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on children's  
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Picture by Keith Morris.



## Ordination is a first for 25 years

**Academic and former  
prison chaplain, Andrew  
Eburne became the first  
parishioner from St John  
the Baptist Cathedral in  
Norwich to be ordained to  
the Catholic priesthood in  
25 years on Friday July 20.  
Keith Morris reports.**

■ Andrew's ordination was celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes.

In his homily, Bishop Alan said: "The Second Vatican Council speaks of the universal priesthood of all Christians. It is out of this priestly people of God that Jesus Christ chooses men and sets them apart to share in his High Priesthood in order that they might serve God's people."

"The call to be a priest comes from God alone. Andrew – God has called you, chosen you, for his own purposes – to be a priest in the Catholic Church and to continue the work of his Son as Teacher, Priest and Shepherd."

"The sacred actions of the



Ordination Liturgy seek to convey to us what are the great truths concerning the sacred Order of Priesthood. Mere words are unable to do this."

The Rite of Ordination followed which began with Andrew prostrating himself on the ground before the altar – symbolically abandoning himself to God's power and will. There followed the Laying on of Hands by Bishop Alan and all the priests present and the prayer of Consecration.

He was then clothed in the sacred vestments of priesthood and his hands were anointed with the sacred Oil of Chrism.

Finally, a paten with the Host and a chalice containing wine mixed with a drop of water were presented to Fr Andrew which were then used for the Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass which followed.

Fr Andrew then con-celebrated Mass for the first time with Bishop Alan.

Afterwards friends, family, university students and priests enjoyed refreshments in the Cathedral Narthex.

■ See a full picture gallery of Andrew's ordination at [www.rcdea.org.uk](http://www.rcdea.org.uk)

**Pictured, Bishop  
Alan ordains Deacon  
Andrew Eburne.**

## Andrew's story of vocation

■ Andrew's first career was in academia, teaching at Oxford University, but after a chance encounter in the Cathedral he became a prison chaplain in 2009.

"It was moving from one walled and gated community to another," he remembers. "But I learned a lot from the prisoners. They showed me that prison can be a place of grace, and a place of resurrection."

In 2013, Deacon Andrew returned to the academic world, becoming chaplain at the University of East Anglia.

Then Bishop Alan asked for permission from Rome to ordain him as a priest and he was sent to study at Allen Hall seminary in London.

Andrew said: "A lot of people had suggested to me that I might be called to the priesthood: close friends, and priests among them."

"But it hasn't been an easy journey. For a long time I prayed to God – 'if there is anything else you want me to do, just show me!'"

"After I had been some time at the seminary, the spiritual director said to me – 'Stop trying to make it easy for God to reject you!'"

"I had to learn to give up my own plans, and put myself in God's hands. When I did that, and left everything to Him, then I found peace."

"I'm really pleased for St John's – it's the first time a priest has been ordained from the parish in a quarter of a century."

"I'm hoping it won't be as long before the next one!"

Following his ordination Fr Andrew will continue to serve at the Cathedral parish, and as the Chaplain to UEA.



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## news in brief

### 900th Ipswich meeting marked

■ The Ipswich Circle of the Catenian Association celebrated its 900th meeting on the evening of June 7 at the town's Holiday Inn.

Present were the GB National Vice President Phil Brown, the GB National Secretary Bernard Noakes, Provincial Director Dennis Barter from King's Lynn, Provincial President Mike Evans from Billericay and Ipswich Circle President Gerry Elliott.

The occasion provided an ideal opportunity for Denis Barter to present a medal and scroll to retired master mariner Peter Leason from Ipswich to commemorate his 40 years' of membership of the Association.

■ A Strawberry Tea was held in the presbytery garden at St Felix in Felixstowe on Saturday July 7, in aid of Aid to the Church in Need. It was attended by over 40 people, who were served a splendid afternoon tea, of sandwiches, cream scones, cakes, and strawberry meringues, by the Parish catering team – Team Felix. The sun shone brightly, but Felixstowe has been blessed in the recent hot weather by a cool breeze blowing in from the sea and £170 was raised for ACN.

■ Members of the Society of St Vincent de Paul were joined by 28 parishioners from St Mary's Conference King's Lynn for the annual SVP National Pilgrimage to Walsingham on July 1, reports Pauline McSherry.

They joined with brothers and sisters from across the Diocese of East Anglia and beyond, for a day that means so much, most especially to the elderly and housebound, the sick and the handicapped and indeed to all the young and not so young. It is good to be united in prayer and friendship on this our annual Pilgrimage.

■ Days for Girls East Angles is holding an event for intermediate or advanced sewers to make sustainable feminine hygiene products to take to SE Asia on Saturday, September 22 in St Edmund's, Bury St Edmunds from 10am to 4pm. More details from Mary Durkacz at [ahtutucharity@gmail.com](mailto:ahtutucharity@gmail.com)

**Catholic East Anglia**

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

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Articles and photographs for the next edition are very welcome and should be sent to the editor, ideally via email, by the deadline, Monday October 8.

Diocese website: [www.rcdea.org.uk](http://www.rcdea.org.uk)

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## A celebration of priesthood and service



■ Three priests with a total of 150 years of service joined around 40 others from across the Diocese of East Anglia at a Celebration of Priesthood at the Bishop's White House at Poringland on June 20.

The priests came together to reflect on their ministry and to celebrate the years of faithful service given by those celebrating jubilees in 2018.

Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes at the church of Our Lady of the Annunciation in Poringland.

This was followed by drinks in the garden of the White House, courtesy of Bishop Alan, and then a buffet lunch.

The priests celebrating special jubilees were, from the left, Fr Pat Cleary (40 years), Fr Michael Hazel (60 years) and Fr Charles Fitzgerald-Lombard (50 years).

Also celebrating jubilees, but unable to be present, were Fr Neville McClement (60 years), Fr John Warrington (25 years) and Fr Bob Eccles (50 years).

In his homily, Bishop Alan said: "An essential part of the grace which we priests receive at the moment of our ordination is the gift and the task of creating contact with God without which man cannot live. It is achieved in

the proclamation of God's word. It is achieved through pastoral care. It is achieved in the celebration of the Sacraments and the worship of the Church."

He thanked the priests for: "Transforming the joys and hopes, the visions and dreams, the sufferings and sadnesses of the countless numbers of people you have served in your work of sanctifying."

Bishop Alan also paid tribute to Fr Henry Whisenant and Fr Paul Maddison who are both leaving the diocese shortly to discern vocations with monastic communities.

## Sharing refugee journey

**Parishes and schools across East Anglia have been joining CAFOD's Share the Journey campaign this summer, inspired by Pope Francis' call to show compassion and solidarity with people forced to leave their homes.**

■ Volunteers have organised walks in parishes and schools and adding the miles they've walked to an online totaliser. CAFOD's original target was to walk the distance around the world, 24,900 miles. The campaign and walks have been so popular that by July 2018 supporters were on their fourth leg around the world!

World leaders will meet on September 19 at the United Nations General Assembly in New York to decide on agreements to protect refugees and migrants. CAFOD is asking them to protect human dignity and has launched an online petition to the Prime Minister asking that the UK takes a prominent lead in the assembly.

The Diss Parish walk took place on Sunday July 29. The group walked a ten-mile route that is being developed as part of a new pilgrim path, the St Henry Morse Way. A shorter walk was held in June.

A 55-strong group from St Laurence's, Cambridge, took part in the walk on Sunday July 22.

Mary Watkins said: "We met in the lovely community orchard and picnicked under the trees and then gathered to walk around the shady paths of Milton. A small Lampedusa cross and a banner was carried and provoked quite a bit of interest from the general public enjoying their day out.

"We paused frequently to hear stories of those on the move and to reflect on their suffering and the part we could play in helping alleviate it."

Pupils from Moreton Hall Prep near



Above, walkers in Diss and, left, at St Edmunds' Primary School in Bury St Edmunds.

Bury St Edmunds joined in the CAFOD initiative. Following an assembly on the campaign, pupils walked one mile around the school field on June 13. They gathered in the chapel and prayed together using the Share the Journey prayers and then set off together. The Year 8s helped the Reception children and everyone, including staff, walked the mile giving a total of 100 miles.

A group of parishioners from Sacred Heart, North Walsham completed a Share the Journey Parish Walk on Sunday June 24.

Clare Hardie said: "Fr James Walsh, 18 other adults, four children and four dogs had a wonderful walk in the sunshine along the Weavers Way and added 156 miles to CAFOD's Walk Around the World in support of refugees. Along the way we paused to pray for the refugees around the world and to read out some of

their harrowing stories.

"Those who were unable to do the walk supported the stalls in the Parish Hall and all signed cards to be sent to the Prime Minister requesting that she works with other world leaders to ensure that global compacts are met on human dignity, protection of the vulnerable, tackling the reasons for migration and keeping families together. We collected £200 and this has been sent to the Refugee Community Kitchen in Calais."

CAFOD local representative in East Anglia, Jane Crone said: "We want to say a massive thank-you to everyone who has supported Share the Journey. Their actions deliver a powerful message to world leaders that we want the new global agreements to ensure refugees and migrants can be treated fairly and with dignity."

[www.cafod.org.uk/sharethejourney](http://www.cafod.org.uk/sharethejourney)



### Alfonso-Jude Belnas tells his own vocation story.

■ My vocation has always been an experience of trusting and accepting the will of God and viewing him as a Good Shepherd. I came from a humble family with no mother figure. All I had was an extended family that gave me security, good moral guidance and the faith that I have now.

My earliest recollection of the desire for priesthood was when my mother was back in the Philippines during Easter and Christmas from Hong Kong. She left the family and me when I was only six years old in order to give us a better education and life. She did not come home every year but when she was home, it was my duty as a son to be there at home and spend time with her. Due to my immaturity I did not usually stay much at home when she was on holiday. This is because I had duties and obligations in the local village chapel and the parish church of our city. Christmas, Holy Week and Easter are the busiest seasons and as the head of the parish youth ministry, I was very active and hands-on leading the youth in these festivities.

My mother once suggested that I become a priest if I wanted to spend more time in the church rather than at home. She was not angry but maybe she said that out of frustration because she wanted to spend time with me and ironically she was implying that I have a vocation to the priesthood.

I believe my late father was also aware of my desire to serve the church at a very young age. He used to tell my schoolmates that I was not home and that they should look for me in the chapel or church. He used to bring me meals, which he had cooked, for me to share with others. I believe that my vocation is sustained and supported by my parents and my extended family who brought me to the faith.

I also have support from another family: the Diocese of East Anglia and my



Jude Belnas receives the Book of the Gospels from Archbishop Bernard Longley.

Oscott College family. After going through different interviews and processes, the diocese accepted my application to enter formation in 2012 and has since given me all the resources needed, both spiritually and financially so that I would be able to undergo my seminary formation.

Things were running smoothly until I went back to the Philippines to tell my dad personally that I would enter seminary soon. A few days before my return flight to the UK, I lost my passport. I

prayed to Saint Anthony that my passport would be found and two days before my return flight, my uncle Antonio returned it to me after it was found in the city and given to him as he shares my surname. That was my starting point. I knew then that God would give me the direction I needed as long as I kept on walking – all I need to do is to trust in Him.

A visa issue meant I had to leave Oscott for the Philippines with a broken heart. The event was a turning point in

my vocation. God heard my prayers and I came back to Oscott with the visa resolved, having missed lectures for more than six weeks and with exams on the horizon. I abandoned everything to the Lord and prayed that His will be done and I sat and passed all the exams.

My father's death in June 2016 was also an event that tested my trust and my discernment to the priesthood.

When my father, Restituto, was diagnosed with severe liver cirrhosis, I already knew that he wouldn't last long and that I had to prepare myself. Upon hearing the very sad news from my brother in the Philippines, I cried a lot and was so upset. I returned to the Philippines for a few days to prepare the interment and the Requiem Mass.

The cry-baby of the family suddenly became the strongest but deep inside my heart I was crying non-stop. I was able to be strong for my brothers.

Coming back to Oscott for the diaconate ordinations in that month was also important as I supported my fellow seminarians. I secretly offered all the flower displays I made for the eternal repose of my father's soul. Every flower I inserted was a prayer for my dad and a thanksgiving for all the graces that God had bestowed on my discernment. I have then accepted that the will of God will be my utmost priority, for He provides me with the right tools to continue on my chosen path.

Although my vocation has been impeded by these unpleasant events, they became the foundation of my discernment. I was able to identify my failings and I was able to measure how trusting I was in God.

I am taking a step forward in my formation now that I am ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons, with trust and confidence that the Lord will provide what the sheep need. With all the trials I have faced and will face in the future, I will keep on trusting and give praise and thanksgiving to Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

# Jude ordained to diaconate

**Jude Belnas was ordained to the diaconate at St Mary's College, Oscott on Saturday June 23, the fourth Diocese of East Anglia seminarian to become a deacon within a fortnight, following the recent triple ordination in Rome.**

■ Jude was one of eight men from St Mary's to be ordained by Archbishop Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham.

Bishop Alan Hopes concelebrated the Mass along with other bishops who had men being ordained for their own dioceses. In a nice touch, instead of promising obedience and respect to the principle celebrant, Jude was directed to Bishop Alan for this important moment in the ceremony.

The college chapel was full for the occasion, several priests from the various dioceses concerned with the ordination concelebrated.

Present from East Anglia were Fr Henry Whisenant, Fr Francis Selman (member of the diocese and a lecturer at St Mary's), Canon Eugene Harkness, Fr Padraig Hawkins, Canon David Paul and Fr Pat Cleary with Fr Bruce Burbidge the organist for the day using his gift for



music to inspire those present.

Pictured top is the moment Jude Belnas receives the Book of the Gospels from Archbishop Bernard Longley during his ordination at Oscott and, above, Jude with Bishop Alan after his ordination.

A full picture gallery of Jude's ordination can be found at:

<https://flic.kr/s/aHsmkASjiD>

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## NEW EVANGELISATION



# Door-to-door Gospel

The Proclaim group from the St Ives parish have been following in a 120-year-old tradition of evangelisation, led by Fr Karol Porczak, in visiting homes in the parish with the Gospel message. Elizabeth Barker reports.

■ It was back in 1902 when the first parish priest, Canon Dr John Arendzen from Cambridge, travelled to St Ives by pony and trap each weekend to celebrate Mass in a church rededicated to the Sacred Heart.

In St Ives, the Catholic population was growing due to the number of drovers from Lancashire and Ireland who frequented the cattle markets and, being Catholic, wanted Mass. The congregation soon outgrew its first small wooden building and a large plot of land was purchased through the generosity of George Pauling.

Being a civil engineer, George was aware that the disused church of St Andrew in Union Road Cambridge would be a more economical option



The Proclaim group in Knapwell, from the left: Jeffrey, Jackie, Agata, Elizabeth, Wilhelmina and Fr Karol.

for a permanent church building. His donation of £1000 paid for the dismantling, and transportation by barge and rebuilding on the present site in Needingworth Rd.

Canon John was a scholar and writer and also a most enthusiastic missionary, preaching in the highways and byways. He was invited to become one of the founder members of the Catholic Missionary Society by Cardinal Vaughn in 1910.

Three years ago, Canon Arendzen's vision was renewed by Fr Karol Porczak, a mis-

sionary priest from the Congregation of the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette (MS) from Poland.

He is the Episcopal Vicar for Evangelization and similarly fired with the same missionary zeal. Fr Karol has introduced a prayer to be said for all in St Ives and the 26 villages of the parish on the same date each month.

The Proclaim group carried out its first door-to-door evangelization in the smallest village – Knapwell – on Saturday morning, July 21. Five parishioners, along with Fr

Karol, went out in twos to knock on doors and offer a card with a picture of Jesus and a Gospel message, after a blessing in church.

Meanwhile the evangelisers were supported by the prayers of a group of parishioners who spent an hour in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Sacred Heart church.

More visits are being planned with a greater number of evangelisers who hopefully will have the same positive experience as the initial group.

■ Elizabeth is RE Coordinator.

## Be a herald of Jesus Christ

East Anglia's four new deacons are called to be Heralds for Christ, a challenge which applies to all Christians argues Rebecca Bretherton, co-ordinator of New Evangelisation.

■ In June, East Anglia celebrated the ordinations of four deacons. Once ordained, each candidate was handed the Book of the Gospels by the bishop, who said to him: "Receive the Gospel of Christ whose herald you have become. Believe what you read. Teach what you believe. Practice what you teach."

It is a striking and profoundly moving moment, not least because, although deacons do have a special calling to make these words the foundation for their lives, so too do all of us.

This simple and ancient challenge is not just for the men being ordained but also for the men and women watching. The words push us out of our comfort zone and question us about the conduct of our lives.

First, we are challenged about our own relationship with Christ. Have we really received the Good News? In other words, have we heard it deep within our hearts and made it our own?

How often do we read the Gospel ourselves and refresh ourselves in the story of Jesus' mission?

Next, we are asked about our willingness to evangelise: to share with others what we have found in the Gospel; to bear witness in the world to Jesus Christ himself, by a life filled with faith, hope and love.

Those of you who have ever been altar servers might hear an echo here of the prayer said before Mass: "Go before us, O Lord, in this our sacrifice of prayer and praise. What we say and sing with our lips, may we believe in our hearts; and what we believe in our hearts, may we show forth and practice in our daily lives."

## Inter faith concert

■ The Peterborough Inter Faith Council celebrated its 40th anniversary on Saturday May 12 with a concert in Peterborough's Cathedral Square. The Catholic community were delighted to take part having been active participants in the work of the Inter Faith Council since its formation.

The three Catholic Parishes in Peterborough combined to provide a choir which sang three hymns. Other faith groups performed music from their scriptures and there were performances from different cultural groups, including Peterborough Opera sing some operatic classics and a group of Hindu dancers.

## St Benet's celebrates festival

■ St Benet's in Beccles celebrated its Patronal Festival over the weekend of July 14 and 15 with a history lesson, church tour, exhibition, parish picnic and Masses, reports Terry O'Brien.

Saturday saw parish historian Richard Jones, give a fascinating insight into the history of our church building, designed by local architect, Francis Banham, and originally intended to house a small community of Benedictine Monks – hence our official title of St Benet's Minster.

For this event, we welcomed a group of parishioners from St Felix Parish, Felixstowe, led by Fr John Barnes, whose own church was also designed by Banham.


We learned something of the life and difficulties faced by our ancestors, and we certainly owe a huge debt to those families who provided so many of our local churches and

monasteries

For Richard's talk and a tour of the church, we were also joined by Fr Leo Maidlow Davis, Prior of Downside Abbey. Fr Davis was very impressed by the exhibition of St Benedict's life and works, prepared by the children of our Parish School. Fr Davis also celebrated our Sunday masses for us, and it was a real pleasure for many parishioners to meet the Prior and chat with him after mass.

A group of stalwart parishioners laid on a splendid Parish Picnic in the presbytery grounds, after Sunday forenoon Mass. The glorious weather helped the enjoyment – and we were ably entertained by Tom and Digby Harrison, on guitar and violin.

■ St Benet's has pledged to raise funds for two local charities – Guide Dogs for the Blind and a Publicly Accessible Defibrillator to be mounted outside the church.



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# Caritas development worker is sought

■ The Diocese of East Anglia has secured funding for the appointment of a part-time development worker for Caritas East Anglia for at least one year to research and promote current social action initiatives in the diocese and to develop a diocese-wide strategy.

The funding, which the Diocese is matching from Alive in Faith, will come from the Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN), the social action arm of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, of which Caritas East Anglia is a member.

Caritas East Anglia aims to encourage,

support and co-ordinate works of social outreach in the Diocese. The development worker will scope the range of Catholic social action within the diocese and the responses to social need and use them as a basis for targeting the highest priorities for action.

By organising diocese-wide celebrations of the current activities in parishes and sharing what is being done elsewhere, the development worker will demonstrate the value of Catholic Social Action and encourage parishes to be more ambitious in what they seek to achieve.

Bishop Alan Hopes said: "Caritas East Anglia is using the Alive in Faith funds to support some local initiatives which provide material support and assistance to the poor, deprived and vulnerable members of society in the Diocese. The development worker will raise the awareness within all parishes of how they too might develop this important aspect of the Church's mission."

For full details, call 01508 492540, e-mail [caritas@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:caritas@rcdea.org.uk) or write to Caritas East Anglia, The White House, 21 Upgate, Poringland, Norfolk NR14 7SH. The closing date for applications is September 30.

## news in brief



## Fr Roger is 80

■ Fr Roger Spencer, Parish Priest of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Southwold and St Edmund King & Martyr, Halesworth, celebrated his 80th birthday on Tuesday July 31, when over 70 guests and parishioners packed the Sacred Heart church for a Mass on the Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola.

The Mass was concelebrated by Canon David Bagstaff, Fr Roger Spencer, Fr Denys Lloyd, Fr Padraig Hawkins and Fr Michael Stokes. In his opening address, Fr David paid tribute to Fr Roger and his commitment to the Parish and said that, at 80, he was one of the oldest Parish Priests in the Diocese.

A champagne reception followed in the Cardinal Newman Hall

Parishioners gave Fr Roger a leather-bound copy of a new history of the Sacred Heart parish, entitled "Mission to a Summer Holiday Place" compiled by Laurette Burton (pictured above with Fr Roger), produced to mark the recent centenary of the church.

Picture by Keith Morris.



Looking at the plans outside Our Lady Star of the Sea in Lowestoft are, from left, Fr Paul Chanh, Beryl Edwards finance chair, Bishop Alan Hopes, Tony Walmsley and Dcn Stephen Pomeroy.

# Lottery funding boost

**A project to make essential repairs to a landmark Lowestoft Catholic church and widen its community access, with a digital visitor guide, has received support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) with a grant of £221,500.**

■ The historic Our Lady Star of the Sea church in the town centre, built in 1902, will receive the grant towards the £284,266 project, with the balance from church fund-raising, the Diocese of East Anglia Alive in Faith scheme and VAT recovery.

The project aims to carry out essential external repairs to prevent rainwater getting inside the church, to restore damaged stonework and the tracery of the West window.

To increase wider community use, the scheme includes developing an innovative digital guide and map of the church, so that visitors can use their own mobile phones or tablets to find out more about the architecture, art and religious significance of the building. Stewards will also be trained in how to use it.

The church already provides a wonderful venue for musical performances, with its natural acoustics, and funds will be used to create more flexible space and provide easy-to-erect modular staging for choral and instrumental concerts.

In recent years, the church tower has become a well-used nesting site for Kittiwakes, a rare Gull species and the project will also provide for close up pub-

lic viewing of the birds and giving information about them. And the work is even being planned around the rare birds with a start on site being planned for September when the nesting Kittiwakes will have departed.

An initial grant from the HLF (from money raised through the National Lottery) in March 2017, of development funding of £25,400 has been used by the church to progress the plans to the current stage with the help of conservation architects.

Commenting on the award, Fr Paul Chanh, parish priest at Our Lady's, said: "We're delighted that we've received this support thanks to National Lottery players. As well as continuing to be a place of worship we are pleased that the local community will have a greater chance to use and enjoy it."

Tony Walmsley, parish treasurer and project director, said: "We have essential repairs to do because of water getting into the roof and affecting the plaster ceiling inside, and because masonry on the tower is failing and some actually fell to the ground two years ago.

"We also want to make the church more accessible to the public to come in and look around as one of the few places of genuine historic interest in the town centre. We want to help people understand what the church is all about, its history, architecture and art and how the Catholic faith is practiced here.

"Nowadays people like to access such information online and we are developing a digital guide and map which they can access through their own electronic device or ones which we will provide. We will also be able to help children who are doing Religious Studies at school with that part of their curriculum."

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Picture by Mike and Ann-Marie Veitch.

# A celebration of

**Bishop Alan Hopes has celebrated marriage and family life with over 60 couples and their families in an annual Mass at St John's Cathedral in Norwich. Dr Bonnie Lander Johnson reports.**

■ Bishop Alan celebrated the annual diocesan Marriage and Family Life Mass on Saturday June 16, which also marked the 50th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's *Humanae Vitae*. Over 60 couples and their families gathered to mark significant wedding anniversaries and Bishop Alan gave his personal blessing to each of them.

The Bishop's homily drew repeatedly on the wisdom of *Humanae Vitae*. He commended marriage not only as the sacred bond on which human life depends, but from which the life of the Church draws its great strength.

"Through the offering of your living bodies as a holy sacrifice' in marriage, God gives his grace not just to you but to the whole world," said Bishop Alan. "Through your love men and women taste the faithful love of God himself for the whole of humanity."

It has become a tradition of these Masses that couples celebrating anniversaries of one year, five years, and every multiple of five years thereafter are presented with a certificate by the Bishop. The presentation of these gifts forms a central part of the liturgy. As each couple's name is called they enter again into the blessings of marriage. This rite also enables the gathered congregation to witness the lived truth of married life.

The procession to the altar begins with couples married one year and ends with those celebrating over 60 years of life together. The visible sign of youth and hope growing steadily toward age and experience is a fervent witness to the mystery

## Bonnie is new co-ordinator

Cambridge University academic and author Dr Bonnie Lander Johnson is the new Marriage and Family Life Co-ordinator for the Diocese of East Anglia.

■ Bonnie has taken over from Kerry Urdzik, who has left her role after five years of service to the families of East Anglia. Kerry is moving to the United States with her husband and seven children.

Bishop Alan thanked her for the formidable work she has achieved, especially in the areas of marriage preparation, at the Marriage and Family Life Mass held at St John's Cathedral on June 16.

Bonnie is a Fellow and Director of English at Selwyn College, University of Cambridge. She has joint British and Australian citizenship as she was born in Australia to British parents.

She returned to the UK to go to Oxford University where she married and started a family. She went on to take a doctorate in Shakespeare and Renaissance Literature at Oxford University and then taught at Cambridge University for the last seven years.

Bonnie said: "I'm thrilled to be working for the diocese and for Bishop Alan. Kerry has done wonderful work in the last five years and I look forward to developing this further. The Commission continues to oversee marriage prepara-

and sanctity of marriage and family life.

The Bishop described the achievements of mature couples as the fruit of both human effort and divine grace: "Those of you who are celebrating long and happy marriages today will tell those of you who have come to celebrate one or five or ten



tion throughout the diocese, to offer talks and training on John Paul II's theology of the body, to offer instruction in fertility awareness methods, and to liaise with the diocesan schools and youth commissions on matters relating to the education and moral formation of young people in East Anglia."

The author of *Chastity in Early Stuart Literature and Culture*, Bonnie will be maintaining a small teaching and administrative role at Cambridge alongside her diocesan work and continuing to write, but with more focus on literature and politics that relate to the church. She writes for the *Catholic Herald* and is currently working on a book about 20th century Catholic mothers and writers in England.

years, that long and happy marriages are made through perseverance. First by renewing each day the vows you made to each other on your wedding day. And second, by persevering in prayer. It is God alone who provides the grace by which you can keep those vows each day."

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# f marriage



## Couple's 70th anniversary

■ A Norfolk Catholic couple, who met each other as teenagers in 1944, have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with a party at St Helen's Church in Hoveton, reports Liz Smith.

Alf (aged 92) and Margaret (91) celebrated their 70th anniversary on Saturday June 16 at the evening Mass when they were presented with a bouquet of flowers and a card signed by parishioners, pictured above. A party was held for them after Mass.

Alf was 17 in 1943 when he was told he was going to work down the mines. He met Margaret soon afterwards when introduced by her father, who was in charge of the men in Alf's sector of the mine and felt sorry for the young

lad. Margaret worked in the Co-op from the age of 17, dealing with ration books.

The couple married in St Philip's Church in Mansfield in 1948 and moved in with Alf's parents, in Ketts Hill, Norwich, for a year.

For a while they lived in Spixworth and in 1952 moved to Sprowston, where they have lived in the same house in Spinney Road for around 50 years.

Margaret had many jobs in Norwich and worked at one time in Jarrolds and Garlands. Alf worked for Lushers the builders, as a wood carver and cabinet maker. He made many items for St Helen's Church, including the font.

The couple have two children, Stephen and Frances.

## news in brief



Pictured at St Mary's Ipswich are, back row from left, Christopher Smith, Fr Russell Frost, Fr Edmund Eggleston, Fr Charlie Gordon, Fr Michael Rear. Front row, from left, Fr Adrian Gates, Deacon Clive Brooks, Canon Michael Hazell, Fr John Barnes, Deacon Christopher Brighten and Canon Matthew George. Not in the photo, but present at the Mass: Fr Francis Leeder.

## Fr Michael's diamond jubilee

■ Ipswich priest Canon Michael Hazell has celebrated 60 years of service to the Catholic Church reports John Cassidy.

St Mary's Parish Ipswich hosted Diamond Jubilee celebrations for Canon Michael on Friday July 13, when Ipswich deanery clergy joined a full church of parishioners, family and friends for a Concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving for his 60 years of priesthood.

The chief concelebrant and Dean, Fr John Barnes, paid a warm and amusing tribute to Canon Michael. Over the years, he has held many key posts of responsibility but Canon Michael's pastoral work was at the heart of his priesthood. His dedication to his people and the development of their faith

through example was his life's work.

In 1995 he officially retired to Kesgrave in Ipswich. In reality he didn't really retire. He became so generous with his time that his ministry developed, towards parishioners and also seafarers in nearby Felixstowe docks. Now he has become part and parcel of their lives and all have taken him into their hearts.

Following the Mass of Thanksgiving, a large crowd joined Fr Michael in the parish hall for a very happy party and presentation. Fr Michael used his moving thanks to stress the importance of faith and not just the priest's own faith. He said that sometimes in the life of a priest, it is the deep faith of the people that carries a priest through.



## First female Indian saint honoured

■ The Syro-Malabar community in Huntingdon celebrated the feast of St Alphonsa, the first woman of Indian origin to be canonised by the Catholic Church, on Saturday June 23.

St Michael the Archangel church was decorated with flags and St Alphonsa's statue was in a place of honour. Fr Philip John came from Cambridge to celebrate the Mass for the community and it was followed by a lovely community meal.

The feast was celebrated with much joy to remember a saint from the Syro-Malabar community and from Kerala which is now home to many of the

community.

Sister Alphonsa was a 20th century Indian religious sister and educator, she was partially disabled by an accident which burnt both of her feet and she suffered a series of serious health problems which led to her death, aged 36, in July 1946.

Claims of her miraculous intervention began almost immediately upon her death and often involved the children of the convent school where she used to teach.

She was beatified in February 1986 by Pope John Paul II during his Apostolic Pilgrimage to India.



## DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

# School's 24-hour run for charity



■ Pupils and staff at Moreton Hall Catholic Prep School at Bury St Edmunds have completed a 24-hour run for local charities

The ambitious attempt to run continuously for 24 hours took place on Friday May 22. The challenge began at 11am with Pre-

Prep children and staff – not to mention the school goats, Lofly and Moreton. Throughout the day and into the evening children from every class and many members of staff helped to keep the show on the road. Pictured are the core team behind the event.

## School celebrates pupil awards

■ Moreton Hall Prep School is celebrating the achievements of its Year 8 pupils in Common Entrance this term as all 16 pupils have been awarded a place at their chosen senior school, including eight who were awarded academic, musical and sports scholarships, a record for the Catholic school.

Headmaster Chris Moxon said: 'Eight awards from a class of just 16 pupils to some of the best independent schools in the country is an outstanding achievement (and a new school record!). It is a testament to all the hard work put in over the years by the pupils and their teachers: we are very proud of them!'



# Family day of fun for pupils

Over the past year, Mini-Vinnies groups have sprung up at schools in the St John the Baptist Catholic MAT reports Fran Ludden, Head of School, St Francis of Assisi, Norwich.

■ To celebrate the end of the first successful year, children from St Mary's and St Peter's (Gorleston), St Edmund's (Bungay), St Benet's (Becles) and St Francis of Assisi (Norwich) joined the children of St Mary's Lowestoft for a day which included a liturgy workshop, fun activities on the beach and Mass at the Church of Our Lady, Star of The Sea and St Nicholas, all led by the Ignite Team.

The day was organised to say a big

thank-you to the children for everything they do to help those in need.

They began the day singing We Are Family, they thought about the words from the Bible where Jesus says: "If you do this for the least of my brethren, you do it for me," and they took time to reflect on seeing God in the eyes of each other and of their neighbour.

It was a really special day. For some it was their first visit to the seaside; for others their first ride on a train; for all, a first chance to celebrate together with children from other schools.

The Mini-Vinnies will grow in strength next year, when more children will swell their numbers, and, not surprisingly, they all want to come back for another celebration at the same time next summer!"

## news in brief



## School's hat-trick of cycling awards

■ St Thomas More Catholic Primary school in Peterborough has won a hat-trick of cycling accolades in the Big Pedal challenge

Headteacher Anne-Marie McElhinney said: "The last three years had seen us climb to the top of the leader board in Peterborough and we were not going to let our title slip away from us in 2018. Our community, as ever, got behind the challenge and worked extremely hard to ensure that our pupils and parents made their way to school on scooters and bikes. Our bike sheds were bursting, every spare inch of fence was decorated with bikes and scooters.

"At the end of the two weeks we were staggered to find out that not only had we won for the third year running in Peterborough, but we were placed third in the East of England and seventh nationally."

<https://bigpedal.org.uk/>



## Adventure chance

■ Year 4 pupils from federated RC Primary Schools St Edmunds in Bury St Edmunds and St Josephs in Sudbury recently attended a three-day residential trip to the Horstead Activity Centre in Norfolk reports Katie Copeman, St Edmund's Head of School.

The children had a wonderful time and returned to school buzzing with excitement and stories to share about their trip.

They all had the opportunity to participate in a range of adventurous outdoor activities such as canoeing, climbing, archery, tunnelling and a zipwire. The trip presented the children with many challenges that required them to collaborate effectively with one another and to be resilient too, especially when pushing themselves outside of their comfort zone, whether that be staying away from home for the first time, trying new food at meal times or when aiming to reach the top of the climbing tower.

It was a pleasure to watch the children supporting one another and offering kind words of encouragement as they took part in the various activities. We were very proud of the children whilst away as they continued to demonstrate the motto of our schools, 'We learn together in God's love by encouraging and supporting one another.'

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## YOUTH MATTERS



Pictured above are the East Anglian pilgrims outside the Shrine of St Margaret Clitherow in York, inset, Iona Abbey and, right, a statue of monks carrying St Cuthbert's body to Durham Cathedral.

# Following in footsteps of the saints

**A pilgrimage in pursuit of the northern saints of Britain was the aim of a group of young people from the Diocese of East Anglia over six days in late July. Clare Storey reports.**

■ The pilgrims were led by youth chaplain, Fr Luke Goymour, and Youth Service Director, Hamish MacQueen.

With our pilgrim guides written by Ciaran Loasso and Fr Luke in hand we first encountered St Margaret Clitherow. Crossing the Lendal Bridge we spotted a plaque marking the place where St Margaret was crushed to death for harbouring priests in her house.

At the Bar Convent, England's oldest surviving convent, dating from 1686, we met Sr Agatha who shared with us a potted history of the Venerable Mary Ward, foundress of the Congregation of Jesus.

We looked around the interactive exhibition on being a Catholic in England at the time. Ducking into a priest hole gave some idea of what it would have been like to be a priest-in-hiding. No arrests awaited, and the rest of the visit proved to be a highlight for all of us.

The following day, after celebrating Mass at St Margaret's Shrine, we set off for a visit to Durham Cathedral, the final resting place of St Bede (whose body was brought there from Jarrow), St Cuthbert and St Oswald's head (!), en route to Lindisfarne, home to some of the early Christian missionaries.

Walking to the Cathedral, we passed a statue of St Cuthbert being carried by

his brother monks from Lindisfarne to his final resting place. The peace of the cloisters provided a chance to say afternoon prayer together before continuing to Lindisfarne.

We had plenty of time to explore and gain some sense of what it would have been like to live here at the time of the earliest missionaries, reflect on what we had already experienced and what was still ahead of us.

Ruins of the monastery are still present, and the place where the Lindisfarne Gospels, a Latin translation of the Gospels, were most likely illuminated.

For me, the experience of being 'stranded' – Lindisfarne is accessible by a causeway just twice daily when the tide is out – was a new one.

In a world where almost everything is instantly accessible, it is very easy to forget what it is like not to have everything at the snap of the fingers. Being on Lindisfarne, and again on the island of Iona, after early evening although both islands are inhabited, we were isolated.

The feeling of being stranded can take root in our spiritual lives. One might feel that they are isolated in some way. No doubt the early Christian saints, and those who followed them, felt that isolation on both a physical and spiritual level at times.

Truly following God and doing what He asks of us, as He did of the northern saints that we encountered during this pilgrimage, can be an isolating experience.

But if there is one thing that I know better now than before I set out on this pilgrimage, it is that God is always with me and that isolation is sometimes necessary for listening to Him more attentively.



### Youth contacts

Tel: 01508  
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Email:  
Ignite Team  
enquiries



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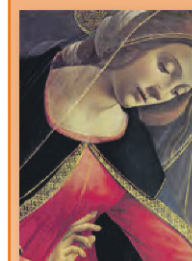
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# Norfolk sisters mark Congregation's 150th anniversary



Sisters, pupils, priests and Bishop Alan at the celebration Mass in Norwich.

■ The Daughters of Divine Charity, who have a convent and school in Swaffham and a small care home in Hunstanton, have celebrated the 150th anniversary of the founding of their Congregation with events in Vienna and Norwich.

The Congregation was founded in Vienna in 1868 by Mother Franciska Lechner and an international celebration was held in the Austrian capital city for three days in early June.

Provincial Superior Sr Thomas More, Sr Danuta, Sr Kasjana, Sr Bernarda, Sr Linda and three Novices went to Vienna along with three girls from the Year 10 class at Sacred Heart and two teachers. There were also three young girls from Chesterfield who are interested in joining the Congregation and Fr

Michael Johnstone, the former Parish Priest of Swaffham.

Bishop Alan Hopes also invited the Sisters, the school, friends and parishioners to an 11.30am Celebration Mass at St John's Cathedral in Norwich on July 5 to mark the anniversary, followed by a barbecue in the Narthex gardens.

Sr Francis Ridler said: "The 150th Anniversary at the Cathedral was a very special occasion. The pupils sang with enthusiasm and all who had individual tasks exceeded expectations. It was a wonderful community effort with school staff, Bishop Alan, several priests, parishioners, friends and parents joining in our celebration."

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Jubilee celebrations at St Ignatius, above, and St Laurence, below.

## Churches mark special jubilees

**Two East Anglian churches in Cambs and Norfolk have marked special jubilees over the past few weeks.**

■ Bishop Alan Hopes said Mass at St Laurence's Church, Cambridge, on July 15 to celebrate 60 years of Parish life at the Milton Road site.

At the end of Mass, the Bishop unveiled and blessed a plaque listing all the Parish Priests who have served the Parish since its inception.

After Mass Bishop Alan chatted with parishioners and viewed a photo display of St Laurence's Parish life across the decades. It began in the 1950s when the church building was a reclaimed tin hut, originally part of the Great Eastern Hospital set up in the now grounds of Cambridge University Library to treat First World War soldiers. It

continued with the laying of the foundation stone at Milton Road on March 1958 and scenes across the years to the present day.

■ Bishop Alan celebrated the 50th Anniversary of St Ignatius Church, Caister, with a Mass on Tuesday June 19. In attendance were some priests who had previously said Mass at the church, Mgr Philip Shrayne, Fr Anthony Nwanko, Fr Alex Ibe, Fr Gordon Williams, Fr Martin Gowman, Fr Pádraig Hawkins and Deacon Tony Fenton.

To see a full picture gallery of the Mass, taken by Brian Lafferty, visit: <https://bit.ly/2LVRXFi>



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# News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese



■ The Montana Residential Home, in Great Barton near Bury St Edmunds is celebrating after being rated outstanding in a recent inspection by the Care Quality Commission. The home, which is run by the Benedictines Sisters of Our Lady of Grace and Compassion, is caring and well-led, said the report. Sister Superior and care home manager, Sr Thaya Moses, said it was down to the “wonderful team” (pictured above) she had at the home which caters for up to 19 older people, some who may be living with dementia.



■ A giant hare sculpture, inspired by the design of St John's Cathedral, has joined the popular GoGoHares Norfolk-wide children's summer trail in aid of children's charity Break. There are 68 hares in the trail and the St John's one is called C-Hare-the-dral, named and painted by artist Mik Richardson, drawing inspiration from the Cathedral itself.

Culture and Heritage Officer Julia Stafford has organised a hare-themed mini trail for children to enjoy within the cathedral and its gardens. C-Hare-the-dral can be found in the Rotunda part of the Narthex every day until September 8.



■ St Benedict's Community in Sawtry Cambridgeshire held their annual saint's day celebration on Sunday July 8 with a cream tea in the back garden of Roy and Dorothy Dunn. The weather was very kind and donations were collected towards the Sawtry Children's Holiday Club which is held in August.



■ Suffolk priest Fr Gerry Quigley has retired after 43 years in the priesthood. Two celebrations were held to mark the occasion, the first one at Our Lady Immaculate and St Joseph in Lawshall, where Fr Gerry was priest-in-charge, on June 10, the day of his last Mass there, pictured above. The other was at St Edmunds in Bury St Edmunds on June 27, which was attended by Bishop Alan and other clergy.

The Mass in Lawshall was followed by a celebration in the village pub, the Swan, where Fr Gerry was presented with gifts from the Lawshall community, including a crucifix and statue of Our Lady reports Imogen Senior.



■ Thousands of visitors enjoyed the sunshine at the Clare Priory Craft Fair 2018 held on the July 14 and 15 and were entertained with a range of local foods, craft ales, a range of children's entertainment, music, dance (including Morris dancing, above), historic tours and exhibitors set in the 14th century Priory and its acres of grounds.

Fr David Middleton, Clare Parish Priest, said: “The Craft Fair weekend is a special time in Clare Priory's year. As a retreat house and a parish we have visitors all the time but, obviously, never in such numbers. The Craft Fair is always a tremendous draw because of the range and quality of exhibits, and the friendly atmosphere and the fun. It is such a happy weekend.”