

To follow after Part H has been submitted
**Part I is to be completed by a number of neighbouring
parishes working together and returned by 4th June 2026**

Part I– Step B – Combined Local Communities (Parishes/Partnerships) Return Form

Guidance on completing the template

Working with neighbouring communities and/or within a Partnership reflect on your local conclusions build up the picture of what a broader plan for our future Mission could look like. This larger plan needs to ensure it is specific and orientated to actions that will lead to flourishing.

Considering actions:

When moving from discerned priorities to action, it helps to work in three clear stages: goals, objectives, and concrete steps.

- Start with a shared goal that expresses the direction you want to travel e.g We want to have more young people in our community. This requires more specific thinking, for the purpose of this explanation I am going to compare this to the goal 'I want to be healthier.'
- You have a goal/ priority now move to defining the objectives that describe what would need to change to achieve that goal e.g To be healthier I am going to exercise regularly and eat better.
- Finally, agree concrete steps that are specific, realistic actions that the parish can actually take, with named responsibility and a timescale. e.g I am going to book a health check, walk twice a week, eat high fibre and high protein breakfasts.

The following action plan will need to be returned to
discernment.returns@diocesehn.org.uk by **15th July 2026**

Part I Neighbouring Parishes: From Mission Discernment to Faithful Action

Introduction to the partnership plan

The parish of Our Lady and St. Oswin's Tynemouth and St. Mary's Cullercoats has been without a resident priest for almost two years. The first target in our parish plan is to ask the bishop to approve the merger of Our Lady and St. Oswin's church with St Cuthbert's and St Joseph's parish North Shields and the merger of St Mary's church with Our Lady Star of the Sea parish Whitley Bay. This will give our parishioners greater clarity and security as well as supporting us in our mission to create a vibrant, sustainable community.

Although this request does not appear in the main body of the Partnership report it is supported by all three parish councils concerned and the report was written in the hope that this request would be approved by the bishop.

Tynemouth Priory Partnership

Name of Partnership or Parishes involved: **Tynemouth Priory Partnership**

Name of contact/ lead: Ian Pearson, Partnership Chair

Fill in **one row per action**. Duplicate the table as needed.

Area of Parish Life	Goal and Key Objective	How this serves our Mission	Concrete steps	When we hope to begin each step	What/ Who will be needed	Who will lead this and who we will work with to move forward
E1 Worship	<i>To build the Kingdom of God in North Tyneside, by supporting, nurturing and growing Partnership working in the Spirit.</i> <i>Increase opportunities for communal worship across the whole community through the provision of varied and meaningful liturgies, both Eucharistic and non-Eucharistic, by recruiting lay leaders</i>	<i>Our mission to strengthen, grow and celebrate the Kingdom of God in North Tyneside, and to offer Good News to its people, is realised by being nourished by the experience of communal worship, prayer, reflection and the Word of God. The whole area is best served when all parish communities have access to at least one weekend Mass and regular, frequent access</i>	<i>1. There are currently 3 priests serving 4 parishes. Within the next 12 months we expect this to become 3 parishes through merger.</i> <i>Because we have realised that there will be fewer priests and buildings in the future and we anticipate a reduced number of priests to two and then one, we will:</i>			
			<i>1a. Reduce to three parishes in the partnership</i>	<i>NOW (by the end of December 2027).</i>	<i>Bishop's approval. Relevant PPCs have already approved this.</i>	<i>Relevant Parish Councils and Partnership Clergy, Dean, Bishop.</i>
			<i>1b. Consult with congregations across the partnership to discern the best pattern of Mass, prayer services and use of buildings for effective worship and mission</i>	<i>NOW (by the end of 2028)</i>	<i>Partnership consensus of location & Timings of Weekend Masses</i>	<i>Partnership priests and partnership/parish councils</i>

Tynemouth Priory Partnership

Area of Parish Life	Goal and Key Objective	How this serves our Mission	Concrete steps	When we hope to begin each step	What/ Who will be needed	Who will lead this and who we will work with to move forward
E1 Worship (Continued/...)		<i>to a weekday Mass and/or liturgy of word and communion, as well as the rich and diverse prayer opportunities that are offered across the area.</i>	<i>1c. Each parish will have reduced its centres of worship by one.</i>	<i>LATER (by the end of 2031)</i>	<i>Parish, Partnership and Deanery consensus of location & Timings of Weekend Masses</i>	<i>Partnership priests and partnership/parish councils and Dean</i>
			<i>1d. Ultimately there are likely to be three key centres of Worship and Mission based around St Cuthbert's North Shields, St Columba's Wallsend, and St Edward's Whitley Bay, as these are the 3 largest most accessible churches across the partnership. However, consideration will need to be made re use of schools, and other sites as centres/ hubs for Mission.</i>	<i>LATER (By 2036)</i>	<i>Bishop's approval. Relevant PPCs have already approved this.</i>	<i>Relevant Parish Councils and Partnership Clergy, Dean, Bishop.</i>
			<i>2. Because we have realised that to flourish, we need a vibrant pool of lay leaders to support worship and mission across our parishes we will:</i>			
			<i>2a Audit existing skills in worship leadership across all parishes, then collate and share the findings across the Partnership. Parish council carry out audits initially. Results shared at</i>	<i>NOW (by Easter 2026)</i>	<i>Leaders in Catholic Formation available to deliver the training.</i>	<i>Partnership Led (PL), Diocesan-enabled (DE).</i>

Tynemouth Priory Partnership

Area of Parish Life	Goal and Key Objective	How this serves our Mission	Concrete steps	When we hope to begin each step	What/ Who will be needed	Who will lead this and who we will work with to move forward
E1 Worship (Continued/...)			<i>partnership and council meeting then with congregations</i>		<i>Local venues where training can be provided. Participants and mentors.</i>	
			<i>2b Audit, collate and communicate existing opportunities for different forms of worship in the Partnership. e.g. meditation, rosary groups and charismatic prayer - respecting the varied, valid and diverse ways we can deepen our relationship with Our Lord. Parish council carry out audits initially. Results shared at partnership and council meeting then with congregations</i>	<i>NOW (By Easter 2027)</i>	<i>PPCs and Partnership Council</i>	<i>PPCs</i>
			<i>2c Identify Trainers for a Worship Lay Leaders Course to be held locally. Agree Course Objectives and Content. Advertise Course and Encourage others to participate and undertake formation in Lay Leadership.</i>	<i>NOW (March 2027)</i>	<i>PPCs and Partnership Council Input from Diocesan Formation team(s)</i>	<i>Partnership Led (PL), Diocesan-enabled (DE). Experienced local Course Leader</i>
			<i>2d Deliver the planned course. Also offer practical opportunities for Leaders to practise their skills and learning supported by existing Lay Leaders.</i>	<i>NOW (April 2027-December 2027)</i>	<i>Agreed course content and delivery format. Venue, Trainers and participants</i>	<i>Partnership Led (PL), Diocesan-enabled (DE). Experienced local Course Leader</i>

Tynemouth Priory Partnership

Area of Parish Life	Goal and Key Objective	How this serves our Mission	Concrete steps	When we hope to begin each step	What/ Who will be needed	Who will lead this and who we will work with to move forward
E1 Worship (Continued/...)			3. <i>Because we recognise that it will be important that one parish offers a Sunday late afternoon/evening Mass to reach out to young families who are otherwise engaged in other activities across the weekend. We will:</i>			
			3a. <i>Explore the viability of offering one Sunday Evening Mass in the Partnership so that families, who have other commitments on Saturday evening or Sunday morning can attend Mass</i>	NEXT (Beg 2028)	Partnership consensus of location & Timings of Weekend Masses	Partnership priests and partnership/parish councils
E2 TEACH	<i>Deepen experience, knowledge and Understanding our Relationship with Christ through Word, Community and Action.</i>	<i>Our Mission can only be sustained and grow if younger people are welcomed, encouraged and attracted by what we are trying to do.</i>	<i>Because our mission can only be sustained if we nurture faith in ourselves and others, we will:</i>			
			1 <i>The Homily is a key moment of teaching at weekend Masses. Explore the viability of offering one Sunday Evening Mass in the Partnership (see above step 3a under Worship 3.)</i>	NEXT (Beg 2028)	Partnership consensus of location & Timings of Weekend Masses	NEXT (Beg 2028)
			2 <i>Continually seek out Adult Formation opportunities – on-line, local experts and organisations, lectures, courses, on-line and publicise them, newsletters, briefings after Masses by those with experience of formation.</i>	NEXT (by Easter 2028)	Diocesan Adult Formation Leads Accessible Informative	Partnership priests and partnership/parish councils

Tynemouth Priory Partnership

Area of Parish Life	Goal and Key Objective	How this serves our Mission	Concrete steps	When we hope to begin each step	What/ Who will be needed	Who will lead this and who we will work with to move forward
E2 TEACH (Continued/...)					Partnership Website & Social Media Etc	
			3 Share widely people's experiences of Formation opportunities, newsletters, briefings after Masses by those with experience of formation.	NOW (From Jan 2027)	Parish, Partnership and ultimately Partnership Communications Officer	Partnership led (PL) Diocesan enabled (DE)
			4 Continue to deliver sacramental preparation with partners and develop post sacramental programmes– To retain and engage people thereby growing the Faith Community	NOW (Academic Year 2026/2027 - implement post preparation programme by Easter 2028)	Meet with existing and potential Catechists Collect parental and candidate views during next cycles of Sacramental Preparation Draw up potential Programme	Existing catechists and PPC

Tynemouth Priory Partnership

Area of Parish Life	Goal and Key Objective	How this serves our Mission	Concrete steps	When we hope to begin each step	What/ Who will be needed	Who will lead this and who we will work with to move forward
E2 TEACH (Continued/...)			<i>5 Plan post reception into Church programme – To support the transition into the new Faith community.</i>	<i>NOW (Academic Year 2026/2027 implement post preparation programme by Easter 2028)</i>	<i>Meet with existing and potential Catechists Collect candidate views during next cycles of the Journey in Faith. Draw up potential Programme</i>	<i>Existing catechists and PPC</i>
			<i>6. Deliver a Lay Leaders Course within the partnership to be held locally. (See above steps 2c and 2c under Worship)</i>	<i>NOW (By end of December 2027).</i>	<i>PPCs and Partnership Council Input from Diocesan Liturgical Formation team(s)</i>	<i>Partnership Led (PL), Diocesan-enabled (DE). Experienced local Course Leader</i>
			<i>7 Explore ways to strengthen School & Partnership Relationships. (Section 48 Inspection Schedule is currently being modified and National Team are open to observations re Catholic Life of School Section)</i>	<i>NOW (Academic Year 2027/2028)</i>	<i>School chaplain, partnership priests</i>	<i>National and Diocesan leads in Section 48 inspections. Schools, School chaplain, partnership priests</i>

Tynemouth Priory Partnership

Area of Parish Life	Goal and Key Objective	How this serves our Mission	Concrete steps	When we hope to begin each step	What/ Who will be needed	Who will lead this and who we will work with to move forward
E3 SERVE	<i>To continue to become more effective in pastoral ministry and better meet the needs of the People of North Tyneside, the Wider area, and our brothers and sisters both Nationally and Globally.</i>	<i>Serving our Mission by being Christ-led Servants to the People of North Tyneside</i>	<i>Having realised that we need a better understanding of the gaps in serving others and we need to work collaboratively and efficiently to serve the needs of our local area. we will:</i>			
			<i>1 Research, ascertain and agree priorities of Local Action Needs</i>	<i>NOW (Easter 2027)</i>	<i>Team of Lay Volunteers in conjunction with local groups, including Cedar Wood Trust, Churches Together, T&W Citizens</i>	
			<i>2 Re-align current financial, physical and Human Resources to free up finance and better fund our Mission and goals.</i>	<i>NOW (Easter 2027 to enable appointment of Partnership Communication Officer to be made by September 2027)</i>	<i>Parishioners, Employed Workers and Clergy in our Partnership guided and advised by Diocesan HR.</i> <i>Partnership Clergy</i>	

Tynemouth Priory Partnership

Area of Parish Life	Goal and Key Objective	How this serves our Mission	Concrete steps	When we hope to begin each step	What/ Who will be needed	Who will lead this and who we will work with to move forward
E3 SERVE (Continued/...)					<i>Diocesan Bishop & Hierarchy</i>	
			<i>3 Appointment of Partnership Communications Officer. Promote and share existing Good Practice. Re-invigorating on-line presence Auditing, collating and communicating what is already happening in our Partnership. I.e. NT Citizens, Respite Care Facilities, Consolation Ministry, Parish Nurses, Nite Bite, SVP, Pro-Life, CAFOD, MIRA, Street Pastors etc.</i>	<i>NOW (by September 2027)</i>	<i>IT /Digital Marketing person. Co-operation of all Partnership Members. Admin support, Diocesan HR support.</i>	<i>Partnership led (PL), Diocesan HR Enabled (DE)</i>
			<i>4. Give consideration -to a funded Dedicated Partnership Pastoral Worker to encourage and advocate for the involvement of our children, young people and families in parish life and provide a point of co-ordination/link between our Catholic schools and parishes. This person could also potentially support 25–40-year-olds better maintain contact with Parish Life.</i>	<i>LATER (5 Year Plan 2031) Audit existing human, fiscal and building resources. Rationalise these against an agreed Mission Focussed set of criteria. Devise a plan with tangible, agreed success criteria</i>	<i>Co-operation of all Partnership Members. Admin support, Diocesan HR support.</i>	<i>Partnership, parish councils</i>

Tynemouth Priory Partnership

Area of Parish Life	Goal and Key Objective	How this serves our Mission	Concrete steps	When we hope to begin each step	What/ Who will be needed	Who will lead this and who we will work with to move forward
E4 COMMUNITY	<i>To be visible and effective Christ-Beacons of Hope in North Tyneside. Working together to improve communication across the partnership and breaking-down parish boundaries through, for example, shared liturgies, celebrations and activities.</i> <i>Peer support across the partnership through formation, celebration and pooling of resources.</i>	<i>Serving our Mission by living out what the Gospel invites us to be.</i>	<i>Having realised that our strength is in partnership and diversity we will:</i>			
			<i>1 Publicise the ways in which the Partnership currently serve the Local, National and Global Community. How we publicise the ways eg “social media, newspapers”</i> <i>Rapidly develop our media presence, affirming community belonging and welcoming people to our Catholic Community, thereby increasing the sense of belonging.</i>	<i>NEXT (Facilitated by the Communications Officer, by January 2028)</i>	<i>Diocesan Communication's Team, Partnership Communications Officer, Admin</i>	<i>Diocesan Communication's Team, Partnership Communications Officer supported by clergy and partnership members</i>
			<i>2 In the light of increased societal intolerance and division, it becomes increasingly important to be Beacons of Sanctuary and Inclusion. Highlighting this through the promotion of our mission and service across the community.</i>	<i>NOW Ongoing but strengthened through better online presence, To imbed this in practice by January 2028.</i>	<i>All Partnership members supported by Parish Leaders and the Partnership Communications Officer.</i>	<i>Parish Leaders and the Partnership Communications Officer.</i>
			<i>3. Offer use of buildings and facilities for use by Community Groups whose values align to our Mission in Christ.</i>	<i>NOW (January 2027)</i>	<i>Current Parish and Partnership Admins</i>	<i>Partnership, parish councils</i>
			<i>4 Create and convene a group of people willing to work with admin to oversee/vet booking</i>	<i>NEXT (January 2027)</i>	<i>Current Parish and Partnership Admins</i>	<i>Partnership, parish councils</i>

Tynemouth Priory Partnership

Area of Parish Life	Goal and Key Objective	How this serves our Mission	Concrete steps	When we hope to begin each step	What/ Who will be needed	Who will lead this and who we will work with to move forward
E4 COMMUNITY <i>(Continued/...)</i>			<i>5. Give consideration to suggesting an Alumni Association for St Thomas More ex-pupils to maintain contact with each other and their Parishes.)</i>	<i>LATER (3 Year Plan 2033)</i>	<i>Representatives of past and present St Thomas More Students.</i>	<i>Pastoral leaders in St Thomas More School</i>
F1 Stewardship-Finances for Mission	<i>To best sustain, grow and maximise the efficacy of all. of our God given resources for the good of others and our planet in the Service of Christ. Laudato Si</i>	<i>Ensure most effective use of what we have at our disposal to best support our Partnership in being a Living, Active Witness to the presence of Christ in our Community</i>	<i>We realise that to achieve priorities in points 1 – 4 - above, our strength is in partnership and diversity. We will:</i>			
			<i>1 Through auditing, consultation and agreement we will rationalise our existing Partnership Finances in order to facilitate and continue to live out our Mission as the People of God to best meet the needs of our worshipping and wider communities.</i>	<i>LATER (By September 2031)</i>	<i>Parishioners, Employed Workers and Clergy in our Partnership guided and advised by Diocesan Finance Team. Partnership Clergy.</i>	<i>Partnership led (PL), Diocesan Enabled (DE)</i>
F2 Stewardship – Buildings for Mission	<i>To best sustain, grow and maximise the efficacy of all. of our God given resources for the good of others and</i>	<i>Ensure most effective use of what we have at our disposal to best support our Partnership in</i>	<i>Because we realise that we must ensure the most effective use of our resources to support the future sustainability of worship and mission across our Partnership we will:</i>			

Tynemouth Priory Partnership

Area of Parish Life	Goal and Key Objective	How this serves our Mission	Concrete steps	When we hope to begin each step	What/ Who will be needed	Who will lead this and who we will work with to move forward
F2 Stewardship – Buildings for Mission (Continued/...)	<i>our planet in the Service of Christ. Laudato Si</i>	<i>being a Living, Active Witness to the presence of Christ in our Community which shows respect to the legacy we inherit</i>	<i>1 Audit and rationalise our existing Partnership Buildings in order to facilitate and continue to live out our Mission as the People of God. Thereby identifying which buildings are essential for worship and mission, which can be used to serve the wider needs of the community, and which are no longer sustainable.</i>	<i>NEXT (September 2029)</i>	<i>Parishioners, Employed Workers and Clergy in our Partnership guided and advised by relevant Diocesan Dept.</i> <i>Partnership Clergy.</i> <i>Diocesan Bishop and Hierarchy</i>	<i>Partnership led (PL), Diocesan Enabled (DE)</i>
			<i>2. Having identified buildings that can no longer be sustained for worship, by the end of 2031 each parish will have reduced its centres of worship by one.</i>	<i>LATER (by the end of 2031)</i>	<i>Parish, Partnership and Deanery consensus of location & Timings of Weekend Masses</i>	<i>Partnership priests and partnership/parish councils and Dean</i>
			<i>3. Ultimately by 2036 there are likely to be three key centres of Worship and Mission based around St Cuthbert's North Shields, St Columba's Wallsend, and St Edward's Whitley Bay, as these</i>	<i>LATER (By 2036)</i>	<i>Bishop's approval. Relevant PPCs have already approved this.</i>	<i>Relevant Parish Councils and Partnership</i>

Tynemouth Priory Partnership

Area of Parish Life	Goal and Key Objective	How this serves our Mission	Concrete steps	When we hope to begin each step	What/ Who will be needed	Who will lead this and who we will work with to move forward
			<i>are the 3 largest most accessible churches across the partnership. However, consideration will need to be made re use of schools, and other sites as centres/ hubs for Mission.</i>			<i>Clergy, Dean, Bishop.</i>
F3 Stewardship- People for Mission	<i>To best sustain, grow and maximise the efficacy all of our God given resources for the good of others and our planet in the Service of Christ. Laudato Si We are resolved across the partnership to maximise joint working in order that no vital areas of provision are lost.</i>	<i>3 Ensure most effective use of what we have at our disposal to best support our Partnership in being a Living, Active Witness to the presence of Christ in our Community</i>	<i>Because the current reliance on a small group of volunteers in some of our parishes to support all ministries and areas and parish life cannot continue, there needs to be a comprehensive review of all areas of parish and partnership life, in particular the ministries that support worship. We will:</i>			
			<i>1 Audit, support and grow our current cohort of Servant Workers in order to flourish and continue to live out our Mission as the People of God.</i>	<i>NEXT (September 2029)</i>	<i>PPCs and Admin Support</i>	<i>Partnership led (PL), Diocesan Enabled (DE)</i>
			<i>2 Focus, align and include Younger People, at various age phases when planning all future Partnership Projects and greatly enhance our on-line presence.</i>	<i>NOW (From September 2026 and ongoing.)</i>	<i>Catechists, Partnership leaders, Partnership Communications Officer.</i>	<i>Partnership and Parish Leaders</i>
F4 Stewardship – sustainability of Mission	<i>Young people are pivotal in the sustainability of Mission and it is hoped that they will recognise, respect</i>	<i>4 Focus, align and include Young People, at various age phases when planning all</i>	<i>Because we have realised that Mission can only be sustained and grow if younger people are welcomed, encouraged and attracted by what we are trying to do. We will:</i>			

Tynemouth Priory Partnership

Area of Parish Life	Goal and Key Objective	How this serves our Mission	Concrete steps	When we hope to begin each step	What/ Who will be needed	Who will lead this and who we will work with to move forward
F4 Stewardship – sustainability of Mission (Continued/...)	<i>and engage with our endeavours to best use all of our God given resources for the good of others and our planet in the Service of Christ.</i> <i>Laudato Si</i> <i>Sustainability will also require continuity of support from clergy.</i>	<i>future Partnership Projects. Massively enhancing our on-line presence.</i>	<i>1 Ensuring that inclusion of younger people in any aspect of partnership life is taken into consideration when devising policy and enacting practice. Use existing means of consultation with the Younger People in our schools and communities to check for resonance with any Partnership actions and aspirations.</i> <i>Consider consultation and involvement of Youth Ministry Team in engaging with Young People.</i>	<i>NEXT (September 2029)</i>	<i>Representation from Younger People, School leaders, School and University Chaplains and ultimately the Partnership Pastoral Worker.</i>	<i>Partnership led (PL), Diocesan Enabled (DE)</i>

A REMINDER OF NEXT STEPS

Once completed, the group of parishes should submit this plan to **discernment.returns@diocesehn.org.uk** by **15th July 2026**.

These plans will be prayerfully brought together at Deanery level and will form the foundation for the next stage of the journey: The Diocesan plan.