



**New parish is
created in
Diocese
- page 2**



**New convent
set to open its
doors
- page 3**



**Oxford St
procession of
Our Lady
- page 5**

Explosive start to the New Year with Epiphany fireworks



The bonfire and fireworks during the Epiphany celebrations at the Bishop's White House in Poringland near Norwich.

Light-filled youth Ignite celebration

There was a light-filled celebration of Epiphany near Norwich on Saturday January 6 when around 120 young people and their families from across the Diocese of East Anglia enjoyed a candlelit Mass, bonfire, hot dogs and fireworks.

■ The annual Epiphany Candlelight Youth Mass, took place at the Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation in Poringland, organised by the Ignite team and Director of Youth Services Hamish MacQueen with attendees from across Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs and Peterborough.

Welcoming the congregation, Bishop Alan said: "Epiphany means revelation and we are celebrating the revealing of Jesus Christ to each one of us and to the world."

The Mass included a chance for

participants to light a candle and donate a present to be given to children who are refugees in the UK.

In his homily, Youth chaplain, Fr Luke Goymour said: "At Christmas, God burst into our world and into humanity to begin to act out the drama of our salvation. He did not come in glory but was born in a manger. But there was this light emanating from Bethlehem that attracted first the shepherds and then the Magi because God had become man and the world will never be the same again.

"It teaches us that there is no part of our world and human experience that God is absent from. God dwells in everything, in the mess and in the rubbish of our lives. We need to be people who are alert and awake to the presence of the almighty God in our own lives. The message of Christmas and the Epiphany is that God is with us and he is for everyone," said Fr Luke.

"Candles are an ancient symbol which,

like the fireworks, remind us of the Bethlehem star and the true light bursting into our world, dispelling the darkness. We too are all called to be lights in the world and people who show forth God's presence, by the way that we act, by the way that we pray, by the way that we worship and by the way that we live," he said.

"People should be able to look at us and glimpse something of the majesty and the glory of the God who dwells within us. So, as a symbol at the beginning of this new year, as our pledge to be God's light in the world, we will each light a candle at the front and prayerfully ask God to show us one way in which we can ask God to help us to be a light in the world this coming year."

After Mass, everyone went outside to enjoy hot dogs, a bonfire and a firework display in the garden of the Bishop's White House.

■ See more pictures on page nine and a full gallery at www.rcdea.org.uk



Pastoral letter's family theme

Bishop Alan's pastoral letter for The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph was read at Masses over the weekend of December 30 and 31.

■ Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, St Pope John Paul II, in his Exhortation on the Family, wrote these words: "The future of humanity passes by way of the family."

These words apply not just to our own families today, but in a special way to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

For with our Saviour's birth in Bethlehem, the future of all humanity, past, present and future, passes by way of this family.

Jesus Christ was able to be conceived in the womb of Mary, only because she welcomed him with a generous mother's love.

Mary was able to accept her child without fear because she was protected by the faithful integrity of her husband Joseph.

By their great care for the sacred infant, this couple enabled him to grow to full human maturity and to be filled with wisdom – thus assisting him to preach the Gospel and to bring salvation to the whole world through his life, death and resurrection.

Our salvation, therefore, has been accomplished through the means of a family.

God instituted the family from the beginning to share in his work of creation – to be fruitful and multiply.

Through the Holy Family he allows humanity to share in his work of re-creation.

In God's plan of salvation, everything happens through the family.

The future of humanity passes by way of the family.

These words are true for us today. For the way we live as families determines not only who we will be as individuals but also the nature of our society and of our collective culture.

The way we treat others in the home ultimately shapes the way we will treat and think about other people.

■ Continued on page seven

news in brief

Talk on theology of history

■ The Annual Aquinas Lecture at the Dominican Community of Blackfriars, Cambridge, will be given by Dr Andrew Meszaros from the Pontifical University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, near Dublin.

Vale of Tears or Kingdom of God? Augustine and Aquinas on a Theology of History, will be Andrew's subject.

The lecture takes place on Monday January 29, 6pm, at Blackfriars, Buckingham Road, Cambridge CB3 0DD and will be followed by light refreshments.

Andrew Meszaros STD lectures in Systematic Theology at The Pontifical University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth. He is the author of the recently published 'The Prophetic Church: History and Dogmatic Development in John Henry Newman and Yves Congar'.

Festive ship visit

■ Mince pies and festive cheer was given to Filipino seafarers on a ship berthed in Felixstowe by two Catholic volunteer ship visitors.

On December 15, David Offord from St Mary's RC Church, Ipswich and Julian Wong from St Mark's RC Church, Ipswich, visited the crew on Suecia Seaways at Felixstowe Port.

Julian said: "We were able to present them with boxes of mince pies, chocolates and biscuits. Many seafarers will be spending time away from their families and friends and will be sorely missed over the festive period. So David and I thought it would be wonderful if we could visit some of them and David dressed up as Santa."

Canada connection

■ News from the Diocese of East Anglia is regularly reaching the Mission Diocese of Whitehorse in Yukon Territory, Canada, thanks to the editor of one of its parish newsletters, Pat Banks, who has connections with the Diocese. Pat picks up news from the diocesan website's newsletter and republishes items of interest.

Catholic East Anglia

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

EDITOR: Keith Morris
tel: 01508 488318 or
07712 787762

Pear Tree Farmhouse,
Wymondham Road,
Wrenningham, Norwich,
NR16 1AT

email: keith.morris@rcdea.org.uk



Articles and photographs for the next edition are very welcome and should be sent to the editor, ideally via email, by the deadline of Wednesday February 7.

Diocese website: www.rcdea.org.uk

Advertising: Contact Janet at Cathcom on tel 01440 730399 or at janett@cathcom.org

Publisher: Cathcom Ltd of Haverhill, 0207 112 6710

Street fair brings church visitors

■ Over 250 people visited St Edmund's in Bungay as part of the town's annual Christmas Street Fair on December 4, reports **Andy Parris**.

Bungay's Christmas street fair is attended by thousands every year and as part of this town event, St Edmund's invited people into the church to buy from a stall selling Traidcraft gifts. Traidcraft gives money to CAFOD, which is one of the parish's chosen charities.

The church was decorated with a Christmas tree and children from the school had made decorations for it. A children's craft table for making tree

decorations was also used by many during the afternoon. A crib was set up in the Lady Chapel and people were invited to donate to CAFOD in a basket nearby.

The small team of volunteers led by Sue Altarelli and Jenny Beaugard were encouraged by the success of the event. A headcount revealed that over 250 people visited the church from 12 noon to 4pm and most of the Traidcraft stock was sold. £140 was raised from the stall and the crib donations.

Apart from the money raised, a major success for the Bungay team was measured in the number of people who

visited the church. It is also important that St Edmund's is seen as being part of such a big town event.

Some of the visitors came in for the first time despite having lived in the town for many years.

Some repeated their visit from last year's fair, saying that they remembered it as the highlight of the Street Fair!

All of them found the visit uplifting and welcoming. Many were keen to light a candle by the Crib and take a few minutes to enjoy the peaceful atmosphere enriched by the plainsong soundtrack.

New parish is officially created

A new parish was officially launched in the Diocese of East Anglia over the weekend of January 13 and 14 with the creation of Our Lady of Lourdes and St John Fisher Parish in Sawston and Cambourne in Cambridgeshire.

■ The new parish was officially erected on January 2 after Bishop Alan had gone through the canonical process and on January 13 and 14, Canon John Minh was inducted as parish priest by Bishop Alan.

Sawston is a well-established community with a church and a hall built in 1958 and 1963 respectively. The community joined OLEM Parish in Cambridge in 2008, but it was soon growing again and it continues to grow steadily with new people coming to live in the areas.

Cambourne, on the other hand, is a pretty new community. In 2000, Mgr Tony Rogers and his team at OLEM started to say Mass for a group of about 20 people in the waiting room of a surgery in the small but rapidly growing village.

Within a decade, the Catholic community has grown to nearly 250 people. The venue for Mass changed from the original small waiting room to a wooden community cabin, then a school hall and now a church centre. Even so, there is standing room only at its 5pm Mass on Saturday evenings.

Realising the rapid growth of the area, Mgr Peter Leeming suggested that Sawston and Cambourne could soon become a new parish. However, the limited number of priests in the Diocese initially delayed the birth of the new parish.

Fr John said: "The growth of Sawston and Cambourne definitely sends a positive signal to the whole church in East Anglia amidst reports in the media about the decline and closure of churches in the country."

"As a newly erected parish, Our Lady of Lourdes and St John Fisher still has to go through many challenges to establish itself, especially with Cambourne's continued growth of population. However, the Cambourne Catholic community still does not have a stable place for its daily Mass, catechism classes, or 'surgeries' for the parish priest. The young and vibrant commu-



Pictured above, Canon John Minh signs the profession of faith in Cambourne and, left, Fr John is inducted by Bishop Alan in Sawston.



nity relies on the support of Sawston community and the generosity of benefactors.

"Hopefully within a short time, when more and more people come and see the Faith in those two communities, they

will stay and work with them for a bright future. Like the early followers of Jesus, they will surely and firmly continue to grow on the Rock that Jesus has chosen."

www.ololsawston.com
www.cambournerc.com

Miss a meal call to help hungry

■ CAFOD is calling on people to miss a meal on February 23 so that families in need in places like Zimbabwe can stop going hungry every day.

Jane Crone, CAFOD's Community Participation Coordinator for East Anglia, is calling on Catholics to Miss a Meal for CAFOD's Lent Family Fast Day to help people such as Marian (pictured right), who lives in rural Zimbabwe and used to miss countless meals. She recalls the impact hunger had on her son who was seven.

"I had no strength and no power in my body. I was shivering like someone with malaria. And I thought, if I'm feeling hungry, what about my children? It must be worse for them.

"There were times when I had to leave my son Tawanda in the morning to find work. I'd come back in the afternoon and I'd find him still sitting in the same place. He hadn't played, or even walked. It was very painful to see him like that."



CAFOD's partners – the local Catholic diocese where Marian lives – heard about the struggles the family were facing and they decided to help. After advice and support, Marian and 46 other families enjoy the blessings of a community vegetable garden.

Marian has another child, Svondo: "Svondo was just a baby when the vegetable garden started properly. We had a variety of vegetables, a variety of

fruit. He is healthier than Tawanda."

Jane Crone said: "CAFOD supporters have helped Marian's community change through their generous support. Miss a meal this Family Fast Day, pray for our partners and give generously? Could you arrange a simple lunch in your parish or school, bringing your community together in solidarity and support for CAFOD?"

"We have a briefing for volunteers and others who might be interested on February 3 in Cambridge. One of our partners from Columbia is attending the meeting and he would love to meet East Anglian volunteers," said Jane.

For more details, contact Jane at: jcrone@cafod.org.uk

This year any donations will be doubled by the UK Government enabling CAFOD to reach more families like Marian's and help many more children grow up healthy and strong.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-CAFOD/Lent>

Sisters to open new Dereham convent

The newest religious community in the UK has just received the keys to its very first convent – a converted barn complex near Dereham in Mid Norfolk. Sr Camilla Oberding, leader of the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham (COLW), reports.

■ On the Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception (December 8), as the youngest religious community in England (founded in 2004) we received the keys to our first convent.

Thanks to the generosity of many founding benefactors, as well as an incredible interest-free loan from the Discalced Carmelite Fathers, we managed to raise the monies necessary to purchase a converted barn on the outskirts of Dereham.

Dereham is centrally located in the Diocese of East Anglia and about 30 minutes' drive from Walsingham. The converted barn is amazing monastic in style with cloisters, a double staircase and an upstairs loft space that makes the most beautiful oratory. The house is eco-friendly, running on a biomass boiler, and has the running costs of a small terrace house!

It comes with four acres of grounds and a large outdoor barn, but is also surrounded by some moors so there is a peaceful solitude and silence that will really enable the community to live out its contemplative vocation. It is miraculously suited to our needs – so much better than all the other properties visited – that it seemed to be made for us!

Last July, on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, COLW received its new decree as a public association of the faithful destined to become an Ecclesial



Sr Camilla Oberding, left, with the sisters of the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, outside the new convent in a converted barn near Dereham.

Family of Consecrated Life. This means that, faithful to the original inspiration, we will have three branches: one of consecrated women, one of consecrated men (brothers and priests), and another of lay people.

We plan to call the new house in Dereham the House of the Divine Will and we aim not only to provide formation for novices there but also accompany young people discerning their vocation and support married couples and young families in the vocation they are already living, sharing with them the rich spirituality of Walsingham.

We are still fundraising to pay off the loan from the Carmelites and also to finish renovating the house (total cost £400,000), so that a suitable library and chapel can be built. Together with the loan, the community was also entrusted with a Carmelite library and this will be available for members of the public to access. We are also looking

for a volunteer COLW office administrator at the Dereham base so that we are freer to welcome visitors to the shrine and retreatants at Dowry House. We trust that the Lord will provide and we continue to rejoice in thanksgiving for all He has blessed us with so far!

Devoted to Our Lady of Walsingham and to the spreading of the spirituality of England's Nazareth, COLW helps others experience the joy with which Mary gave her Fiat to God, by offering spiritual direction, vocational accompaniment, retreats and hospitality. Please pray that this new base will further enhance the life and mission of COLW in the service of the Church and the world.

We will continue our work in Walsingham running the Dowry House Retreat Centre which opened last year and working at the shrine.

Visit www.walsinghamcommunity.org or ring 01328 801019 for more details.

news in brief

Cathedral to get new Bishop's Chair

■ The Bishop's Chair in St John's Cathedral in Norwich, which is the symbol of his teaching authority in the Church, is to be re-located in the Sanctuary from its present position to the east end of the Cathedral.

The new chair will be of stone with the Diocesan Arms and flanked by the two Deacons' chairs. In addition to the new chair spaces will be excavated in St Joseph's Chapel for tombs for deceased Bishops. The works began on January 15 and will hopefully be completed in eight weeks. The cost of the works has been donated by personal gifts from individuals, and the chair will be the gift of the Cathedral Friends. No costs will be met by the Diocese or the Cathedral Parish.



Epiphany celebration

■ A special Epiphany celebration was held by the Norwich Secular Franciscan 'Pax et Bonum' Fraternity at their monthly meeting which happened to fall on the feast day, Sunday January 7. Each member brought a small wrapped gift to represent the gifts brought by the Magi to the Crib at Bethlehem. After the usual business of prayer, formation and the singing of hymns, the gifts were shared out among the members.

The Fraternity meets regularly on the First Sunday of each month at St George's Meeting Room, Sprowston Road, Norwich, and welcomes enquirers.

Donation debate

■ Cambridge-trained Catholic doctor, Marianne Kennedy, joined a live debate on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire on December 12, the date that the government launched a public consultation on a proposed move to 'presumed consent' for organ donation.

Marianne, who is part of the Catholic Voices project, said: "The Catholic church sees organ donation as a good thing, as it is often life-giving. Pope John Paul described it as a 'genuine act of love'. The Church's position is that certain conditions should be met in order for organ donation to take place in an ethical manner."

Visit to museum

■ On January 13, a contingent of members and wives of Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association, led by its President John Kenny, visited Great Yarmouth's famous 'Time and Tide' museum which is set in one of the UK's best preserved herring curing works and tells the story of Great Yarmouth from its Ice Age origins up to the present day.

The fascinating tour of the museum was preceded by an excellent lunch at the nearby Silver Darlings Cafe.

**ST THOMAS MORE
CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL**
PARK LANE, PETERBOROUGH
PE1 5JW
HEADTEACHER
MRS McELHINNEY
TELEPHONE 01733 566005

Celebrating our Schools Adverts
Promote your school while supporting the paper



from only
£25
Contact Janet
by phone
01440 730399
or email
janett@cathcom.org

Acorn Stairlifts
Regain the freedom of your home

"I no longer dread having to climb the stairs."
Mr. Rowe, Nottingham

- Next day installation available
- Stay in the home you love
- For all types of staircase
- Free survey and quote
- 365-day local service

0800 016 9727
FREE BROCHURE & QUOTATION

Uncover the potential inside every child

Foster Care transforms lives

If you live in **East Anglia** and want to find out more about fostering call us on **01206 299775** or visit easternfosteringsservices.com/more

efs eastern fostering services

JOE WALSH TOURS
PILGRIMAGES

MEDJUGORJE
17 MAY | 7 NIGHTS

- » Direct, return flights from East Midlands Airport
- » Breakfast & evening meal served daily
- » Staying close to St. James's Church
- » Comprehensive Religious Programme

£619pps

WE OFFER »

- » Direct flights from various airports in the UK
- » Fully escorted with professional guides
- » Return airport transfers
- » Bonded & fully licensed for financial protection

LONDON: 0203 4680617 | CARDIFF: 0292 0003865
www.joewalshstours.co.uk | info@joewalshstours.co.uk
Bonded & Licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority in the UK | ATOL 5163 | ABTOT 5332

NEW EVANGELISATION



Call to all to become missionary disciples

A challenge to become missionary disciples and missionary parishes was issued at a New Evangelisation conference in Newmarket on Saturday January 13 when a team from the Diocese of Plymouth shared their experiences with over 50 East Anglian delegates.

Representatives from parishes across the diocese gathered to hear Fr Jon Bielawski and Michele Thompson from the Diocese of Plymouth, whose evangelisation strategy has had a wide-reaching impact.

Opening the conference, Bishop Alan said: "As we share our faith with others we become the gift of the good news of Jesus Christ to them."

"As individuals we all have to become missionary disciples. As the local Catholic church in a town or village we have to become a missionary community and as the Diocese of East Anglia we have to become a missionary Diocese."

"Too many of us are content to sit back and say we do not need to worry about the rest. But this is not the view of Jesus. The challenge is for each one of us to take what we hear today back to our parishes and help them to become missionary parishes."

Explaining their approach, Fr Jon said: "The key thing we look at in the workshop, and which we want to be carried through into the teams, is that discipleship comes first and evangelisation flows from this."

"You can read a lot about evangelisation, but we do not get much help in how to evangelise. We believe that you must start where you are and then push yourself out of your comfort zone bit by bit at your own pace."

"Listening to people is so important, as it gives you an opening to be able to make a relevant point about Jesus or your faith in the context of the person's life."

Michele said: "This is for everybody, we are all called to make disciples and I am convinced that everybody has the ability to share the faith that they have with somebody else. It is all about getting over your inhibitions and growing in confidence to be able to do that, opening ourselves up to the Holy Spirit and trusting that



Fr Jon Bielawski and Michele Thompson from Plymouth at the Newmarket conference

this is what the Lord wants us to do. We want people to feel able to do this immediately. It is about now and learning through a living apprenticeship."

Fr Jon said: "You learn to evangelise by simply evangelising and learning as you go along and sharing that learning with others. It is really uplifting for other people when they hear of people's encounters."

Michele said: "We form a team of people in each parish so that we can learn and grow together in how to go out and do this in our communities and in our everyday lives."

Fr Jon explained that there are three specific areas that they focus on: "Firstly, spreading this sense of evangelisation amongst our congregations, then reconnecting with non-church-going Catholics and then reaching those who have no connection with church whatsoever."

Conference organiser, Rebecca Bretherton, said: "The Diocese of Plymouth is very similar to that of East Anglia - it is very rural with a scattered Catholic population. When I heard what they have been doing there I thought it very applicable to us here. We have successfully piloted the parish evangelisation programme at St George's in Norwich and now plan to form mission-

ary teams in parishes across our diocese to mobilise people and reach our communities with the message of Jesus."

The Plymouth programme is based on the book Forming

Intentional Disciples by Sherry Weddell.

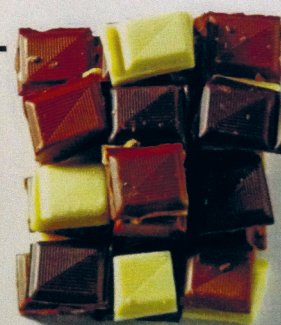
If you are interesting in finding out more or joining a parish team, contact Rebecca: rebecca.bretherton@icloud.com

Preparing for Lent: as seen on a parish notice board

"Lent is supposed to be a time when we review our spiritual life, think again about what it means to be a follower of Christ, reset the compass of our discipleship, and prepare ourselves to celebrate the Easter festival. But often we just give up biscuits"

Stephen Cottrell

LENT
is for
LIFE



not just
for
chocolate.



■ Our Lady of Walsingham was processed down London's Oxford Street amidst the Christmas shoppers on Friday December 8.

St Patrick's Soho Square Parish, along with the Community Emmanuel, organized an evangelistic Mission for London from December 7 to 10 and part of this involved a Procession of Our Lady of Walsingham, starting at Tyburn Convent at Marble Arch and finishing at St Patrick's Soho Square.

Walsingham Outreach Coordinator, Antonia Moffat, who took part,

said: "In Tyburn Convent young missionaries placed Our Blessed Lady on her processional Bier and we all went outside on a freezing, wintry night to brave Oxford Street with our Blessed Mother amidst the frenzied Christmas shoppers.

"Around 150 brave souls banded together for this great processional expedition.

"We had the crowds and the traffic to contend with, as we navigated across treacherous roads and a packed Oxford Street.

"We sang or prayed silently and the people around us looked at us in

total shock and awe as their brains adjusted to something completely unexpected amidst their shopping frenzy, which caused many to be thrown into momentary confusion. It was a sight to behold!

"The Young Mission team had various encounters with people along the way with an invitation to speak of the Lord and the significance of the Procession with Our Lady of Walsingham as we prepare for the Lord's coming. Miraculous medals were also offered," said Antonia.

Photo © Mazur/catholicchurch.org.uk.

East Anglia's role in new Mary film course

■ A new video course on Mary, called Let It Be, has been produced by Catholic Faith Exploration (CaFE), with several Diocese of East Anglia links behind it.

The TV-quality film provides an inspiring journey through Mary's life past and present, and it begins at the national Catholic Marian Shrine in Walsingham.

Shrine Rector, Monsignor John Armitage, and the Sisters at the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, powerfully set the scene before the film helps viewers experience the wonders of the Holy Land.

Holy Land expert Fr Paul Maddison, Parish Priest in March and Director of the Pilgrimage People charity, helped CaFE film at all the key Marian sites before giving a moving interview on a Jerusalem rooftop about Mary's courageous presence in Holy Week.

The film then visits the traditional place of Mary's older life in Ephesus before visiting Rome, Montserrat near Barcelona, Lourdes and Knock.

It includes a creative mix of



David Payne and Fr Paul Maddison at the Church of Annunciation, Nazareth, in a clip from the new video course.

well-known experts such as Cardinal Nichols and Papal Preacher Fr Cantalamessa (filmed during a recent visit to Walsingham). It also features powerful testimonies from Mary's Meals, ex-gangster John Pridmore and many others from around the UK.

David Payne, the film's director, said: "The time is ripe for a fresh and inspiring film about Mary's life, her

inspiring witness of faith and her powerful intercessory prayers."

Mgr Armitage said: "It's very important to have a resource like Let It Be to help us to do more than just 'go through the motions'. It will help us grow in our prayer and give us a deeper relationship with our Blessed Mother Mary."

Full details and a short

trailer of the course, which is suitable for parishes, groups and individuals, are available at www.faithcafe.org or by calling CaFE on 0845 050 9428.

news in brief

Station Masses to be held in Lent

■ Lenten Station Masses will be held in the seven deaneries across the Diocese of East Anglia, celebrated by Bishop Alan.

Each Mass will begin with an exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation at 6pm, followed by the Station Mass at 7pm celebrated by Bishop Alan and priests of the deanery, with soup, bread and cheese at 8pm.

Masses will take place at: St Luke in Peterborough on February 20, St Edmund in Bury St Edmunds on February 22, Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Cambridge on February 26, St George, Sprowston, Norwich on March 1, St Pancras, Ipswich on March 2, Holy Family, King's Lynn on March 6 and St Peter, Gorleston on March 8

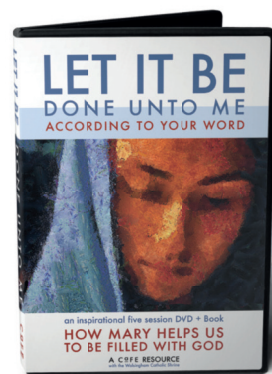
Bishop Alan said: "Let us take the opportunity this Lent to come home to the Father! Encourage those who no longer worship with us or have lost their way, to come home to the Father! And when you have done so, become a missionary of God's loving mercy in your family, in your place of work or learning, in your local community, in your local Christian community."

The "Station Mass" originated in Rome under the auspices of Pope Gregory the Great. They were conceived as a daily pilgrimage in the footsteps of the martyrs and saints. Pilgrims and penitents visited 40 churches in Rome on foot and performed penitential exercises and celebrated Mass in each "stopping place" or "station".

In doing so, they were also following the example of Jesus who went out into the desert and fasted for 40 days and forty nights in preparation for his mission.

NEW CaFE FILM ON MARY

5 sessions for individuals & parishes



FILMED ON LOCATION IN:

ROME
KNOCK
EPHESUS
LOURDES
HOLY LAND
MONTSERRAT
WALSINGHAM

plus well-known experts & engaging testimonies

DVD/DOWNLOAD

PLUS FREE

COURSE BOOK

EXTRA COPIES AVAILABLE

ONLY £15 (RRP £25)

ALSO SPECIAL PARISH COURSE OFFERS

FULL DETAILS & TRAILER

www.faithcafe.org

or tel 0845 050 9428

HOW MARY HELPS US
TO GROW IN FAITH

fostering

Children need loving families

■ Many thousands of children in the East of England are unable to live with their birth families and are in need of a secure and loving fostering family. However, they are suffering from a severe lack of such families.

There are now more children in care than at any point in history and yet fewer and fewer people are putting themselves forward for the task of caring for them.

When the pool of foster carers is reduced, the impact on children is enormous. It means that children and carers can be less well matched and as a result foster placements are less likely to succeed in offering the secure base children need.

Essex, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire are particularly hard hit by the problem as Eleanor Vanner, Director of Eastern Fostering Services said: "Being able to provide well thought-out, careful matches for the children and young people in our area is becoming increasingly difficult. We are consistently having to turn children away because we are not prepared to offer foster carers whom we do not believe will be able to provide the right match for that particular child. We believe these children deserve the very best we can achieve. The situation at the moment is heartbreaking."

Children are unable to live with their birth families for a variety of reasons including family relationship breakdowns, ill mental health, domestic violence and abuse, substance misuse, poverty, neglect or they may be separated from their families for other reasons beyond their control. Whatever the reasons for a child coming into care, there is always a need for a nurturing family who can support them into independence, reunification into their family or to follow the particular plan for that child.

"There are so many different types of fostering that people can put themselves forward for. It can be to provide short term or respite caring, caring for children with special needs, teenagers, sibling groups, unaccompanied refugee children and young parent and child placements. Fostering doesn't need to be a lifelong commitment but I firmly believe that if you make the difference in the life of just one child you've done a hugely worthwhile thing," says Lucy Stevens, Foster Carer.

Eastern Fostering Services (EFS) run regular coffee mornings and information events in Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire. Prospective carers can drop in and talk to the team, meet the carers and ask all their fostering questions.

"It's a great opportunity to get a true account of fostering and to voice all the concerns that a person might have about putting themselves forward," says Lucy. "It can feel like it's never the right time to start fostering, and it is a life-changing experience but I would not hesitate to encourage people who have ever entertained the idea to come and find out more."

For more information go to www.easternfostering.com or call 01206 299775.

Vocation, vocat

The Diocese of East Anglia has 12 men studying for the priesthood at seminaries across Europe, the highest number for 30 years and amongst the largest contingents from all the English and Welsh dioceses. Sarah Sykes talked to one of them, Simon Davies from St Neots, about his vocation journey.

■ Simon's vocation formed when he was in his late teens. I met him when he spent a few months in the parish of St Laurence, Cambridge, last year, as he transitioned from living life as a Religious to becoming a trainee priest for the Diocese of East Anglia.

He was born in Cyprus, where his father was stationed in the RAF. Following his father's retirement in the 1990s, the family moved to St Neots, where Simon completed his education.

He went to church regularly up until the age of 10/11, when attendance became more sporadic, except during Holy Week and Advent. When he was about 16 he decided he would like to restart attending Mass weekly and although it felt odd going on his own, it was nevertheless OK.

After a year of doing this, he plucked up the courage to speak to Fr Pat Cleary (parish priest at St Neots at the time) and asked about the possibility of confirmation. He started serving at both Sunday and weekday Mass, and he was confirmed at 18 and was also involved with visiting the sick.

Simon continued with these things at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, where he went to study History and Politics, at both the student chaplaincy and St John's Cathedral.

On completing university in 2009, he went to Oscott seminary for three years, where he studied for the priesthood and gained a Theology degree awarded by Birmingham University. Trying to discern how he should move forward, he took a break from study and went to do pastoral work in Haverhill, working at St Felix's Primary School as a teaching assistant and also in the Chaplaincy at Highpoint Prison. While working he contemplated how he would like to live out his vocation and explored several religious communities before settling on the Norbertine community in Chelmsford.

Norbertines lead what is known as a mixed life, that is part contemplative and part active. Founded in the early 12th century in France, a Norbertine monastery is specifically for priests. The active pastoral life in the community of the priest is strengthened and supported by the contemplative life lived in the monastery. Chelmsford is the only Norbertine house in England, and the rule is that you cannot move from one house to another. It supports a mixture of clerical and lay brothers.

Simon was accepted into this house and while living the Norbertine life also spent some time studying in Oxford for 18 months living within the Oratorian community in order to continue his priestly studies. He took his vows in 2014, but when he reached the end of his time it was decided he would not take his final vows within this community.

Dozen seminarians in training is high



In 2016, he felt his vocation was taking him elsewhere. He applied to Bishop Alan to return to the Diocese as a student and was accepted. He came to St Laurence for a few months to be formed pastorally as he transitioned from community life to recommencing his studies in September 2017 at Wonersh in Surrey.

His particular areas of interest include prison ministry and university chaplaincy, working with young people in a substantial way, working with travellers and parish life in general.

Simon is looking forward to joining the clerical life of this Diocese. He likes the character and the people of the Diocese. It is quite small in terms of numbers of priests and this lends itself to a greater sense of fraternity among the priests than perhaps is the case in larger dioceses. In part, he believes, this is because of the way the bishops have moulded what is still a young Diocese.

Simon feels strongly that it is important for priests to be friends with one another, and to have good relationships with one another, for support and for having someone to talk to about priestly matters, in order to bring balance and normalisation. Several priests have influenced and been an example to him over the years including Fr Pat Cleary, Bishop Michael, Bishop

Alan, Fr Laurie Locke, Fr Henry Whisenant, Fr Michael Collis, Fr Michael Teader, Fr Peter Leeming and Pope Benedict, whose words, sermons, letters and books are 'like honey to me'.

Having known that he would like to be a priest from his late teens onwards, one of his 'light bulb' moments was the election of Pope Benedict. As the Catholic Church was in transition from Pope John Paul II to Benedict XVI, Catholicism held the attention of the world. He saw that it was an international thing that stretched across time and place, and went beyond his walls, parish and private prayer. It was something alive, and real, and true and something he wanted to be a part of.

Of St Laurence's, he says: "It is a Parish that I think Our Lord is very happy with. There is a lot of love here and it is infectious. It is a vibrant Parish underneath which is a foundation of prayer. People know why they come here; you get a real sense of prayer. You can see on people's faces that they love Our Lord and they are here for that."

"From my perspective that is very encouraging for my own prayer life. I do pray for people and parishioners individually; and this is something I want to do. When you see love you want to return it. It is a bit like a miniature response to what

ion, vocation

est number in Diocese of East Anglia for 30 years



Pictured with Bishop Alan at the lunch for seminarians at the White House in Poringland on December 30 are, front row from the left, Deacon Andrew Eburne, Bishop Alan, Fr Jaylord Magpuyo, back row from the left, Alfonso Jude Belnas, Paul Spellman, James Fernandez, Michael Brookes, Alan Hodgson, Peter Wygnański, Simon Davies, Bienn Carlo Manuntag, Mark Ashwood and Michael Smith. Missing from the lunch was seminarian Anthony Asomugha.

If you are interested in exploring a possible vocation, please contact Fr Pat Cleary at: vocations@rcdea.org.uk

the Trinity is like. It is very good for me being here."

On Vocations to the Priesthood, he says: "Vocations are like house plants. House plants are not the same as hardy outdoor plants. If you water them too much they die, if you don't water them enough they die. They need sunlight. They need care and attention, but not too much. You've got to get it just right. It's the Goldilocks formula (ie which one is 'just right') which nobody really knows but which is ultimately the work of God, the work of the Holy Spirit acting through people.

"I have noticed that there are (vocational) sparks in people and those sparks need to be nourished. In a world of noise and confusion and pop psychology and those sorts of things, those sparks aren't getting noticed any more in a way in which they were in the past and I think that's a sad loss.

"We are lucky to have a good number of seminarians in the Diocese now, which is a remarkable turn-

The full list of seminarians are:

St Mary's Seminary, Oscott (Birmingham)

Year 1 Bienn Carlo Manuntag (St Philip Howard, Cambridge)

Year 5: Alfonso Jude Belnas (St Philip Howard, Cambridge)

Allen Hall (Westminster)

Year 1 Mark Ashwood (St John Cathedral, Norwich)

Year 4: Anthony Asomugha (St John Cathedral, Norwich)

Deacon Andrew Eburne (St John Cathedral, Norwich, UEA)

Venerable English College (Rome)

Year 4: Peter Wygnański (St Laurence, Cambridge)

Beda College (Rome)

Year 1 Michael Smith (St Laurence, Cambridge)

Year 3 Alan Hodgson (St Edmund's, Bury)

Michael Brookes (Sacred Heart, Dereham)

Paul Spellman (Our Lady and St Joseph, Sheringham)

Valladolid (Spain)

Year 1 James Fernandez (St John Cathedral, Norwich)

Wonersh (Surrey)

Simon Davies (St Neots)

around, thanks largely in part to Bishop Alan. He is very encouraging to people. More than just sending out leaflets and having events - important though these things are - he prays and gets other people to pray across the Diocese; and that is the most

important thing. He is insistent on praying for vocations, on Eucharistic adoration (where possible) and is very good at encouraging people who have a 'spark'; and encouraging them well. But what is most important is God working through prayer. "If people want to give their life to something then it has got to be really good and they've got to understand what it is they are giving their life to by the example of others, by teaching and by being realistic of what that life is about," said Simon.

"Building up a vocational base is done through prayer, encouragement and fraternity, and by being positive about the priesthood. People don't give their lives to things that are made out of jelly. People build their houses on stone. The Lord said that! Give people good foundations then the Lord will build a very big building."

Letter's family theme

Continued from page one

The values we learn in the home are the values we will take into the wider world. And yet today we see many trends by which the family, given us by God to be the foundational building block and stability of society, is being slowly but surely obscured and undermined.

Our Catholic Catechism tells us that a family is a man and woman united in marriage, together with their children. Each of these components is questioned today. The complimentary love of a man and a woman, as husband and wife, mother and father, is seen as an outdated constraint on society.

Marriage is often stated to be an irrelevant institution. Today many do not see the importance of making vows to each other before God when choosing to live together. Children are seen as an optional extra or something to have once all other personal ambitions have been achieved.

This erosion of the principals of the family can only bring about the destruction of society as we know it. The future of humanity passes by way of the family. Of course, there will be struggles and crosses and woundedness in every home.

There is only one family we call the Holy Family. We are called to imitate them as best we can. But, the structure of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the traditional structure of the family in society, is not some rarely attained optional ideal.

It is a way that is possible to live, with the grace that God gives in the sacrament of Marriage and in the other Sacraments of the Church's life.

I would like to ask every parish to find ways of supporting family life in 2018 - by bringing families together to meet each other socially, or providing them with a day of recollection, and giving them affirmation and encouragement as they seek to live as Christ calls each member of his Family to live.

To all the children here today, I would ask you that you never forget all that your parents do for you - their love and prayers for you, the encouragement they give you in their own example of living the Christian faith.

They might not have all the answers to your questions, but their faith shows how important it is to live close to Jesus Christ and to keep his commandment of love. Don't throw it all away until you have had a chance to grow old enough to see its fruits in your life.

To all parents here today, remember that you are the first teachers of your children in the ways of faith. You have a responsibility not just to look after their physical and intellectual welfare but also their spiritual development as children of God.

I would like to suggest two simple things by which you can entrust each other and your children into God's hands. First, say a grace before the meals that you eat together as a family. Second, have your house blessed during this year by your parish priest.

These are small things in themselves, but real signs of prayer and of placing your family and home and all that happens there, under God's blessing.

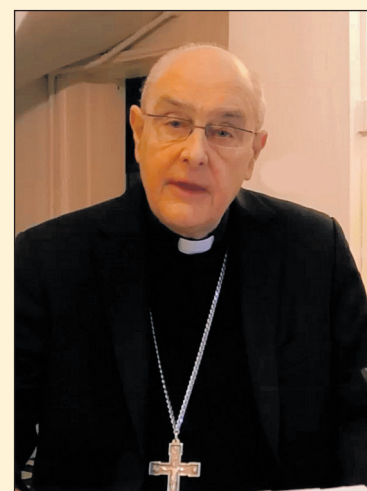
Finally, today's Gospel speaks of the two elderly and holy people- Simeon and Anna. Grandparents are a source of great blessing and bring a fountain of experience and wisdom to each home. May we and the whole of society learn to care for those parents who once cared for us and may we also grow in our respect for the elderly.

As we approach the new year of 2018, may the prayers of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph bring grace and peace and many blessings into your homes and the life of your family.

Please be assured that I pray for all of you and your families. May I ask you to pray for me and for our Diocesan family in East Anglia?

With all good wishes for the coming year, yours devotedly in Christ,

Bishop Alan



DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

Twins life saving gifts

Eleven-year-old twins from Peterborough asked friends and family for donations instead of birthday presents to ensure families living in poverty received life-changing gifts this Christmas.

■ Catholic sisters Grace and Elizabeth Burrows wanted to celebrate their 11th birthday in style so they held a cinema party and invited their whole class. But, instead of asking for gifts, the pair asked for donations to buy charity gifts, including 28 meals for people living in poverty – one for each member of their class.

Grace said: "At first, our friends were really surprised that we didn't want presents but then they thought we were doing the right thing. It has even inspired them to do the same and fundraise."

Elizabeth added: "It makes us happy to know we can improve someone's life. Learning about the gifts and other communities has inspired me to be a teacher when I am older so that I can help others and teach them about the things I have learned."

Research suggests that over Christmas, households spent on average £473.83 on presents, with top children's gifts retailing for around £90 each.

At their party, the girls managed to

raise the equivalent - £180 - which they used to buy virtual charity gifts including a community toilet and a family water pump, meaning that women and children will no longer have to walk for hours to fetch water.

Grace said: "My favourite gift was the mother and baby gift which helps pay for pre and postnatal care and vaccinations as my oldest brother and his wife are expecting a baby next year. I know that she is going to be safe and now another mother is going to be safe as well."

Elizabeth added: "I liked 'the net that protects' for mosquitos. I know a lot about mosquitos and how dangerous they can be. I recently went to an open day where we learned all about the diseases mosquitoes can carry and that's why I think it is so important."

The charity World Gifts that were purchased by the girls are supplied by the international development charity CAFOD. In the decade since the charity began selling the alternative range of Christmas gifts, they have helped to transform lives and communities by providing 104,000 school starter kits, 57,000 goats and 40,000 chickens. Gifts range from £5 for emergency water to £27 for the gift of play and £54 to build a greenhouse.

Last year alone, the 'teach someone to read' gift meant over 4,000 children were able to attend literacy classes, opening the door for education, work and a



Pictured top are sisters Grace and Elizabeth Burrows and, left, children in Kenya enjoying a nutritious meal as part of CAFOD's World Gift's scheme.

brighter future.

The twins' mother, Angela Burrows, said: "It was a simple idea really. People spend an awful lot of money on gifts for birthdays and this is a great opportunity to help others who are less fortunate.

"The girls had a lovely party, and were delighted with the response from their friends, meaning they could make a difference to so many people's lives."

Find out more about the scheme at: www.cafod.org.uk/worldgifts

Office Space Available

**Steeple Bumpstead
near Haverhill, Suffolk
1,270 sq feet - £1,100pcm**

1 large open plan office and 2 smaller offices, kitchen and toilet. Fully networked, light, open and very spacious set in a professional and friendly business centre.

Contact CathCom on 01440 730399
nick@cathcom.org



Minnie Vinnies in action

■ The Minnie Vinnie group from St Benet's Primary School recently visited the local care home in Beccles to sing carols, bring gifts and talk to the people living there.

They had previously raised money through a bring and buy toy sale at school and decided how they wanted to spend the money to cheer up residents. They chose glittery Christmas trees, baskets of flowers, special cordials and CDs of Christmas songs to give as gifts to the residents.

The carols were sung beautifully and were all well received by everyone and some residents even had an impromptu

sing-song in their rooms courtesy of the children.

It was such a success that they eagerly suggested to the staff at the home that they come back throughout the year to read to the residents, play games or just chat to them.

Mrs Sam Barlow (Head of School) and Mrs Mills (Class Teacher) said "We couldn't have been more proud of their dedication, empathy and willingness to give to others. They certainly represented the Minnie Vinnie's philosophy superbly and the ethos of our Catholic school."



YOUTH MATTERS



Epiphany is marked by youth celebration of light

The Ignite youth Epiphany celebrations at the Bishop's White House in Poringland near Norwich on January 6 included a candle-lit Mass, a bonfire, hot-dogs and fireworks. Full story on page one. A full gallery of pictures is available at: www.rcdea.org.uk



Young people give their views to Pope

Young people and youth leaders from across East Anglia have given their views to Pope Francis on young people and the Catholic Church.

■ Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment will be the focus of the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops after Pope Francis

dedicated the assembly to this theme.

It is due to be held in Rome in October and Pope Francis noted: "The theme, an expression of the pastoral care of the Church for the young, is consistent with the results of the recent Synod assemblies on the family and with the content of the post-Synodal apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*.

"Its aim is to accompany the young on their existential journey to maturity so that, through a process of discernment,

they discover their plan for life and realize it with joy, opening up to the encounter with God and with human beings, and actively participating in the edification of the Church and of society."

Many young people and youth leaders from East Anglia have already contributed their views through two online questionnaires organised by the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales.



World Youth Day deadline

■ The deadline for bookings for the East Anglia party visit to World Youth Day in Panama in 2019 is the end of February. For more information visit www.rcdea.org.uk/youth

Key 2018 dates

■ **March 29 - April 1:** 'Mysterium': Triduum Retreat for 18-35s, Walsingham

■ **May 5 - 6:** Ignite Diocesan Youth Festival, Swaffham

■ **May 7:** Pilgrimage Walk to Walsingham. All ages welcome

■ **June 2 - 3:** Celebrate East Anglia Family Conference, Bury St Edmunds. Details at: www.celebrateconference.org

■ **July / August:** Youth Pilgrimage (location and dates to be decided)

■ **July 30 - August 3:** New Dawn Family Conference, Walsingham

■ **August 24 - 31:** Pilgrimage to Lourdes

■ **August 23 - 27:** Youth 2000 Prayer Festival, Walsingham, for those aged 16+

■ **August:** Summer Camp (location and dates to be decided), for those aged 8-14

For more details of each event, please see www.rcdea.org.uk/youth

Youth contacts

Tel: 01508 486236

Email: Ignite Team enquiries
igniteyea@rcdea.org.uk

All other enquiries: dys@rcdea.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/igniteyea

Twitter: @igniteyea

Web: www.rcdea.org.uk/youth/



Non-violence message

The Justice and Peace Commission in the Diocese of East Anglia held a Day of Reflection on a non-violence response to injustice on November 25 in Newmarket. Bernard Shaw reports.

■ “Resisting and challenging injustice – why choose the way of non-violence” was the theme of the day, inspired by the 2017 World Day of Peace message in which Pope Francis advocated non-violence as a way to peace between individuals, within society and in international life, even where conflict looks inevitable.

The day was led by Passionist priest Fr Martin Newell. He began by explaining how active non-violence, praised by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5 & Luke 6: turning the other cheek, walking the extra mile etc) can be used to transform an unjust situation.

The insights into the cultural context given by Walter Wink lead to a radical rethink of these texts, far from meek passivity. Pope Benedict XVI described the Sermon on the Mount as the magna carta of Christian non-violence. Active non-violence tries to show up the injustice of a situation so as to change it; to challenge something everyone takes for granted; to assert the humanity and dignity of the victims of injustice; to break cycles of humiliation; or to be willing to suffer rather than retaliate with violence.

One example cited by Fr Martin was that of women in a South African shanty town under threat of demolition, removing their clothing so causing embarrassed bailiffs to abandon their operation.



Delegates in discussion at Newmarket.

Fr Martin illustrated his talk with examples of papal statements on non-violence. For example in 2007, Pope Benedict XVI said “for Christians, non-violence is not merely tactical behaviour but a person's way of being.” Of course, there is a tension between the principles of non-violence and the Church's acceptance that, as a last resort, use of force is legitimate as a means of national self-defence. But the Church also recognises the right to conscientious objection, the patron saint of which is St Martin of Tours, a reluctant Roman who said that as a soldier of Christ it was not lawful for him to fight.

He also highlighted Pax Christi's seminars on Non-violence works!, part of the global Catholic Non-violence initiative. There, Maria J Stephan talked about her own research with Erica Chenoweth showing that, in the twentieth century, non-violent civil resistance had been about twice as

effective as violent campaigns.

Lively debate on Fr Martin's presentation was followed by smaller and more informal discussion during lunch. Then, we heard from J&P members with experience of violence, not necessarily physical, in particular circumstances.

Colin Allen is a trustee of the Prison Reform Trust and has a wealth of experience of governing and inspecting prisons. He explained that the level of violence in prisons is demonstrated by the large number of incidents of self-harm (41,103 in the year to September 2017, including 77 suicides) and the number of assaults (27,115, most of which were on fellow prisoners). He suggested that there are many factors contributing to violence in prisons especially the high prison population (86,000 in September 2017), but also reduced numbers of experienced officers, frequent movement of prisoners, insufficient time for constructive activities, large proportion of prisoners with serious mental disorders, growth of gang culture, availability of drugs and legal highs.

The Ministry of Justice has policies to reduce the risk of prison violence, including ensuring that prisoners can lead good and useful life after prison and management of very difficult prisoners through small units within larger prisons. But these are hard to achieve. Many prisoners are having to cope with deep problems. Compared with the general population, they are more likely to have regularly truanted or been permanently excluded from school, used class A drugs, been unemployed before custody, observed violence in the home as a child or been taken into care as a child.

Ronald Haynes, a long-standing trades union officer, spoke of peaceful resolution of conflicts and bullying in the workplace, making particular reference to government guidance and the policy of some employers. In Matthew's Gospel (Mt 5:21-26 & 18:15-17), Jesus stresses the importance of resolving difference by dialogue without delay, involving third parties as appropriate. The same principles apply to present day guidance.

We hope the Day will encourage prayer and more support for chaplaincies in prisons and workplaces, as well as for those involved in the rehabilitation of prisoners.

Unexpected priest request in mid-flight

Fr Henry Whisenant reflects on an unexpected request on a plane journey.



■ Unexpected things happen to priests on planes. A few months ago I was on an overseas flight, and was taking a break from reading books and watching in-flight movies, when a hand tapped me on the shoulder and a voice spoke in my ear: “Excuse me, are you a priest?”

“Yes,” I said.

We were both sitting next to the aisle. The man behind me continued, “Father, can I ask you a favour?” “Of course,” I replied, though I was a little self-conscious, as the man's whispers could be heard by anyone who cared to listen in the seats around us.

“What I'm going to ask might seem a bit strange...”

Okay, I thought, perhaps he wants to make his Confession...

“My own father...” he began.

I instinctively went through some possibilities in my mind: His father is sick, and he wants me to pray for him...

“My father is in the overhead compartment...”

A pause. I tried to understand what that meant. What's his father doing with the luggage? And then the penny dropped, as the son continued: he was in fact coming back from his father's cremation, and was taking his ashes to their final resting place. They were a family of secular Jews, and had not had a religious service, but now that the son saw me on the plane, it came into his mind to ask me to say some prayers for his departed father.

And that's how I ended up at the arrival gate of the airport, reciting the De Profundis, the psalm for the dead, for this particular member of Israel, and praying for his soul. From there the son and I had a memorable conversation about how we can know God exists, and how we can know by faith that there's life after death. I encouraged him to look up the story of St Edith Stein, a Jewish atheist whose love of philosophy led her to God and the Church.

Of course this incredible encounter would never have happened had I not been wearing clericals, and had I not taken that break from what I was doing so that the man could pluck up the courage to seize his chance and ask his favour. It was a moment of God's providence. And yet I am conscious that there must be many more of these moments that pass me by each day. Moments when I am not sufficiently open and attentive enough to the situation to share Christ with those who need him.

It's a question we can all ask ourselves: How is it obvious to those around me, those I work with, those I am friends with, that I am a person of faith, and that I am someone they can come to when they are looking for consolation and even answers? An icon on my desk, a rosary in my car, an admission in conversation that I go to Sunday Mass... these can be the little green lights people need to summon the courage and find out more. These are the places where Jesus' infinite love can get in edgeways, through the cracks of people's curiosity.

Church Supplies

Also serving schools, businesses and homes...

Your Church Goods Supplier
distribution / wholesale / retail / e-commerce

 **Church Atelier**

Top quality products and service in fair prices.
Visit our online shop!

www.churchatelier.com

Vestments / Textiles / Clergy Shirts / Candles / Altar Bread

Interested in wholesale pricing? Contact us!
www.ajornaments.com

KINGDOM COFFEE

Best prices on branded Fairtrade tea and coffee, sustainable cups and everything else you need for your church, delivered next working day.

 SIMPLY CALL US!
01189 86 87 86

 OR ORDER ONLINE @
KINGDOMCOFFEE.CO.UK



Stained Glass & Leaded Light windows

 Restoration, Conservation & New Designs



Ashdon, nr Saffron Walden
CB10 2LZ
(01799) 584108

www.auravisions.co.uk
auravisions@gmail.com

Icon/PACR Accredited Studio

Church Pews Uncomfortable?
Why not try

 **safeoam**

top quality upholstered foam pew cushions?
Safeoam, Green Lane, Riley Green,
Houghton, Preston PR5 0SN
www.safeoam.co.uk
Freephone 0800 015 44 33

Free Sample Pack of foam & fabrics sent by first class mail
When phoning please quote CEA101

To advertise Phone Janet on

01440 730399 or 07931 836907

BUILDING BRIDGES

Communion after sailor lost at sea

■ Fr John Barnes, parish priest of St Felix Church, Felixstowe provided Holy Communion to a group of seafarers on board their ship after their crew mate was lost at sea recently.

The seafarers had requested for a priest to visit their vessel, Industrial Destiny, when it arrived at Felixstowe port.

Patricia Ezra, Felixstowe port chaplain from Catholic seafarers' charity Apostleship of the Sea (AoS), arranged for Fr John to board the ship with her.

Patricia received an email from the ship crewing agent to say the ship had lost a crew member whilst at sea and was requesting a visit by a priest on its arrival at Felixstowe.

"Fr John Barnes was pleased to help and on Monday December 6 we boarded the vessel at the Captain's invitation. They were on a very short turnaround time and would only be in port for a maximum of six hours," Patricia said.

She added: "As it was an unusual cargo the crew also had to unload it. This meant that stopping for a full Mass was not possible. However, Fr John was able to provide Communion for the seafarers on an individ-



ual basis as they became available."

After all who wanted had received Communion, the Captain asked if the bridge and engine room could be blessed. Fr John was very happy to help.

Patricia said: "The ship's crew was consoled by the visit of the priest and the blessing. After six hours in port they then departed for a three-hour stop in Newcastle before heading to Denmark.

"Despite their brief stopover we were glad to be able to respond to their immediate pastoral needs and provide some comfort during what must be a distressing time for them," she said.

Pictured above is Fr John Barnes providing communion to a seafarer on board Industrial Destiny.

Support for teacher is key for future role

Training a young female teacher to take a leading role in a Catholic school is the latest initiative being supported in the Holy Land under the Diocese of East Anglia's Building Bridges programme. Fr Paul Maddison reports.

■ Catholic schools in the Holy Land have a unique role to play in bringing children from different backgrounds together in an educational environment of trust and respect. As such they are making a significant contribution to the possibility of peace in a region often associated with pain and sadness.

We can often take for granted the fact that faith-based education is free in our society. Not so for children in many other parts of the world. Annual school fees are set at a "realistic" level based on the cost of providing schooling and the ability of parents to pay in a society where income is significantly lower than our own experience.

Operating under the simple Christian ethos of education for all, no child is turned away from the Catholic school system – even if they find it difficult to afford the fees. As a consequence the Catholic school system in Israel, Palestine and Jordan needs to find several million dollars each



Fr Paul Maddison with pupils at the Ain Arik school in Palestine.

year from outside sources to continue this valuable work.

Those of other faiths are very keen to send their own children to the local Catholic school as it is often only in such schools that they will be surrounded by an environment of trust, respect and tolerance.

Teachers in the Catholic schools have a unique responsibility in bringing up the next generation with an open attitude to others, literally giving peace a chance. Due to the limited finances in the school system they often work for a much lower salary than those paid in the state sector; and they deserve both our respect and support.

As part of our diocesan twinning link with the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, we would like to support a young female teacher to progress in her career to move to a leadership role in her local school.

A one-year university course is necessary at a cost of £3,000; once completed she will be in a position to not only make a greater contribution to Catholic education, but will become the main income earner for her young family.

East Anglia Diocese is well known in the Holy Land for making regular and continuing support for the Christian community living there; this is another such project which continues that venerable tradition.

Can you help build bridges?

The two current Diocese of East Anglia Building Bridges projects are support for the salary of a kindergarten teacher in the Holy Land and a new formation centre for children, youth groups and adults at Battambang in Cambodia.

If you would you like to support these projects, cheques should be made payable to the "RC Diocese of East Anglia".

First
Name.....
Surname.....
Address.....
.....
.....
Postcode.....
Amount enclosed
.....

Anything you give will be divided equally between Cambodia and the Holy Land unless you indicate by ticking the box below that all your money should go to that project.

☐ Cambodia ☐ Holy Land

GIFT AID

You can boost your donation by 25p in Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay in the current tax year. Your address is needed, above, to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

DECLARATION

I am a UK taxpayer and wish the RC Diocese of East Anglia to treat this donation as a gift aid donation. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature:.....
Date:.....
Please send to: Building Bridges, 21 Upgate, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7SH
Registered charity no 278742

News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese



■ Altar server Steve Aldus has received a gold medal to recognise 63 years of service at St John's Catholic Cathedral in Norwich.

Very appropriately, Steve received the medal on St Stephen's Day (Boxing Day) from Bishop Alan and Canon David Paul.

The gold medal of the Archconfraternity of St Stephen, which is the Church Guild of Altar servers, is awarded for 50 years of service.

Steve has had a very long association with St John the Baptist Cathedral and was baptised and brought up in what was then a parish church.

Although he received the gold medal this year he has, in fact, served for 63 years.

Cathedral Dean, Canon David Paul, said: "This is a tremendous achievement and Bishop Alan was delighted to join me in congratulating Steve at

the end of the Mass before enjoying a parish lunch in the Narthex.

"Steve's faithful service as Head Server at the Cathedral provides a great example to all who assist the priest at Mass by serving at the altar, and I would like to express my thanks for his devoted ministry here at St John's. The Mass is our greatest offering to the Lord and all of us, priests, servers and people are privileged to take our parts in this wonderful act of worship.

"As we congratulate Steve on this occasion we thank him for all these years of faithful service and wish him many more to come."

The large congregation at Mass included members of Steve's family and a large contingent of the Cathedral altar servers.

Pictured above is Steve Aldus with, from the left, Deacon Andrew Eburne, Bishop Alan and Canon David Paul.

■ The after-dinner entertainment at the December meeting of Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association held in the Refectory of the Great Hospital was provided by long-time member, David McWeeny (right) who, suitably attired, rendered a flawless recital in Stanley Holloway style of the monologue *Alberts Carols*.

David, who holds the OBE in connection with his work as director of the Food Sciences Laboratory in Colney Lane, was warmly thanked for his performance by Circle President John Kenny.



■ Three seminarians who have been admitted to candidacy for the sacred Orders from the Diocese of East Anglia took part in a Mass for those accepting candidacy for holy orders, at the Beda College in Rome on Wednesday December 6.

They are pictured above after the Mass (from the right) Alan Hodgson, Paul Spellman and Michael Brookes. With them are (continuing right to left): Peter Wygnanski (4th year Diocesan seminarian at the English College, Rome) Rev Philip Gillespie (Rector of the Beda), Vocations Director Fr Pat Cleary and Fr Alvan Ibeh SMMM, assistant priest at St Edmunds, Bury St Edmunds.

■ Harleston parishioners are celebrating raising over £750 for charity by holding several stalls at Fressingfield Produce Market during 2017.

Mary Kirk began selling produce to raise money for international aid agency CAFOD at the start of 2014 in her parish of Harleston. When a couple of ardent CAFOD supporters, Mark and Shirley Kalinauckas, moved to the area, the three decided to increase their reach and move the stall to the Fressingfield Produce Market. The stall is held six times a year and offers an opportunity for local people to sell produce to the community.

Each month the CAFOD stall groans under mounds of freshly-baked cakes, sausage rolls, eggs, honey, as well as plants and vegetables. All are supplied by Shirley, Mary and a core group of loyal supporters who never fail to provide every time the stall is held.

The reason that Mary and



Shirley raise money for CAFOD is simple. Mary said: "We are committed to ending poverty in the developing world, and also to combating the effects of climate change, supporting refugees and migrants, and

living more simply. We want to stand in solidarity with those who have less.

"There's a good footfall in Fressingfield and we are pleased to be a Catholic and CAFOD presence there. It's really great to be in a team

and we are blessed in having people who regularly bake and give produce."

The money raised by the stall goes to CAFOD's Connect2 Peru scheme. The parish of Bungay St Edmunds and Harleston, is a

Connect2 Peru parish, meaning they hear about and support the work that CAFOD's partner organisations in Peru do, supporting small-scale farming communities as well as human rights work. CAFOD has been working in Peru for 50 years, meaning that the money raised will be building on half a decade of unwavering support.

East Anglia CAFOD rep, Jane Crone, said: "A big thank you to Mary, Shirley and all the others who are involved with the CAFOD stall in Fressingfield. It's fantastic that they are so committed to raising money for those in need overseas and that they're doing so in a way that brings the community together. The money raised in 2017 will make a huge difference to rural communities in Peru and we look forward to seeing what 2018 has to bring."

Find out more about CAFOD's Connect2 scheme at cafod.org.uk/connect2