

## A Ministry of Support and Presence

A priest leads and participates in a range of parish activities and groups, supporting young people, older adults, those who are bereaved and the needy. A priest connects with the various networks in the parish to support family life.



*A priest walks with others on their journey of faith*

A priest works hard at building relationships of care by leading and participating in parish activities both social and pastoral.

A priest encourages growth in faith and supports the work of our schools; connecting with parents, teachers and children.

## Engages with the Wider Community

The ministry of the priest extends to the whole community where he interacts with civil and religious groups, building relationships of trust with diverse cultural groups.

A priest promotes and encourages dialogue with other faiths and other churches, as well as promoting justice and peace for all.

## Committed to Personal Spiritual Growth and Development

A priest is a man who is totally committed not only to the spiritual development and growth of others, but also to his own continuous journey of faith.

This he does through maintaining habits of the heart such as study and theological reflection, participating in support groups and consulting peers. The priest today develops a collaborative style of ministry which draws in the talents and gifts of the whole parish community.

It is only through maintaining a life of prayer that a priest can meet the challenge of living and ministering in today's hectic world.

A healthy and happy priest is one who also gives time every year to holiday and retreat, nurtures healthy friendships and support networks and looks after his physical health.

*How do you want to affirm, strengthen and support the ministry of your priest in this year?*

If you want to know more about the life of a priest, contact your Parish Priest or the Vocations Director:

Fr Alex Davie  
St Margaret's  
149 Main Street  
Davidson's Mains  
Edinburgh EH4 5AQ  
0131 476 0413  
Email: [parishpriest.d-mains@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:parishpriest.d-mains@blueyonder.co.uk)

ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. ANDREWS & EDINBURGH

## *Year of the Priest*



## What is a Priest Called to Be and Do?

Adapted from  
*The Ministerial Responsibilities of a Parish Priest*  
A Partnership of  
the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh  
and Education Development Centre, Inc., 2009

## He celebrates Liturgy and Sacraments



This is the most important role that the priest has in our parish communities.

He celebrates the Eucharist daily and leads the community in prayer.

### *A priest celebrates*

He spends time pondering the Word of God so that he can break open the Word in preaching.

The priest regularly makes himself available to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation.

He reaches out in pastoral care of the parish community by:

- Visiting the sick and administering the Sacrament of the Sick
- Providing suitable preparation for the reception and celebration of the Sacraments
- Presiding at weddings and helping couples to prepare for marriage
- Celebrating Funeral Rites and helping to provide pastoral care for the bereaved
- Leading prayer
- Coordinating and planning liturgy
- Training lay people to celebrate and participate in liturgy

## Provides Pastoral Care and Spiritual Guidance

As well as visiting the sick and others in need, priests guide others on their spiritual journey by:



- Listening with compassion
- Sometimes offering practical assistance
- Responding to crisis situations
- Leading retreats and reflection

### *A priest reaches out in care*

## COMMUNICATES FAITH

Every priest is called to preach the Gospel. This is not just about preaching homilies, the priest preaches by his way of life.

The priest is called to be a living witness to Gospel values.

In parish life the priests coordinates all areas of faith formation, this includes preparation for sacraments, catechesis of adults, young people and children.

The priests not only responds to questions of faith, but communicates the message of the Gospel in all he says and does.

He also communicates the message of faith through various media and represents the Church's vision in the public arena

## Leads Parish Community Life



A priest today is called more and more to be an enabler. He does this by overseeing the whole life of the parish. He enables the parish community to move forward by:

- Enabling everyone to participate
- Implementing plans for development
- Implementing Archdiocesan and National Catholic Church policies, e.g. Safeguarding
- Participating in Deanery and Archdiocesan meetings
- Animating the various lay ministries and apostolates
- Overseeing parish finance and budgets
- Supervising maintenance of buildings and church grounds
- Managing parish staff and volunteers
- Supervising parish communications
- Mediating in parish conflicts