings and oversee Church/Civil paperwork completion and filing;</li> <li>- <u>Funerals</u>: Obtain details of the deceased, next of kin, etc. and follow Funeral procedures. Liaise with the Sacristan re: Mass Intentions, Church Bookings, etc.</li> <li>- <u>Visiting Priests</u>: Assist the Priests in ensuring all Diocesan Policies/procedures re Visiting Priests are followed and recorded as required;</li> <li>- Update registers, both hard and soft copies, and issue certificates when requested for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Baptism</li> <li>➤ Confirmation</li> <li>➤ Marriage</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Forward information to Diocese/relevant parishes as required.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Database:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collate/update dates and information onto parishes computer systems;</li> <li>- Record weekly collection envelopes (Lifetime);</li> <li>- Annually order, label and sort collection envelopes for distribution;</li> <li>- Maintain and update database of mailing lists, membership status and committees.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Parishes Maintenance/works:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Where required, deal with queries re maintenance/works, and refer/consult with the Priests.</li> </ul>
<b>FINANCE AND BOOK-KEEPING DUTIES:</b> Using Parish Accounting Package to include:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Process invoices re Diocesan payments re collections, Diocesan &amp; Non-Diocesan;</li> <li>- Supplier invoicing;</li> <li>- Using Diocesan Lifetime package - Reconciliation of accounts in preparation for the Priests and Parish Finance Committees;</li> <li>- Undertake banking and handle petty cash and other financial procedures accurately, where required;</li> <li>- Preparation and printing of quarterly and end of year parish accounts to send to Diocesan Finance Department in a timely manner;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Payment and preparation for payment in relation to church maintenance;</li> <li>- Updating of Diocesan Finance Forms when necessary;</li> <li>- Contact with bank and transfers of Solidarity Funds from Diocesan Office;</li> <li>- Responsible for timely submission of Gift Aid Claim to Finance Office.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Miscellaneous tasks:</b></p> <p><i>This is a list of duties that may be required from time to time, but not necessarily every week.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain staff files to include; issue/filing payslips, P60's and co-ordinate hours worked when required and send details to Diocesan Payroll;</li> <li>- Send out notices of meetings of all committees as requested;</li> <li>- Operate the Parish computer systems in the daily task of organising and implementing church business; Assist in maintaining the master calendar of all Church activities and of all events taking place in Church facilities;</li> <li>- Photocopy documentation as required; Maintain a diary, schedules and calendar and arrange appointments for the Priests as needed;</li> <li>- Order and maintain an adequate inventory of office supplies;</li> <li>- Deal with School payments from DENI;</li> <li>- Renewal of Entertainments Licence relative to the Parish Hall;</li> <li>- Receiving grave payments and issuing receipts where required;</li> <li>- Assist with the maintenance of an orderly working environment;</li> <li>- Sign for and check deliveries and goods received notes;</li> <li>- Submit electricity readings online, if appropriate.</li> </ul>
<p><b>GENERAL:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compliance with and adhering to Diocesan policies and procedures, GDPR and Health &amp; Safety legislation at all times;</li> <li>- Maintaining confidentiality on matters relating to the Parish and the Diocese of Down and Connor at all times.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>JOB DESCRIPTION REVISION:</u></b></p> <p>This job description is intended to provide an outline of the key tasks and responsibilities only. There may be other duties required of the post holder commensurate with the position. The responsibilities may be amended, after discussion with the post holder, to take into account the development of both the post and the Parish Offices. All members of staff should be prepared to take on additional duties or relinquish existing duties in order to maintain the effective running of the Parish Offices.</p>	

**PARISH SECRETARY  
PORTSTEWART, PORTRUSH AND BALLYMONEY PARISHES**

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

	<b>ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:</b>	<b>DESIRABLE CRITERIA:</b>
<b>ACADEMIC/ VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS/ KNOWLEDGE &amp; EXPERIENCE:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At least two years' experience in a similar Secretarial/Administrative type role;</li> <li>2. Experience in the use of office accounting packages and procedures;</li> <li>3. IT literate in respect of Microsoft Office Software packages (Word, Teams, Excel, Outlook, Publisher);</li> <li>4. Excellent planning and organising skills;</li> <li>5. Ability to work alone, using initiative whilst maintaining discretion and confidentiality at all times;</li> <li>6. A general understanding of the social and moral teachings of the Catholic Church;</li> <li>7. A clear commitment to the work and mission of the Diocese of Down and Connor.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sound working knowledge of double entry book-keeping.</li> <li>2. Knowledge of the maintenance and updating of websites would be desirable.</li> <li>3. Knowledge in the use of social media platforms would be desirable.</li> </ol>
<b>COMPETENCIES:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An appreciation for the need for sensitivity and confidentiality;</li> <li>- Ability to project a friendly, professional, and helpful attitude, both in person and on the telephone;</li> <li>- Excellent organisational skills, able to prioritise and meet tight deadlines;</li> <li>- Excellent communication skills;</li> <li>- Ability to work alone, using initiative whilst maintaining discretion and confidentiality at all times;</li> <li>- Ability to work methodically and consistently;</li> <li>- Ability to work well as part of a team.</li> </ul>	
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>THIS POST WILL COVER: PORTSTEWART, PORTRUSH AND BALLYMONEY PARISH OFFICES. (COVER WILL BE ON SITE IN EACH PARISH AS PER AGREED WORK PATTERN)</b>	
<b>HOURS of WORK:</b>	<b>25 HOURS PER WEEK (WORK PATTERN TO BE AGREED TO PROVIDE COVER ACROSS 3 PARISHES)</b>	
<b>REMUNERATION:</b>	<b>£12.50 gross per hour</b> <i>(Where travel between parish offices is required – mileage allowance will form part of the overall remuneration package for this shared role.)</i>	
<b>ANNUAL LEAVE</b>	<b>32 days per annum which is inclusive of 12 customary holidays. <u>[Pro-rata for part-time employees]</u></b>	