



**Norwich lunch
to aid Kerala
flood victims
– page 3**



**Mass marks
start of new
school year
– page 8**



**Peter finds
a different
culture
– page 11**

Bishop Alan reports on Ad Limina visit to Rome



Bishop Alan meets Pope Francis during the Ad Limina visit to Rome.



At the end of the visit, the Bishops Conference reflected on their days together in Rome and their conversation with Pope Francis in a final statement...

■ We asked the Holy Father for a message which we could bring back to our dioceses, to our priests and people. His message was simple: we are to live the gift of our faith with joy. Joy was his great emphasis. He explained that this joy is rooted firmly in our relationship with Jesus. It is a joy of knowing that he is with us; of knowing the presence of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives, drawing and guiding us towards the will of God; a joy of knowing our Heavenly Father is waiting for us, longing to hold us in his embrace of loving mercy. This is the joy of the faith

by which we are to live and the source of lasting peace in our hearts and lives, no matter our circumstances.

As we spoke with Pope Francis we realised, more and more, that he simply radiates this joy and peace. He is indeed gifted with a unique grace of the Holy Spirit of God. Even in this time of turmoil, the Holy Father is so clearly rooted in God and blessed by God. His peace is secure. His life is serene. We know, because he showed us his heart. It is the heart of a loving father.

In our turn, we affirmed our deep communion with him and promised him our love, support and prayers. We expressed confidently these sentiments on behalf of all the faithful Catholics of England and Wales.

We spoke with the Holy Father about the difficulties of fulfilling our role as bishops. In turn he reflected on the importance of prayer and preaching in our lives, and of paternal closeness to our priests and people, with care and with firm justice. He spoke of the encouragement he wishes to give to priests today, who can sometimes feel vulnerable in the face of difficult circumstances, in a critical environment. He spoke, movingly, of the wounds inflicted by abuse and neglect, wounds that wreak such harm in the lives of its victims and in the life of the Church. Wherever they are found, these are wounds in the Body of Christ and are painful to touch. He encouraged us, in our pastoral work, never to neglect even the tiny flames of faith that exist in so many communities and people.

We have been given a warm welcome in our visits to all the departments of the Roman Curia. We were asked to speak freely about our endeavours and problems. In the officials of the Holy See we have found a spirit of true cooperation. Everywhere we have been encouraged and given helpful advice. We have seen clear evidence that the life of the Catholic communities of England and Wales is generally well respected and even admired here in Rome. Our reports of the Eucharistic Congress 'Adoremus' have been well received, as has the strength of our compassionate outreach to those in need.

Read the full report at www.catholicnews.org.uk

Be joyful in the Gospel says Pope Francis

"Pope Francis told us to be joyful in the gospel, to pray more intensely and fix our eyes always on the Lord," recalled Bishop Alan Hopes, following his Ad Limina visit to Rome along with the other Bishops of England and Wales. The visit ended on September 28 with an audience and conversation with Pope Francis for over two hours. Here are Bishop Alan's thoughts on the visit.

■ This is the third Ad Limina Apostolorum (to the Threshold of the Apostles) visit and pilgrimage that I have made to Rome, but my first as a Diocesan Bishop. Every

seven or eight years, each national hierarchy is called to Rome to give an account of what they are doing.

In preparation for this visit I was responsible for bringing together a report on all aspects of the Diocese. For this I have been grateful for the assistance I received from priests, deacons, religious and lay people.

Compiling the report also helped me to focus on the challenges the Diocese will face in the coming years, challenges which I have begun to discuss with those who advise me in the governance of the Diocese.

This Ad Limina was different from the first two. Our visits to the Congregations and Secretariats of the Roman Curia were not just a reporting to the Pope and the heads of the different depart-

ments. It was very much a dialogue, very much a listening process for us all. There was good advice and support and encouragement from everyone.

At the heart of the Ad Limina were our visits to the four great Basilicas of Rome – S Peter's, S Paul's, S John Lateran and S Mary Major where we celebrated Mass and renewed our faith. And, of course, our audience with the Holy Father was the high point of the week – it lasted two-and-a-half hours!

It was very much a dialogue – Peter listening to his brothers, strengthening them and encouraging them in their mission and apostolate. Pope Francis told us to be joyful in the gospel, to pray more intensely and fix our eyes always on the Lord.

news in brief

Heritage days

■ Over 120 people visited St Edmund's Church, Bury St Edmunds during two recent Heritage Open Days reports John Saunders.

In addition to being impressed by the beauty of the Church and Chapel, visitors were drawn to the mini-exhibitions which explained the importance of extraordinary women who feature in the history and heritage of the parish.

Many people were unaware of the roles played by Elizabeth Rookwood Gage, Susanna Arethusa Milner-Gibson and Lady Miriam Hubbard until they read their biographical details on display boards. The part played in the town's education and pastoral care by the Sisters of St Louis attracted great interest and astonishment that only one of the nuns remained living in the town.

It was wonderful to welcome Joy Rowe, now in her nineties, one of the most renowned historians of East Anglian Catholicism. She was able to attend through the kindness of Sarah, a member of the History Group who had led the arrangements for one of the Open Days. It was clear how much the occasion meant to Joy and visitors were able to chat to her as well as being able to read of the reasons why she had been deemed an 'extraordinary woman'.

Franciscan fraternity

■ On the eve of the feast day of St Francis of Assisi on Wednesday, October 3, the Norwich Pax et Bonum Fraternity celebrated the Transitus of St Francis in the sunken chapel of the Cathedral of St John's in Norwich with prayers, hymns and the reading of the passing of St Francis from this world to his heavenly home.

One of the many who attended was Judith James who painted the lovely icon of St Francis in his younger years that was displayed at the event, encircled by candles.

The Pax et Bonum Fraternity of the Secular Franciscans meet on the first Sunday of every month at 4pm in St George's Parish Meeting Room, Sprowston Road, Norwich and visitors are very welcome.

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 Monday November 26.

Diocese website: www.rcdea.org.uk

Advertising: Contact Charlotte at Cathcom
on tel 01440 730399 or email at
charlotte@cathcom.org

Publisher: Cathcom Ltd, 0207 112 6710



Fr Luke installed as youngest priest

■ The youngest parish priest in the Diocese of East Anglia, 34-year-old Fr Luke Goymour, has been formally installed in the parish of Brandon and Mildenhall on October 4.

The Installation Mass, at St Thomas of Canterbury in Brandon, was celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes who, in his homily, reminded the congregation of the Lord's instructions to St Francis (whose feast day it was) to "rebuild my church".

He said that this can only be done when we fix our eyes on Christ and he urged Fr Luke and the parish to do the same – to fix their eyes on Christ in order to rebuild the Church.

After the Dean, Fr David Finegan, had read the letter of appointment, Fr Luke made his profession of faith and publicly renewed his priestly promises. Bishop Alan then seated him in the celebrant's chair and presented the keys of the church to him.

Speaking to the parish at the end of the Mass, Fr Luke said: "I am delighted to be entrusted with the parish of Brandon and Mildenhall, I look forward to working together with the parish to build up the Kingdom of God in our patch of the Lord's vineyard."

"I'm new to all this so please bear with me. I'm sorry but I will upset you



Fr Luke being installed at St Thomas of Canterbury in Brandon.

from time to time. I won't intend to, but I'm human and it will happen – people in relationships upset each other! So when I do, I'm sorry and please tell me so that I can apologise. I do, however, promise you three things: to pray for you, to serve you and to love you. Please do pray for me"

As well as St Thomas, Fr Luke is priest for St John the Evangelist in Mildenhall and will continue (part-time) in his role as Youth Chaplain to the diocese. The Ignite Mission Team turned out to support their chaplain in his new role.

www.stthomas-stjohnparish.com

Mass for seafarers

A Mass to pray for seafarers and the work of Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) was held at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich on October 1.



Bishop Alan Hopes celebrates the Stella Maris Mass in Norwich.

■ The Stella Maris Mass, in honour of Our Lady Star of the Sea, was celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes and attended by AoS port chaplains, volunteers, supporters, head office staff, trustees and local parishioners.

In his homily, Bishop Alan spoke of Mary as the lodestar of travellers, all pilgrims making their way home to God.

"She is the special patron and lodestar of all seafarers – who turn to her in their challenging work as they travel the world by sea and as they face all the difficulties and frustrations of working away

from their families and loved ones for such long spells," said Bishop Alan.

"Tonight we come to return thanks to God for the work of the Apostleship of the Sea and to pray for those of you who work in East Anglian ports such as Felixstowe, King's Lynn and Lowestoft, as chaplains and volunteers, serving the needs of those who work at sea for long stretches, many of whom are Catholic."

"I have seen you at work in a service that has touched the hearts of so many seafarers. You befriend and respond to the immediate needs of those who come ashore for short

intervals – particularly being able to connect them with their families, to provide them with a shelter in the chaplaincy and assist them to get rest and refreshment.

"I know that you and local priests also assist them in their spiritual needs so that their faith is renewed and strengthened. I know that you pray for them and offer Mass for them. They know and welcome the power and strength of your prayer and your love," said Bishop Alan.

After Mass, the congregation enjoyed refreshments in the Narthex, courtesy of AoS. East Anglia Ports Chaplain,

Patricia Ezra, spoke about her personal experiences of her first year or so in the role.

"I have experienced the sad and the bizarre and everything in-between," said Pat. "But the seafarers are almost always pleased to see you and greet you with a big smile and a welcome. The look in their eyes when they see that someone is interested in them, and occasionally they will ask you to pray for them or organise a Mass. Your support to enable me to do this is absolutely vital. It is a very simple ministry at one level but it makes such an enormous difference to them."



Pictured is the Curry for Kerala lunch at St John's, including Nelson David (left), Mini Nelson and Tony James, centre, and Fr Seelan.

Norwich effort to aid Kerala flood victims

The Norwich Catholic Malayalee community has been rallying around to raise money and supplies to help rebuild their home region of Kerala in southern India which was devastated by once-in-a-lifetime floods in August. Keith Morris reports.

■ A Curry for Kerala lunch at St John's Cathedral in Norwich on Sunday October 14 saw over 250 people enjoy an Indian feast cooked by families from across the city, raising over £1740.

It was the latest in a series of efforts to raise funds to help flood-stricken villages in Kerala, which have included sending emergency supplies by air, an Indian takeaway and church collections.

There are around 100 people from Kerala in Norwich, most of them Catholic, many working as doctors and nurses. They worship at St John's, St George's and Holy Apostles in West Earlham.

Antony James, who organised the curry lunch at the Cathedral, is a nurse practitioner at the N&N Hospital and has lived in Norwich since 2007 with his wife and children. He also has a family home in the village of Kuttanad, where his parents live.

"My parents have never seen floods like it, said Tony. "At first they thought it was the normal rain, but within 24 hours most houses were under water. My father was stuck on the first floor of his house for a day, which was terrifying for us as a family and 97% of the people in my village were evacuated to a camp. The camp was then flooded too, so they had to move to another camp for two weeks. Most of my neighbours lost their houses completely.

"The thing that really touched my heart was that three people were reported to have committed suicide when they returned from the camp to see their

homes and everything in them destroyed. The majority of the people in Kerala do not have home insurance, so people have lost everything, including livestock.

"I knew then that I had to do something about it. I thought I am from Kerala, I know a bit of cooking. With a couple of friends I cooked some biriyani and sold it to colleagues at the N&N hospital and raised £1500 and we were able to help five families. I thought this would be of some help for rebuilding their homes.

"Then I spoke to Fr Seelan at St John's and we got together around 25 people who have all cooked food for around 250 people today. We will be distributing the money directly to affected families in our home village.

"Help will come from the government maybe later, but for now they need some hope and this will help them to get hope," said Tony.

Many people from Norwich travel back to Kerala over the summer and a number were stuck in the floods when the local Cochin airport was closed by the flooding.

George Mathew, who has run a shop and Post Office in New Lakenham with his family since 2007, was in Kerala just days before the floods.

"Three of my cousins were running small shops which were all washed away by the water," he said. "Some people nearby had their houses flooded up to roof level. The water stayed in the houses for up to five days so you can imagine all the rubbish that went through the houses.

"The dams across the region were all overflowing so they had to be opened to stop them being destroyed," said George, "which caused a lot of the flooding. Six or seven people from Norwich suffered severe damage to homes where their relatives lived.

"We did a collection through the Syro Malabar Catholic community across the UK which raised around £85,000 including £3,500 from Norwich. It will be

distributed through the Catholic priests and Caritas organisation in Kerala.

"In four provinces roads, water supplies, sanitation, homes, everything, will have to be built again from top to bottom," he said.

Across Kerala 400 people died and one million have lost their homes. An estimated £2.7billion of damage has been done which will take years to replace.

Long Stratton GP, Dr Mini Nelson, with her husband Nelson David, a consultant in sexual health, are also from Kerala.

Mini said: "We were on holiday in Kerala at the end of July and the rain was incessant then and the area was on an orange alert. It went onto red alert at 1am in the morning on August 16.

"My sister-in-law had her 90-year-old bed-bound mother-in-law with her. We kept ringing her and she was saying it was rising and now up to window level. Fortunately she was rescued by some family members with a boat from the first floor.

"The community spirit really came to the fore and no-one was asking are you a Christian or a Muslim or a Hindu and the church is now playing a big part in helping people.

"The first thing we were able to do, within a couple of days, was send shoeboxes filled with supplies, clothes, toothbrushes and torches via Air India which took 10,000kgs in just one day," she said. "The Kerala community at Holy Apostles cooked for the local community and raised over £400. The Syro Malabar community raised money through contributions and selling snacks after their mass in September, raising over £1200.

India as a whole has just a 3% Christian population, but Kerala is 25% Christian, mostly Catholic, said Mini.

"We are going to go on organising events as it is going to take years to get Kerala back to where it was as one of the most advanced regions in India and we want to do what we can to help rebuilt the region," she said.

news in brief

Inspiring day for SVP members

■ On September 27, the feast of St Vincent de Paul, the St Mary's SVP Conference in King's Lynn gathered in the Holy Family church for a mid-day Mass for the sick, housebound, elderly and the not-so-elderly, reports Pauline McSherry.

Mass was celebrated by parish priest Canon Peter Rollings who gave a most enlightened homily on the life of St Vincent and the work of the society in our parish and beyond.

Around 30 ailing brothers and sisters received the Sacrament of the Sick.

Fr Peter moved through the chapel to each person to be anointed. Holy Communion was distributed in the same manner. It was a kind and thoughtful gesture, greatly avoiding the movement of wheelchairs and less mobile folk amongst us. Before the final blessing, conference members renewed their SVP promises.

After Mass, the narthex had been transformed into a dining room and 60 parishioners and friends sat down to a hearty hot lunch.

Jamaica invitation

■ Fr Michael Johnstone is inviting people from across East Anglia to join his group going to Kingston, Jamaica, in January 2019, to live alongside and work with the Missionaries of the Poor who care for nearly 1000 handicapped and poor people.

"To serve the poor is an invitation to happiness," said Fr Michael. "We go on January 9, probably for two weeks and some assistance with the fare may be available, especially for the young." Ring Fr Michael on 01603 664118 or email him at fr.mcjohnstone@gmail.com, and he'll talk you through the experience.

Vatican headliner

■ "Norwich capitale ecumenical" – Norwich Capital of Ecumenism was the headline in a recent edition of Osservatore Romano – the official daily bulletin of the Holy See. The publication was reporting on this newspaper's report of the Archbishop of Canterbury set to visit St John's Cathedral in Norwich – an unprecedented visit by any primate of the Church of England.

Choir visit a first

■ The first-ever visit of the Cambridgeshire Jewish Choir to Wisbech, on Saturday November 17, will be at St Peter and St Paul Church in the town centre from 7pm.

The concert is free with donations welcomed for the Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign and marks Wisbech's contribution to National Interfaith Week which runs from November 17 to 24.

Just desserts

■ Methodists, Catholics and Anglicans took part in the annual Just Desserts event at Acle Methodist Church on September 25.

NEW EVANGELISATION

St Ives mission goes on

In the third article in our series on the Proclaim Mission in Sacred Heart of Jesus parish, St Ives, Fr Karol Porczak asked participants for their thoughts.

■ Three new parishioners joined the team which, in pairs, visited a new housing estate in St Ives called Spire Estate on September 22.

Frazer and Ian – first timers

■ We were both first-time evangelists. At the sixth door a lady answered stating that she was 'not religious, I'm afraid' which became a running theme with seven people responding in a similar manner. At the next door we met a very welcoming mother and son. The husband is the Curate from All Saints in St Ives – and he was very pleased that we were undertaking visits.

On a personal note, the prayers prior to the visits in the church enhanced my trust in Jesus and gave me the comfort and confidence to go out.

David – new experience

■ This was my first time visiting and I found it a rewarding experience from: the welcome from all the households, even those who were emphatically non-religious or attached to other faiths, particularly a Muslim gentleman; overcoming reluctance to declare my faith to strangers on their doorsteps; personal growth in finding the right words coming into my head if I needed them.

The effort of making the visits was



Pictured in front of Sacred Heart Church in St Ives are, from the left, David, Frazer, Ian, Anne, Jackie, Magda, Elizabeth and Fr Karol.

more than justified by just one early discovery of a family of five Polish Catholics, whom Fr Karol was able to engage in their own language.

Anne – An Uplifting Morning

■ As a lifelong Catholic this was my first 'official' go at evangelising by way of visiting homes. I went with no expectations and to just spread the word. I was pleasantly surprised.

We started with prayers which provided the inspiration I needed. It was great to be paired with Jackie, who has a great deal of knowledge about the Catholic faith. We took a deep breath and

launched ourselves into it. We called on 25 homes and spoke with ten residents.

At the first home the reception was cool, but polite. We handed them a 'God Loves You' card and he replied 'lovely of you'. We were warmly received at the next three, which encouraged us.

The next few calls were brief. We handed the cards to two teenage daughters, met an extremely welcoming Muslim man, a lady that was on the phone and a resident that is soon moving out. The highlight for me was at the penultimate house where we were the first visitors to the lady's new home and she seemed really pleased with our message and offer of a blessing.

What took me by surprise was how uplifted and spiritually renewed I felt after this experience.

■ The message we leave to all in the house is written on the little image of the Divine Mercy with the inscription "Jesus I trust in You". On the back it says:

You think that God does not love you, because of what you have done. But GOD does LOVE You and you should know how much!

Out of that love the Son of God, Jesus Christ, died for you on the Cross but HE has risen from the dead and lives among you.

In His Body and Blood, He offers you total forgiveness and the fullness of LIFE!

God loves you as you are

– NO preferences!

His love is directed toward each of you

– NO exceptions!

You do not need to pay for His Love

– NO conditions!

We are glad to share this message with you and have you among us.

May God's peace descend on you all at this address and remain in your hearts forever.

Magdalena

■ I believe in positive outcome of our evangelisation visits. Although not many people were in, we've not met with hostility towards us. Not saying much at the visit, only accompanying Elizabeth, the most I could do was the cheerful face and big smile. Always works!

■ We will continue our mission once a month with one hour of knocking on doors. We are also phoning parishioners on our old database with very surprising results. Most of all, I can confirm the growth of community spirit and a tremendous joy of being on the move toward those who deserve to know about the eternal Mercy of God in Jesus Christ.

An invitation to remember

Rebecca Bretherton suggests using Remembrance Sunday as the chance to invite someone to church.

■ 100 years ago the First World War ended, and a new world began. The example and experience of those who died and of those who lived through the war shaped the world we live in today.

In November each year there are magazine articles and television programmes giving us the testimony of those who fought in World War I and in the wars which followed throughout this century. The marking of the centenary this year will allow many people to reflect on the sacrifices of previous generations and of those still living with the consequences of war.

On November 11, Remembrance Sunday, there will be civic parades and events in our cities, our towns and smallest villages to commemorate those involved in the conflict. People will also come to church. Many churches are decorated with poppies and our hymns and prayers mark the day. We pray for all those who have died through war or acts of violence in defence of our country: that they will rest in peace with God and that may we never forget their sacrifice. It is a chance to pray together for peace throughout the world.

Why not invite someone to church this Remembrance Sunday: to share our faith that death is not the end and that love survives even the grave.

We often look for an opportunity to talk about our faith or invite someone to church. Sometimes people are not ready to join our prayers but may be open to another chance to be involved in our Christian life.

Wisbech Ladies Guild plan to make 100 hand-made poppies to display in church this Remembrance Sunday and are inviting people to help with these.

Often a chat about what is happening in the news can give an opening for an invitation. Maybe exploring family history or talking about the local parades may give you the opportunity to say: The way I will be marking Remembrance Sunday is by going to church. Would you like to join me?

*O God, merciful and strong,
who crush wars and cast down the proud,
be pleased to banish violence swiftly from our midst
and to wipe away all tears,
so that we may all truly deserve to be called your children..*

Roman Missal



Fullers Finer Furniture

Bespoke Quality Furniture Makers

Maximizing experience and expertise to custom build for the future.

- Fonts
- Lecterns
- AV Cabinets and PA Desks
- Altar/ Communion Tables
- Complete re orders

For more information, contact us at:

The Old Coach House, 53b Rear Oxford Street,
Weston-super-Mare, Somerset BS23 1TR
Tel/Fax: 01934 618111 • Email: info@fullersfinerfurniture.co.uk

www.fullersfinerfurniture.co.uk

Bishop leads crematorium opening service

■ Bishop Alan Hopes led a service to mark the opening of Cam Valley, a new crematorium to serve Uttlesford on September 12, with leading religious and civic leaders attending to lend their support.

The service was joined by Cllr Arthur Coote, the deputy mayor of Saffron Walden as well as representatives from across a range of beliefs and faiths in an act of dedication to the new facility.

Cam Valley Crematorium opened in January and has already held almost 500 funerals from across the region. The crema-

torium is the closest one to Saffron Walden, Royston and Haverhill as well as many parts of South Cambridgeshire.

Richard Evans, managing director of Westerleigh Group, operators of the crematorium, said: "Bereaved families have certainly appreciated the extra space and time that we are able to offer. The crematorium is set in more than 13 acres of grounds and all of the facilities have been designed with space and comfort in mind to ensure that families have everything they need to have an individual private funeral in

a wonderfully natural setting."

The 100-seater chapel offers views across the countryside and has been equipped with a digital media system, which gives access to an infinite choice of music, alongside a traditional organ. The chapel is also able to cater for all religions and beliefs.

Hourly intervals are allowed for each funeral to avoid the congestion that effects other crematoria and ensuring that each service is afforded the dignity that is required.



Picture courtesy of Marinel Veloso Taylor. See more at: www.tribubicolandia.org/galleries

700 attend Peñafrancia celebration

Around 700 devotees attended the eighth annual celebration of Our Lady of Peñafrancia's religious festivities which culminated with a High Mass in the church grounds of St Helen's Catholic Church at Hoveton, Norfolk, on Sunday, September 16.

■ This is the second year in a row that the Mass was held in the church grounds.

Fr John Villarete, SDV, of the Diocese of Birmingham, led the faithful in honouring the Blessed Virgin Mary assisted by Rev Bill Dimelow, a deacon from Our Lady of Saint Walstan's Church in Costessey, Norwich (the home of Our Lady of Peñafrancia).

In his sermon, Fr Villarete exhorted the congregation from across East Anglia and nearby areas, to be one with Mother Mary or "INA". He coined an

acronym from this year's theme INA (Imitate Mary, Now and Always) describing Mary as the model of sterling character, worthy to be imitated.

Furthermore she is the first and best disciple of Jesus Christ by putting God in her life first and foremost.

"Mary gave us Jesus and it is from her that we received Jesus, the one who unlocked for us the gate of Paradise," added Fr Villarete. He urged the devotees to give Mother Mary respect and honour, stating that when someone pay homage to her Jesus feels happy. Moreover, he urged devout Catholics to carry with them Blessed Virgin Mary, now and always.

"She is the star who will guide and protect us from sin and the devil who cause harm. There is no pain and eternal sufferings if one is a true friend of Mary."

The celebration was organised by Tribu Bicolandia, Marian devotees from Norwich whose mission is to continue and spread the devotion to our Lady of Peñafrancia.

For more details about the celebration and the devotion, please visit their website at www.tribubicolandia.org

news in brief

Prisons Week service a first

■ An ecumenical Prisons Week Service was held at St John's Cathedral in Norwich on Sunday October 14 at 3pm.

New Prison Fellowship co-ordinator for Norwich, Joan Macinnes, said: "It was an ecumenical service and is believed to be the first time it has been held at St John's. The service marks the beginning of Prisons Week, an initiative which began in the Catholic Church some 40 years ago and spread to other denominations. It also marks the reforming in Norwich of the Prison Fellowship, whose purpose is to support the local prison in prayer and other works undertaken by Prison Fellowship UK."

The service included contributions from Orthodox priest Fr Paulinus Hegg – the Managing Chaplain at HMP Norwich, its new Governor Declan Moore, its Catholic Chaplain Ursula Edwards and Community Chaplain Susan Carne. www.prisonsworld.org

Evening celebration

■ The feast of Our Lady of Walsingham was celebrated at Our Lady of the Annunciation in King's Lynn where the Pontifical Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in the Holy House is located on September 24, reports Pauline McSherry.

An evening of celebrations began with sung Mass led by Canon Peter Rollings. A parish party was held afterwards in the Wigglesworth Room.

Can you help transform young lives?

Supported Lodgings

- ▶ Do you have a heart for young people?
- ▶ Can you provide a young person in need a room in your home and support?
- ▶ Do you want to receive approx £95 tax free a week?

We are looking for fantastic people to join our Supported Lodging's Providers Team. You can help provide a young person with a safe place to call home and equip them with the skills and confidence to live independently.

You won't be alone in this, YMCA Norfolk will help by providing training and regular support. If you would like to find out more about being part of a team that helps change a vulnerable young person's life for the better please contact;

YMCA Community Housing, 29-34 Anglia Square, Norwich, NR3 1DZ

Email: community.housing@ymcanorfolk.org

Telephone: 01603 662455

www.ymcanorfolk.org



YMCA

YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.

SUPPORT & ADVICE

ACCOMMODATION

FAMILY WORK

HEALTH & WELLBEING

TRAINING & EDUCATION

JOE WALSH TOURS
PILGRIMAGES




Calling all
Group Leaders

ORGANISE YOUR GROUP PILGRIMAGE!

- » Direct flights from various airports in the UK
- » Special incentives for group bookings based on group numbers
- » Free promotional materials to assist your tours
- » Fully bonded & licensed travel operation for your full financial protection

MANCHESTER: 0161 820 8790 | LIVERPOOL: 0151 909 2871
www.joewalshstours.co.uk | info@joewalshstours.co.uk
 Bonded & Licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority in the UK | ABTOT 5332

TRAVEL INSURANCE
arranged for readers of Catholic East Anglia

ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

AVAILABLE TO ANYONE UP TO 85 YEARS OF AGE.
 MOST PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS ACCEPTED

TOP QUALITY COVER
 With a 24 hour helpline and an air ambulance get-you-home service.
 Mention this advert to get a Special Catholic East Anglia discount. Don't forget we can also sell SINGLE-TRIP COVER, with no maximum age limit and up to £20,000 cancellation cover per couple.

CALL FOR DETAILS AND PRICES

FT 0116 272 0500
 Travel Insurance Real people - not machines!
 Authorised and regulated by the FCA

Car Hire
 DELTA
 Maestro

Church Supplies

Also serving schools, businesses and homes...

Stained Glass & Leaded Light windows
 Restoration, Conservation & New Designs



Ashdon, nr Saffron Walden CB10 2LZ
 (01799) 584108
 Icon/PACR Accredited Studio
www.auravisions.co.uk
auravisions@gmail.com

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 contact Charlotte on 01440 730399 or 07932 248225

Bringing good ne

Caritas East Anglia has been launched with a new team and a commitment to support the poor across the Diocese of East Anglia through parish projects and helping individuals in crisis. Administrator Val Clark explains how the St Edmunds Fund and Alive in Faith social outreach funds have been used over the past year.

St Edmunds Fund

■ The old St Edmunds Fund retains its individual identity and accounting but is now subsumed broadly into Caritas East Anglia and deals with emergency grant applications from families or individuals in need but it also considers support for young people wishing to explore a third world project in their gap years or long vacations.

All applications come from either the parish or professionals working with the individuals who endorse them to the parish priest. Over the past year, we have supported essential maintenance for families and individuals facing homelessness or job losses resulting in rent arrears whilst they await the support of statutory agencies.

Other couples have been dealing with the sudden onset of a terminal illness and loss of an income requiring some immediate support whilst they re-order their lives.

We have also funded air fares to Italy when the death of a parent abroad left relatives without the money to travel to a funeral and an overnight hotel accommodation plus train fares for a couple from Hungary who became stranded.

We have become very aware that the trimming of statutory budgets have left people in crisis with no recourse to meet immediate needs for food and warmth and that is both unlikely to change and more likely to escalate.

We normally turn these grant requests around within a week. The usual practice is to agree (or not) within 48 hours and the parish is asked to provide the funds to the recipient where there is urgency, with reimbursement from the St Edmunds Fund.

Several young people have undertaken to work on projects in Ecuador, Africa and Jamaica. All have been raising money for their air fares and maintenance and parishes have also been supportive, but such ventures normally require raising about £2000 which is often beyond both family and parish means.

The Catenians have also offered support for these projects and in the future we will direct young people to such alternative funding streams as well. In a similar vein, we have enabled a young woman with no supportive family to kit herself out to enter army training.

Finally we have supported the Diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage and a small number of individuals who were unable to afford the full cost and for whom the pilgrimage was important at this stage in their lives. Each individual application was validated by their parish priest.



Outreach worker Jo, left, with Nicola and her child.

■ A £10,000 Alive in Faith grant was made to the Reach Community Projects ecumenical, specifically to enable community outreach workers to address issues associated with rural poverty, providing home visits to isolated individuals in need of help with form filling etc.

Reach Projects Director, Henry Wilson, said: "Partly due to the Alive in Faith funding we appointed two advisors cover an area within a 10-12 radius of Haverhill with the aim of tackling rural poverty. Tina covers the South Cambs area and Jo the Suffolk area. There have been some great outcomes for families that we would not have been able to reach two years ago. But we recognise that we are, in effect, only scratching the surface."

■ **Nicola's story:** Outreach advisor Jo has been helping a family with a two-year-old child in a village near Clare. They are both working but have 'zero-hours' contracts and have got behind on rent and council tax.

Fortunately, Jo was able to take a box of food and top up their electric meter with client aid and then set up affordable repayments to try and help this young family through a difficult period in their lives.

They are not 'out of the woods' by any means, but Jo received a text from them recently saying "thank you... that will help us so much and when we're more stable... we can donate and give back and help someone else in financial difficulties."

Alive in Faith

■ The Alive in Faith social outreach stream has made possible two substantial grants of up to £10,000 to enable a parish to carry out a particular social outreach project. Firstly to Haverhill – see the picture story above.

The second grant of £10,000 went to Emmaus which has established a centre in

Ditchingham to assist ex-offenders and recovering addicts with their rehabilitation and future engagement in the work place.

A smaller grant of £2,500 was made available to a Great Yarmouth night shelter for the homeless during the winter months and another smaller grant supported the Social Justice conference held in Norwich in January at which Bishop Alan was a speaker.



Outreach worker Tina

ws to the poor



ina, left, with Michelle.

■ **Michelle's story:** Michelle and her family were referred to Reach by a local youth worker who was concerned about the children being bullied at school due to their poor uniform.

They discovered that Michelle and her husband, who both have disabilities, were sleeping on a mattress on the floor and were struggling financially whilst their DRO's were being processed.

Reach bought new uniforms and school shoes for the children as well as a new bed for the parents. They also worked together with another local charity to help them move to a more suitable bungalow in Sawston and jointly bought them a new hob and cooker for their new home.

The family has been supported with many food boxes and with sorting out their benefits after Michelle was diagnosed with cancer. They have now moved home and have been signposted them to another charity for ongoing support in their new area.

Michelle said: "Thank you so much for everything, you truly don't know how much it means to us all and we wouldn't have been able to get through Christmas without the support we received from Reach."

Caritas East Anglia team

- Interim Chair: Fr David Bagstaff
- Administrator: Val Clark - email: caritas@rcdea.org.uk
- Development Worker: TBA
- Group members: Fr John Warrington, Rev Deacon Tony Felton, Gerald Fox, Stephen Giblin, Peter Godfrey, Christine Knight, Dr David Livesey, Bernard Shaw, Teresa Wiseman.

We are in debt to the poor says Pope Francis

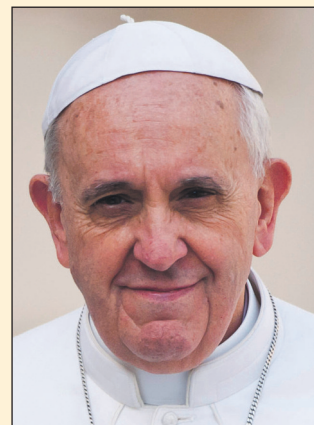
Sunday November 18 is the World Day of the Poor. Here are some extracts from Pope Francis' message for the day.

■ "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him" (Ps 34:6). The words of the Psalmist become our own whenever we are called to encounter the different conditions of suffering and marginalization experienced by so many of our brothers and sisters whom we are accustomed to label generically as "the poor".

The Psalmist is not alien to suffering; quite the contrary. He has a direct experience of poverty and yet transforms it into a song of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. Psalm 34 allows us today, surrounded as we are by many different forms of poverty, to know those who are truly poor. It enables us to open our eyes to them, to hear their cry and to recognize their needs.

We are told, in the first place, that the Lord listens to the poor who cry out to him; he is good to those who seek refuge in him, whose hearts are broken by sadness, loneliness and exclusion. The Lord listens to those who, trampled in their dignity, still find the strength to look up to him for light and comfort. He listens to those persecuted in the name of a false justice, oppressed by policies unworthy of the name, and terrified by violence, yet know that God is their Saviour.

What emerges from this prayer is above all the sense of abandonment and trust in a Father who can hear and understand. Along these same lines, we can better appreciate the meaning of Jesus' words, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 5:3).



This experience, unique and in many ways undeserved and inexpressible, makes us want to share it with others, especially those who, like the Psalmist, are poor, rejected and marginalized. No one should feel excluded from the Father's love, especially in a world that often presents wealth as the highest goal and encourages self-centredness...

On this World Day of the Poor, we are called to make a serious examination of conscience, to see if we are truly capable of hearing the cry of the poor...

The poor do not need intermediaries, but the personal involvement of all those who hear their cry. The concern of believers in their regard cannot be limited to a kind of assistance – as useful and as providential as this may be in the beginning – but requires a "loving attentiveness" (Evangelii Gaudium, 199) that honours the person as such and seeks out his or her best interests...

"Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society. This demands that we be docile and attentive to the cry of the poor and to come to their aid" (Evangelii gaudium, 187)...

On this day, may all of us feel that we are in debt to the poor, because, in hands outstretched to one another, a salvific encounter can take place to strengthen our faith, inspire our charity and enable our hope to advance securely on our path towards the Lord who is to come.

You can read the full message at:

<https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/index.html>

■ Picture of Pope Francis by Marcin Mazur.

Applications for such substantial grants is robust and can take a couple of months. Applications – which must be endorsed by the parish priest – are normally a one-off.

After seed-funding a project, we anticipate that successful projects will become self-supporting.

In the spirit of Pope Francis our actions, and particularly our care for those in need, are our Christian way of living out the gospel in our everyday lives.



DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

Already We hold you in prayer



Living in the heart of London, the Tyburn Benedictine Community has as its special mission, prayer for the people of England and Wales. Our monastery is built on the site of the Tyburn gallows where 105 Catholics were martyred during the reformation. Our life of prayer draws Sisters from many nations.

☐ Please remember my intention/s in prayer.

☐ I would like to help your Mission Foundations. My gift of £_____ is enclosed (payable to Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). Thank you!

☐ Please send me vocations information.

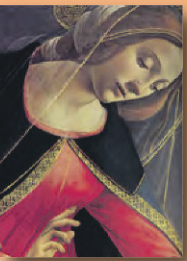
Name:

Address:

..... Please print.

REPLY TO: Mother General, Tyburn Convent, 8 Hyde Park Place, London, W2 2LJ Tel.: 020 7723 7262

Our Lady of Fidelity



The church needs religious sisters URGENTLY to bring Christ to others by a life of prayer and service lived in the community of Ignation spirituality.

Daily Mass is the centre of community

life. By wearing the religious habit we are witnesses to the consecrated way of life. If you are willing to risk a little love and would like to find out how, contact Sister Bernadette.

Late vocations up to the age of 46 welcomed.

**CONVENT OF
OUR LADY OF FIDELITY**
Central Hill, Upper Norwood,
LONDON SE19 1RS
Telephone: 07973 6002563
or Fax: 0208 766 6579
Mobile: 07760 297001
Ministers of Religion



Celebrating our Schools Adverts

These adverts can be used to promote open days, staff vacancies as well as supporting the paper

from only £25

Contact Charlotte by phone 01440 730399 or email charlotter@cathcom.org

Diversity debate is on school agenda

Sixth Formers, parents and staff got together at St John Fisher High School in Peterborough on October 4 to discuss their school experience of diversity.

The event was led by Ian Linden, Visiting Professor at St Mary's University London and Mustafa Field MBE, Director of Faiths Forum, London.

Participants were asked to reflect on what mattered to them in their school life, what they thought other people did not understand about their faith, and what from their interfaith experience of the school might be carried out into the wider context of Peterborough.

Prof Linden said: "There was a unanimous feedback that the diversity, both religious and ethnic of the school, thanks to strong and accommodating management, had been a remarkably positive and important in the students' social and moral formation.

"Students felt safe to be themselves. They enjoyed making friendships with students coming from different cultures and faiths and wanted in the main to repudiate the negative picture of faith they found in the mass media."



Pictured above is the Schools Mass at St John's Cathedral in Norwich



Mass marks start to new school year

Around 700 pupils and teachers from Catholic schools across the Diocese of East Anglia gathered at St John's Cathedral in Norwich on September 21 to mark the start of another school year.

They took part in a Schools Mass, which was celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes, and organised by the schools in the St Benedict's pyramid in West Suffolk. In his homily, Bishop Alan said: "Like St Matthew Jesus calls each one of us, like Matthew he calls us for a purpose and like Matthew we are called to be loyal and faithful to Jesus."

"Jesus expects and wants something from you, Jesus hopes in you. He wants you to make a real difference to the world in which we live. He wants you to offer the best of yourself for the world, then like St Matthew you will become living evangelists – bearers of the good news of Jesus Christ to our world."

Maria Kemble, Executive Head, St Edmund's and St Joseph's Catholic Primary

Schools, who helped to organise the Mass, said: "The Mass was about celebrating the schools in the diocese and coming together in our shared faith to begin the new year and dedicate it to God."

"Being the feast of St Matthew the evangelist, the theme was that the children are our new evangelists taking forth the good news as they grow up as Christians."

"I hope that they will take away from today the three things that the Bishop talked about in his homily. The idea that we are all called to follow God, that we are all called for a particular role that God has for us and that we will be faithful to him throughout our lives."

The schools in the St Benedict's pyramid led the readings, prayers and music under the direction of Daniel Justin, the Diocesan Director of Music.

Afterwards everyone enjoyed a huge picnic in the cathedral gardens and Narthex visitors centre.

See a full picture gallery of the Mass at www.rcdea.org.uk

Celebrating our Schools

St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

West End, Costessey,
Norwich. NR8 5AG
Tel: 01603 - 743317
Fax: 01603 - 743833

Email: office@st-augustines.norfolk.sch.uk
Website: www.st-augustines.norfolk.sch.uk

We try to follow Jesus by loving each other and caring for God's world.

We are holding open days for the September 2019 Reception Class and Nursery intake on:

Tuesday 13th November from 1:30pm to 2:30pm

Wednesday 14th November from 9:30am to 10:30am

We also have a nursery onsite which offers free funded sessions for 3 and 4 year olds including 15 and 30 hours funding for those starting school in September 2020.

If you have any queries please contact the school office on 01603 743317.



ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

PARK LANE, PETERBOROUGH
PE1 5JW

HEADTEACHER

MRS MCELHINNEY

TELEPHONE 01733 566005



Field Lane, King's Lynn,
PE30 4AY
01553 774829

email office@st-marthas.norfolk.sch.uk

Everyone Welcome!

Be the best you can be



Celebrating 60 years



YOUTH MATTERS

Put your faith into action



Raising funds for charity, like these running superheroes from St Mary's School Cambridge, is one way to help achieve a Faith in Action Award.

An exciting new awards scheme is launching this autumn in the Diocese of East Anglia to recognise young people who put their faith into action.

■ The Faith in Action Award scheme is an initiative between The Knights of St Columba and the Diocesan Youth Service.

The Knights were instrumental in starting the scheme nationally three years ago, and continue to be involved with now running it here in East Anglia

"Since it started, the award has been extensively developed by CYMFed (Catholic Youth Ministry Federation) and has been designed to celebrate, affirm and encourage young people's involvement in

the life of the Church," said Hamish MacQueen, Director of Diocesan Youth Service.

"There are four different levels of award – Pin, Bronze, Silver and Gold which require young people to show various levels of involvement, service, leadership and innovation. At all levels, part of qualifying for an award involves reflecting on their experiences in the light of the Gospel.

"It may be that if you are a young person (age 10 – 18) already helping at Mass, raising money for charity or serving the church or community in some way, you are already well on your way to qualifying for an award.

"Once a number of people have qualified for an award, we will have a celebration presentation event for the

whole diocese with the awards hopefully being presented by Bishop Alan," said Hamish.

"Having worked in education for many years and seen the benefits, I believe this would be an excellent addition to any young Catholic's education experience," said Bill O'Neill, Provincial Grand Knight. "I am really happy with Knights of St Columba's involvement in this project."

If you would like more general information on the Faith in Action Award Scheme, please see www.cymfed.org.uk. If you would like to be part of the scheme here in East Anglia, ask your parish or school if they are planning to run it.

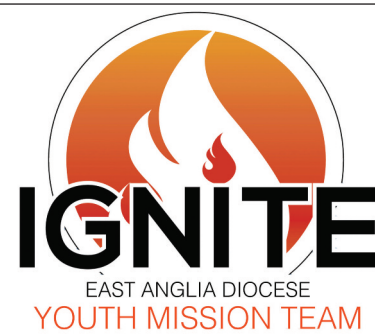
If they are not, get in touch with Knights Youth Officer, Jason Wickard Jasonwickard@hotmail.com



Sr Michaela leads school in line dancing

■ Every Monday morning Sacred Heart School pupils in Swaffham begin their day with music-making, led by music teacher Charlie Williams. For two music-makers sessions, she has led almost the entire school in a line dance routine (to the infamous Achy Breaky Heart!). This has been jolly good fun for all, but more importantly

called upon the students' ability to coordinate their bodies and move in time. This test serves their brains well, some find it easy, some truly do not and repeating these steps together reinforces our community spirit. The staff and the Sisters are encouraged to join in and Sister Michaela is a great role model as she always leads from the front.



Diary dates 2018-2019

■ **November 4:** East Anglia Diocesan Synod on Young People, Faith and Discernment, Norwich.

■ **November 24:** 'Glow' Retreat Day for all those of secondary school age, (venue to be confirmed).

■ **January 5 – 7:** Ignite Lite Weekend (venue to be confirmed).

■ **January 6:** Epiphany Candlelight Mass, Poringland.

■ **January 21– 29:** World Youth Day in Panama.

■ **May 4 – 6:** Ignite Diocesan Youth Festival, Swaffham.

■ **May 6:** Pilgrimage Walk to Walsingham.

■ **June 1 – 2:** Celebrate East Anglia Family Conference, Bury St. Edmunds.

■ **July 29 – August 2:** New Dawn Family Conference, Walsingham.

■ **August 22 – 26:** Youth 2000 Prayer Festival, Walsingham.

■ **August 23 – 30:** Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

■ **August 23 – 26:** Summer Camp for those age 8 – 14, Bury St Edmunds.

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/

When Larry hit a crisis, SVP in Norfolk was able to help

When the police found Larry standing on Cromer Pier preparing to throw himself into the sea, it was the St Vincent de Paul Society in Norfolk which stepped in to provide friendship and somewhere for him to live. Anita Boniface from SVP reports.

■ When the police found Larry they called an ambulance. When they asked him if there was anyone they should telephone to ask for help, he said no; the last place that he had called home was a hundred miles away, he had been sleeping rough for months, and he had lost all contact with family and friends.

One of the paramedics suggested calling Catholic charity SVP, which responded by offering Larry a listening ear and finding somewhere for him to stay until he could sort himself out.

People find themselves suddenly homeless for all sorts of reasons, including illness, family breakdown, unmanageable



debts, and domestic violence. When the North Norfolk SVP came across others sleeping rough, sofa-surfing or living in cars or tents, it helped them connect with the services and benefits to which they were entitled.

Then another Christian charity offered the

SVP temporary use of a house, and the parish of Our Lady and St Joseph provided Alive in Faith funding to employ a manager, who worked with the local authority to provide additional short-term emergency accommodation for the temporarily homeless.

In 2017, the project housed, cared for and helped find permanent accommodation for 11 families, 17 single adults and one couple. SVP Conference president Michael McMahon says that the project provides more than just a roof over people's heads. He describes the house as a hub of friendship and moral support.

"We look after our residents in the same spirit that SVP members care for the people they visit," he says. "We share their journey. We signpost them to the appropriate agencies, help them find the funds to move to permanent accommodation, and help them get furniture and carpets when they do."

The licence to use the house expired in April of this year, so the SVP plans to purchase a house of its own to continue its work. If you would like to help people like Larry, you can help the society purchase, adapt, furnish and equip a house by contacting Rachael Crooks (0207 703 3030, RachaelC@svp.org.uk) or sending a cheque made payable to SVP England and Wales, with 'House East Anglia' written on the back, to St Vincent de Paul Society, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 7JB.

Historic chalice returned from USA

A 400-year-old chalice has been returned to the Catholic Church at Bury St Edmunds after being in the USA since the end of the Second World War, reports John Saunders.

■ The chalice bears a remarkable history that highlights the friendship and gratitude of priests from St Edmund's Church in the town towards an American chaplain, Major Joseph (Joe) N Collins who was based at Rougham Airfield during the war.

Whilst at Rougham, Fr Joe was respon-

sible for ministering to those based there, a role that coped with every aspect of war, bereavement and particularly the problems facing the young American servicemen. On leaving Rougham in 1945, he was presented with the gift of a Flemish/Spanish chalice dating back to around 1600 and a paten (plate) by Frs Lockyer and Throckmorton in gratitude for what he had done whilst chaplain.

On his death in 1984, the items passed to his nephew Bill Christie who decided it would have been Fr Joe's wish for them to eventually return to Bury St Edmunds. The ideal opportunity came at the end of a cruise and Bill and his wife Maryann stopped off in England. On September 17 they met Fr Alvan Ibeh and members of the parish at St Edmund's Church and, after reading the 1945 letter which accompanied the donation to his uncle, he handed over the chalice and paten.

Their adventure continued with a visit to Rougham Airfield arranged by Clifford Fullam, the Tower Manager and Education Officer, where Bill and Maryann were able to see the now disused hut which served as a chapel before continuing to view the excellent museum within the control tower.

Whilst at the airfield they were introduced to Terry Pettitt, a parishioner of St Edmund's. Now in his eighties, he recalled how as a child he was indebted to the Americans for their kindness at times when many locals were suffering extreme poverty. Terry still possesses a prayer book that was given to him during the time of Fr Joe's tenure at Rougham.

Their tours also included a viewing of the chapel and church where they marvelled at the beauty of the interior. After lunch they accompanied John Saunders, Chairman of the Church History Group,



The chalice is presented by Bill and Maryann Christie, right to Fr Alvan Ibeh, watched by John Saunders.

on a personal mini-tour of the town where he explained places having a special connection with the United States, including the Angel Hill/Athenaeum, the Abbey Gardens, the world's first internet bench, the John Tate Appleby Rose Garden and Cenotaph, Magna Carta, Gosnold's plaque at the Charnel House and the interior of the cathedral.

Bill said: "Fr Joe would be looking down on us today smiling with satisfaction as we tread in his footsteps."

Canon Mark Hackeson had been absent from the occasion which coincided with a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, but upon his return he said: "On behalf of the Parish, and indeed our Bishop I would like once again to thank Bill and Maryann for their kind donation of this historic chalice. It will be used on special days, such as the Solemnity of St Edmund of East Anglia, our parish patron who was once the patron saint of all England."

The chalice and paten have been safely deposited pending further research but arrangements are currently being made for them to be exhibited at the Church and details will be announced in the future.



Advertisement for Director of Heritage Centre Nottingham, England

Overall purpose: Management and development of Heritage Centre

The Little Company of Mary (LCM) is an International Congregation of Religious women, founded by the Venerable Mary Potter in Nottingham, England in 1877. We invite applications for a Director for the Heritage Centre in Nottingham. The role is required to ensure the provision of a unique, innovative and interactive service that honours the legacy of Mary Potter and the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary. The centre opened in 2010, is home to the artefacts of the LCM and provides an interactive experience journeying with the Founder, Venerable Mary Potter. The centre depicts the life and spirituality of the founder as she began the LCM in Hyson Green, Nottingham and how the story continues to the present day. It provides space for individuals, local and international groups to meet with guides and avail of the experience.

The successful applicant will:

- Promote the life and vision of Mary Potter and the Mission and Spirituality of the LCM by working on projects and programmes that will assist the LCM to further develop the Centre.
- Be accountable for the day to day operations of the Heritage Centre and work with LCM Sisters on future programmes and opportunities.
- Ensure effective and efficient operation of the Heritage Centre, is responsible for the overall monitoring of planned maintenance, staff and resources inclusive of budgeting.
- Further develop the Heritage Centre by means of networking and promoting the Heritage Centre locally and internationally.

Hours of employment: 35-37.5 hours per week with flexibility.

Salary Package: Commensurate with experience

Method of application: Initial enquires to the Province Leader to request a Position Description via e-mail at lcm.ef@btinternet.com or via the website at www.lcmsisters.org.uk

Applications close: 17 December 2018 at 5.00 pm

Interviews: Week commencing Monday 28 January 2019

BUILDING BRIDGES

Silent auction for quilt to help CAFOD

■ A group of parishioners from St George's parish in Norwich who have raised over £100,000 for the international development charity CAFOD over the last 30 years have just launched their latest fundraising drive – the silent auction of a beautiful handcrafted quilt.

The idea for the quilt came about when the group were left an array of crafting materials after one of member of the group's relative passed away. Feeling inspired, two members, Gill Bannon and Gloria Irons, decided to create a rich purple quilt to sell in order to raise even more money for CAFOD.

Gloria said: "It has been made with love, so we hope that the silent auction will be a success."

The size is 140cm x 152cm and it lies on top of a double bed, or drapes over a single bed.

To make a bid for the quilt, please email your offer to ecastanglia@cafod.org.uk

Pictured right are Gill Bannon and Gloria Irons with the quilt that is up for auction.



Peter finds different culture in Philippines

As part of formation at the Venerable English College, seminarians are encouraged to pursue pastoral experience in a radically different culture, and when his time came, Peter Wygnanski from Cambridge immediately thought of the Diocese of Malolos, Philippines.

■ Once, when observing a conference at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, I was deeply impressed by a talk which presented various projects of aid and economic development which the Diocese of Malolos undertakes. I was delighted then, when the delegate from Malolos I met at the conference, now a dear friend, replied to say that I would be very welcome to visit.

The city of Malolos is the capital of the province of Bulacan, to the north of Manila, and the diocesan statistics are simply astonishing. There is a Catholic population of 3.6 million, many of whom live below the poverty line, but only 108 parishes and 200 priests.

One parish I visited had 90,000 parishioners, nearly two thirds of the Catholic population of East Anglia, but only two priests. My three weeks were spent visiting several projects, however my base was the Jubilee Sheltering Programme, a complex of housing for nearly 1,000 climate change refugees.

These were families whose traditional land had become uninhabitable due to rising sea levels and more frequent



Peter Wygnanski with some young people in Malolos in the Philippines.

and severe weather events, but did not have the financial resources to relocate. The welcome I received from the residents, the poorest of the poor, was simply humbling, and the ease I felt so far from home is a testament to their hospitality and generosity. Truly no one is so poor they have nothing to give and no one is so blessed they have nothing to receive.

My time in the Philippines ended with an overnight visit to a remote parish in an impoverished fishing community, reachable only by a 30-minute boat journey. The island and the surrounding area will be long remembered

as some of the most beautiful scenery I have ever seen. But I can think of no better image, than the juxtaposition of a community struggling to survive in the shadow of high-rise buildings just across the bay in Manila, for the economic inequality that goes unchecked around the world.

An exemplary project run by the Diocese purchased fish from the poorest independent fisherman at an honest price, which was then processed and bottled for sale by residents of the Jubilee Sheltering Programme, thus providing people in two communities with the dignity of a living wage.

In my view, this is precisely the sort of activity Pope Francis calls us to in his encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium*, the opposite to the "economy of exclusion", and striving to end poverty and sharing of prosperity.

Catholic Social Teaching calls us to a holistic solidarity that embraces all peoples and that integrates the economic, social, and environmental challenges facing humanity.

I will be ever grateful for my experiences in the Philippines, and the lessons learnt which might inform and inspire my own, God-willing, future priestly ministry in East Anglia in this light.

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



■ The Ipswich 'Blessed John Duns Scotus' Secular Franciscan Fraternity were pleased to host the East Anglian Secular Franciscan Regional Day of Recollection. It was held at St Mary's Church and Hall, Ipswich, on Saturday September 29 – the Feast of Ss Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Archangels, reports regional secretary David Gleave.

They had the great joy of celebrating the Rite of Profession for Brenda Teresa Corker offs during a Mass celebrated by Fr Dónal Walsh OFM, National Spiritual Assistant, assisted by Deacon Clive Brooks offs, a member of the Ipswich 'Blessed John Duns Scotus' Fraternity.

During the Mass, the St Mary's Music Group played a selection of uplifting hymns. Fr Dónal gave inspiring talks both in the morning and the afternoon, drawing on his experience as a friar and a hospital chaplain at Ipswich and Glasgow Hospitals. Secular Franciscans from across East Anglia, parishioners from Brenda's St Thomas of Canterbury Parish, Woodbridge, and St Mary's Parish, Ipswich, attended the Day and witnessed Brenda's profession.

Pictured left are Brenda, Fr Dónal and members of the Ipswich 'Blessed John Duns Scotus' Fraternity.



■ Pictured above is a moving display of hundreds of knitted poppies, falling from the sky, in the Memorial Chapel in St John's Cathedral in Norwich, part of its Heritage Open Days displays over two weekends in September.

An exhibition also featured the stories of both military and civilians from the ordinary ranks of society who served, and still serve, from 1914 to the present day.

Organiser, Deacon Pat Limacher, himself a former military engineer, invited a number of military veterans to attend and to tell their own stories.



■ The Sawtry Light Factory children's holiday club took place in Sawtry, Cambridgeshire, again this summer. The leaders are volunteers from Saint Benedict's RC community, Sawtry Methodist Church and All Saints Anglican Church.

The club has been running for 18 years and many of the young leaders originally attended themselves when they were at school. Children of school age up to the age of 14 are welcome and are divided into age groups where they take part in Bible stories and scripture-led activities in the mornings with games and craft activities in the afternoons. It runs for a week and culminates in an ecumenical family service in the Methodist church on the following Sunday. Pictured above are some of the Light Factory team.



■ Octogenarian cyclists Paula and Michael Hughes visited 50 churches in one day on their tandem to raise funds for their home church of Our Lady & St Walstan's, Costessey, and the Norfolk Churches Trust.

The annual Trust fundraising event took place on Saturday September 8. The veteran cyclists have taken part in the event for the last three years, visiting 34, 42 and now 50 churches.



■ A coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Appeal has been held at St John's Cathedral in Norwich. Staff of the Narthex Garden Cafe and members of the Mothers Prayer Group (pictured above) helped to raise £267 for the charity, reports Cecilia McKenna.