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Joy to be at National Eucharistic Congress



Adoremus finished with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament, led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, through the streets of Liverpool, ending at the Metropolitan cathedral. Picture by Marcin Mazur.

Around 50 people from the Diocese of East Anglia joined 10,000 others at the recent Adoremus National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool. New Ignite team member Mary Desbruslais was among them.

■ It was such a joy to be a part of the Eucharistic Congress, held to celebrate the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Church, and to spend the weekend with so many Catholics who want greater intimacy with God.

This was my first experience of Liverpool and of the Eucharistic Congress and I was extremely excited to find out about what the Catholic Church wanted to teach us at this particular event which focuses wholeheartedly on the Eucharist.

I really loved the way Bishop Robert Barron described the Mass – as going to see a friend. The first thing you do when you come into the home of a friend is that you sit and talk with them. This is the dialogue where we listen to the Word of God in the readings and respond with our prayers. The next thing you do is eat what they have cooked for you. This is where the Eucharist makes its significant transformative effect on us – from the inside.

The Word and the Body are so necessary. Close, intimate friendships often begin and are maintained in this way, and so is our faith.

There were about 50 people from our diocese at the event, including many familiar faces from parishes around East Anglia, including Norwich, North Walsham and St Ives, along with Bishop Alan.

Some of the religious from our diocese came, including the Daughters of Divine Charity from Swaffham. The sisters of the Community of our Lady of Walsingham brought the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham from the Slipper Chapel to lead the procession of the Eucharist through the streets of Liverpool.

There were also many young people that I recognised from London, where I am from, and there was so much unity between different parish groups – always a pivotal inspiration.

I thoroughly embraced the concept presented by Bishop Barron that play is the most serious thing in life and, like Mary who sat at Jesus' feet while Martha cooked, wasting time with God and adoring Him is one of the greatest acts of living.

Mass itself is meant to be the place where heaven meets earth, and only those who are like little children may enter...

What a joy our faith is! I will carry this beautiful experience of the love of God as I work as part of the Ignite team to share the Gospel with the young people of East Anglia over the next year.

Archbishop Justin to visit cathedral

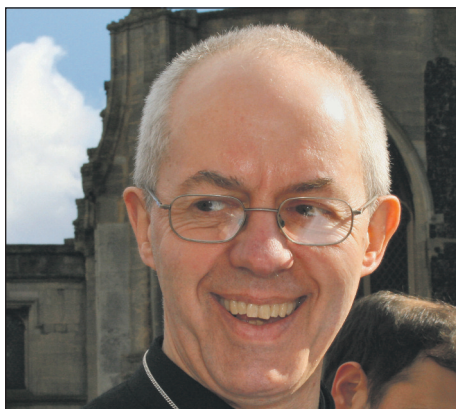
The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Justin Welby, is to take part in an historic short ecumenical service at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich on November 7 at the start of a three-day visit to Norfolk, reports Keith Morris.

■ It is believed to be the first time the leader of the Church of England and symbolic head of the worldwide Anglican Communion will have spoken at the Catholic Cathedral in Norwich.

The visit, from November 7-9, is just a few days away from the 100th anniversary of the ending of World War One and this, combined with the Archbishop's passion for reconciliation, has contributed strongly to the shaping of his programme which will take him across the Anglican Diocese of Norwich.

Archbishop Justin will start his visit at St John's Cathedral with a short ecumenical act of worship. Everyone is welcome to attend the service will start at 12 noon.

Bishop Alan Hopes will welcome the



Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby.

Archbishop, the County Ecumenical Officer Catherine Howe will read from John 17 and Archbishop Justin will give a brief reflection.

The Bishop of Norwich's chaplain, Rev Susanna Gunner, said: "At the start of the Archbishop's visit we wanted to give the opportunity for all Christian denominations to come together in an act of unity and reconciliation, the perfect launch pad for his travels around our region."

The subject of reconciliation will be

explored further from 5.30pm at Norwich's Anglican Cathedral starting with Evensong.

From 6.30pm attendees will be able to spend time moving around some specially devised Stations of Reconciliation and at 7.15pm, Bishop Graham James will chair 'Reflections on Reconciliation'.

This will include opening contributions from Bishop Alan, Lutheran Pastor Rolf Stahl from Koblenz, Norwich's German twin-town; Dr Marian Prinsley, President of the Norwich Hebrew Congregation; and Dee Robinson Project Coordinator for New Routes which has welcomed refugee and asylum-seekers to Norwich. They will each speak briefly about reconciliation in their particular contexts.

In response, Archbishop Justin will make his own presentation before leading into a time of gathered silence, prayer and reflection. There will then be more time for people to make their pilgrimage around the Stations of Reconciliation before Compline brings the evening to a close at 9.15pm. Everyone is welcome to attend for all or part of the evening.

news in brief

Day with Mary

■ A Day With Mary is to be run at St Felix Parish Church in Felixstowe on Saturday October 20 from 10am.

It will include the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, Mass, a bring and share lunch, Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament, talk about Our Lady, the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary and the Divine Mercy

There is no cost and no need to book. Further details are available from Philip Hills at philhills57@me.com. The church is on Gainsborough Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7HT.

Silver salver given

■ At the July meeting of Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association held at the Maids Head Hotel, the Circle treasurer Francis Harmer was presented by its president Tony Baker with the Donny Strivens silver salver.

The salver was donated to the Circle by the late member Donny Strivens and was designed to encourage the Brothers of the Norwich Circle to pay visits to other Circle throughout the world. During the past year Francis led the field in making such visits.

Top 10 for website

■ The Diocese of East Anglia website at www.rcdea.org.uk has once again been named among the Top 10 UK Catholic Blogs on the internet. It shares the honour with the Catholic Herald, Catholic Universe, the Catholic Church for England & Wales and the Diocese of Westminster Youth Ministry. Feedspot says sites are ranked on Google reputation and search rankings, popularity on social media and quality and consistency of posts.

Dinner highlight

■ The highlight of the July meeting of Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association's July meeting held at the Maids Head Hotel was a fascinating after-dinner speech by Daniel Justin, Director of Music for the Diocese of East Anglia who outlined his career to date.

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 of Monday October 8.

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Sister Clara - a CAFOD volunteer from Zambia - walks among 400 pairs of shoes from supporters, migrants and refugees from around the world outside Westminster Cathedral.



■ A man from Woodbridge who has walked as part of a global campaign to stand in solidarity with refugees has donated his shoes to a public installation curated by the international development charity CAFOD.

Myles Smith, from St Thomas of Canterbury Parish, got involved in the around the world challenge as part of the Share the Journey campaign. Initially, the target was for CAFOD supporters to walk once around the world - 24,900 miles.

Since the launch of the campaign action earlier this year, more than 100,000 miles have been walked by people like Myles.

Myles's shoes sat alongside 400 others sent in from people across England and Wales, refugees in Calais, MPs and

international CAFOD staff, in a path leading to the Piazza of Westminster Cathedral signifying the importance of bridging the needs of compassion and dignity to refugees.

The Share the Journey campaign was launched by Pope Francis in September 2017 and is being championed by Catholic charities such as CAFOD. The campaign calls upon the Prime Minister to ensure the UK takes a prominent lead at a UN assembly in New York, where world leaders will reach two new agreements on protecting refugees and migrants.

CAFOD supporter Myles said: "The group naturally became spread out during the walk and we reflected at the time that this is what must happen to refugees as they travel from place to

place. Fortunately, the prayer stops kept bringing us back together and everyone enjoyed the walk."

CAFOD's East Anglia rep, Jane Crone, added: "People from across the country have really united in support of the Share the Journey campaign. To have Myles's shoes sitting alongside so many others was extremely poignant and shows just how widespread the support of this campaign has been.

"Share the Journey will deliver a powerful message to world leaders that we want new global agreements that ensure refugees and migrants can live fairly and with dignity."

Find out how you can join the campaign at cafod.org.uk/sharethejourney. CAFOD Harvest fast day and appeal is on Friday October 5.

Ministry for duo

Two Diocese of East Anglia candidates took an important step toward becoming permanent deacons on September 3 when the Ministry of Reader (Lector) was conferred on them by Bishop Alan Hopes during a Mass at St John's Cathedral in Norwich.

■ Jacob Cheriyan and Joseph Prameel are both originally from Kerala in India and are now living in Peterborough.

Jacob has served at St Peter's in Gorleston for the past 14 years, the last seven as a catechist, and with his family has recently moved to Sacred Heart and St Oswald in Peterborough.

He is married to wife Rosily Ouseph, who is a nurse at Peterborough City Hospital, and they have three children, two of whom are also nurses.

Joseph has been a Catholic lay chaplain at HMP Littlehey near Peterborough for the past four years.

He is married to Bigi George who is a nurse at Peterborough City Hospital and they have three young



Pictured above are Jacob Cheriyan and Joseph Prameel with Bishop Alan after the conferral Mass.

sons who are all at school or nursery. They are parishioners at St Luke's in Peterborough.

During the conferral Mass, Bishop Alan listed the responsibilities that Blessed Pope Paul said are to be taken on with the ministry: "you will proclaim the readings from the sacred scripture, except

the Gospel, lead the general intercessions, instruct the people in their faith, direct the singing, help people to participate fully in the liturgy and prepare those who will read the scriptures in the liturgy.

"Finally, you are to meditate assiduously on sacred scripture and make every effort

and employ suitable means to acquire that increasingly warm and living love and knowledge of scripture that will make you a more perfect disciple of the Lord."

Jacob and Joseph are now at the end of the first year of a three-year process in becoming permanent deacons in the church.

Mass celebrated at historic Oxburgh Hall

■ Bishop Alan Hopes celebrated Mass in the Chapel at Oxburgh Hall on Saturday September 1 for parishioners from Norwich.

The annual event has gone back to the 1970s, organised by the Norwich Branch of the Walsingham Association but is open to all. The Chapel organ was played by Justin Daniel, the Director of Diocesan Music, which was a wonderful addition to the Mass this year.

The Mass was attended by Sir Henry and Lady Mary Bedingfeld who own and maintain the Chapel.

Oxburgh Hall and estate was in the Bedingfeld family from 1482 to 1952 when it was given to The National Trust to ensure its future, though the family continue to reside there.

All generations have remained true to the Catholic faith, starting with Sir Henry who refused to sign the Act of Uniformity in 1559.



Howard Rochford said: "We can all be encouraged in standing up for our faith today by reading about the Bedingfeld family and their stand, not knowing the consequences for their lives and fortune."

"It is very important that

the Chapel continues to be used and other parishes are encouraged to celebrate an annual Mass there and experience the blessings and spiritual benefits that such a pilgrimage will bring to the participants."

The Norwich group stayed

for the day, having picnics in the grounds or lunch in the NT cafe, visiting the Hall or walking round the estate.

Bishop Brian Dunne of Nova Scotia and a visiting priest from the Diocese of Newfoundland also joined the group.



The Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage with Bishop Alan at the reception of flags, above, and at the site of Walsingham Abbey, left.

World-wide church

Around 3,000 pilgrims, representing the world-wide Catholic Church, gathered at the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham on Sunday September 16 for the annual Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage. Keith Morris reports.

■ Led by Bishop Alan Hopes, the day of pilgrimage began with a colourful parading and reception of national flags and banners including from the Philippines, Vietnam, Benin, Lithuania, England, China, Sri Lanka, India, Trinidad, Ethiopia, Congo, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Eritrea and Ghana. The many national groups said the Hail Mary in their native languages as their flag was paraded.

In his welcome, Bishop Alan said: "It is

wonderful to welcome so many different countries and chaplaincies from across the country and also especially today, the Order of Malta. We offer our Mass for the conversion of our country. We pray for Pope Francis and the unity of the Catholic Church across the world. Please pray for the church in these very difficult and challenging times."

The Rector of Walsingham, Mgr John Armitage, gave the homily and spoke about Mary as the picture of humility.

"Humility is both the heart and the way of the Christian message. What we have is a gift and the gift is God himself. We are loved regardless and humbled by God's forgiveness," said Mgr Armitage.

"In the face of a deeply individualistic culture, people of faith offer community."

"In our communities we value people not for what they earn or what they buy or how they vote but for what they are. Every one of them is a fragment of the

divine presence.

"We believe that life is sacred and holy and each of us is lifted by the knowledge that we are part of something greater than ourselves."

A solemn Mass of Our Lady was then celebrated by Bishop Alan in the open air Chapel of Reconciliation.

After picnic lunches, pilgrims processed, many singing and dancing, along the Holy Mile between the Catholic Shrine and Walsingham Abbey where the bishops conducted a Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and said prayers at the original shrine site in the Abbey grounds.

The pilgrimage is named after the 14th century convention of England being known as the "Dowry of Mary" and is the principal pilgrimage in honour of Mary.

■ See a full picture gallery at www.rcdea.org.uk

news in brief



Adelaida Simon with John Nolan.

Operation thanks

■ Young Tanzanian health care worker Adelaida Simon, who had a successful operation in Norwich to restore the use of both of her legs, has expressed her profound thanks to those who contributed to the cost of the treatment.

Collections and fund-raising centred on St John's Cathedral in Norwich where orthopaedic surgeon John Nolan, who led the operation carried out by a team of volunteers at the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital, is a parishioner.

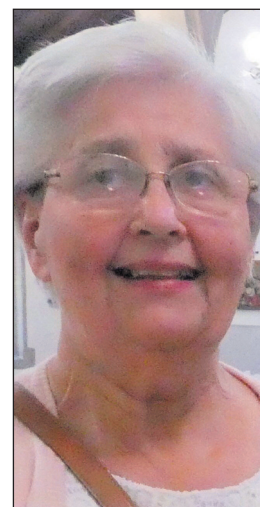
John said that several hundred people made contributions and there were collections after two separate Masses at the cathedral and £15,000 was raised in total.

Adelaida said: "I still don't have the right words to express what I feel. Thank you so much to Mr John's family and all people who support and praying for my operations and now I'm doing great, I appreciated it very much. May the Lord give to you more blessing - I love you all."

Margaret's medal

■ Fr Tony Shryane has presented a Bishop's Medal to Margaret Gibbs (right).

The medal was presented in gratitude for Margaret's many years working as a catechist in the parish of St Etheldreda's in Ely.



Stella Maris Mass

■ Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) East Anglia Port Chaplain Patricia Ezra and her team of ship visitors in the Diocese support the faith and spiritual needs of seafarers arriving at the ports of Felixstowe, Ipswich and King's Lynn.

The work will be celebrated at a Stella Maris Mass on Monday October 1, at 7pm, at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich, with Bishop Alan Hopes as celebrant. All are welcome.

NEW EVANGELISATION



A challenging question

On Home Mission Sunday in mid September, we were invited to think about how we'd answer Jesus' question, 'Who do you say I am?' For some, the most challenging element of this question is whether we talk about him at all, says Rebecca Bretherton.

■ Recent research by talkingjesus.org identifies that one in five non-Christians are open to a conversation about Jesus. We may be missing opportunities in our family and among friends and colleagues because we just don't know what to say.

Since our impressions of Jesus can either help or hinder our desire to talk about him, consider your response to the question Jesus asks his disciples in the Gospel "Who do you say I am?"

A prayerful response would be to re-read the gospel for Sunday September 16 (Mark 8:27-35) and imagine yourself with the disciples. Gently allow your response to come to the surface.

What can I do?

The diocesan event Sharing Hope in Crisis on Saturday November 3 will be an opportunity to explore the practicalities of sharing our faith in Jesus Christ and his message. Have a look at the details on this page, below, and register online.

You may belong to an established evangelisation team in your parish or now could be the time to suggest that your parish considers the Creating Missionary Parishes programme being used by other parishes in East Anglia.

Time to start preparing for a journey



Pictured are Sr Monica Reeves (holding statue) and Sr Dorothy Creighton, both Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in March, with a Posada statue.

■ It's time to start preparing for your parish Advent Posada Journey. The first task is to find the statue!

Posters and other resources will be available in October and parish sign-ups in November.

Posada is a Mexican tradition. A young couple from the parish are selected to dress up as Mary and Joseph and then spend the days of Advent travelling from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling their hosts about the imminent arrival of Jesus at Christmas. Modern day 'Posada' uses a statue of Mary and Joseph and the donkey instead of a young couple to travel from home to home.

Posada provides an opportunity for hospitality and a sharing of our Christian faith with family and friends. By hosting the statue we can join this simple but effective form of evangelisation.

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Proclaiming the Gospel

The Proclaim group from St Ives parish have been door-to-door visiting in the village of Knapwell, led by Fr Karol Porczak. Here is how they got on.

■ WILHELMINA

After some hesitation at first, I wanted to share a clear message with the people I met: "Your village is the part of our Parish, we pray for you, Jesus loves you". The rest was left for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

I felt strong support of prayer going on in the church at the same time and big joy in my heart for doing this small bit for the Lord.

■ JACKIE

This was our first evangelisation mission as "proclaimers"! In twos we were welcomed particularly by an Anglican couple, whose initial guard came down once we introduced ourselves. Everyone was pleased to receive our calling card and promise of prayers. No need for dust to be shaken from sandals.

■ JEFF

I had a glimpse of what the apostles might have experienced when Jesus sent



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

them out in pairs on an evangelisation mission. At first I was anxious about the reception we would get from each family that we visited, however this soon melted away following the positive encounter we had with Charlie's family who told us that they were Catholics and that Charlie was actually baptised at Sacred Heart in St Ives. I felt a profound sense of joy after the day's visits and will definitely participate in future visits.

■ ELIZABETH

With great apprehension I joined the small band to visit

houses and tell villagers that we were from Sacred Heart Parish and prayed for them every month. We met with mixed receptions: 'I am an atheist; I am a lapsed Catholic; religion doesn't interest me.' We had the opportunity to say that God loves each one of us, ask if any help could be given and offered our prayer card and promise of prayer. I had feelings of satisfaction and joy at attempting to spread the Gospel message, I will be with the next happy band of proclaimers.

Joyful joint celebration of St Dominic

■ The Catholic St Dominic's and Anglican St Edmund's parishes in Downham Market in West Norfolk joined together in a joyful celebration of the life and service of St Dominic on his feast day, August 12.

St Dominic's invited St Edmund's to share

the celebration of their patronal feast and St Edmund's then welcomed St Dominic's to celebrate an afternoon Catholic Mass at their parish church where Fr Erico de Mello Falcao delivered the homily.

The choirs, from each parish, combined

together under the directorship of Oliver Rudland.

Following the Mass, those in attendance took part in a procession to St Dominic's to celebrate the Anglican Evensong. The day was then completed with a garden party.



Pictured left is Bishop Alan with the COLW sisters and, below, the family day at the Dereham convent.

New convent blessed

The country's newest convent – a converted barn near Dereham in Norfolk – has held a first Mass, a family day and been blessed by Bishop Alan Hopes. Sr Theresa reports.

■ The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham (COLW), the newest religious community in Britain, hosted its second family day at its new convent, House of Divine Will, on Tuesday September 4.

These days are intended to support families who are home-schooling and other lay people who would also like to find out more about the COLW charism.

The afternoon started with Mass in the barn – the first Mass celebrated there – on an altar donated by the Missionary Franciscan Sisters who recently closed their house in Clacton, Essex. All then enjoyed a picnic lunch in the grounds.

Then COLW sisters, assisted by the Ignite mission team, looked after the 40 or so children who were present, whilst Sr Camilla gave a talk to the parents about the spirituality of Walsingham.

The following day, Bishop Alan came to bless the House of the Divine Will – the first convent acquired by COLW. Thanks to the generosity of many benefactors, the sisters, who also run Dowry House Retreat in Walsingham, now have a base in which to grow and expand.

Bishop Alan celebrated Mass in the community chapel which overlooks the beautiful moors. In his homily he spoke of the example Jesus gave us in how to cope with the demands and stresses of life and ministry – that he would go and

find a lonely place to pray, to be alone with his Father.

This relationship was the source of his energy to respond to the needs of the people who came to him.

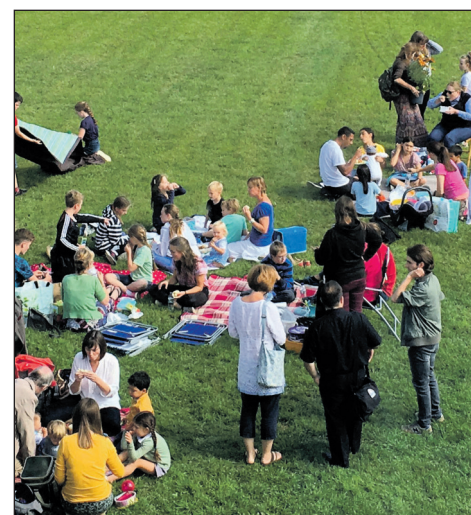
The sisters certainly find that time in their new convent recharges their spiritual batteries so they can continue to serve well all those they meet, especially in their work at Walsingham.

After Mass, Bishop Alan walked throughout the house blessing each area with holy water. He then joined the sisters for a delicious lunch, courtesy of Sr Gabi.

The Sisters' work at Walsingham includes hosting a series of retreats on the Spirituality of Walsingham which focus on helping people to accept, surrender to, fulfil and live in the Will of God as Mary did.

Anyone interested in the 2019 dates for these retreats can find out more by looking on the events page of the Dowry House website:

www.dowryhouse.org.uk/events



news in brief

Priests moving to new parishes

■ A number of priests across the Diocese of East Anglia have moved to new parishes and roles over the summer. The new roles are:

Fr Pat Cleary is Parish Priest of Our Lady and St Thomas, Wymondham.

Canon Simon Blakesley is Parish Priest of St Laurence, Cambridge.

Fr Michael Ryan is Parish Priest of Our Lady of Good Counsel and St Peter, March.

Fr Christopher Smith is Parish Priest of Our Lady Immaculate and St Etheldreda, Newmarket.

Fr Luke Goymour is Parish Priest of St Thomas of Canterbury Brandon with St John the Evangelist, Mildenhall. Fr Luke also continues as Chaplain to the Ignite youth ministry in the Diocese.

Fr Peter Raj is Parish Priest of St Mark's Ipswich with Holy Family Brantham.

Fr Jaylord Magpuyo is Assistant Priest of St Edmund, Bury St Edmund's.

Fr Andrew Eburne is Assistant Priest of St John the Baptist Cathedral and continues as Chaplain to the University of East Anglia.

Fr Alvan Ibeh is Assistant Priest to St Mary's Great Yarmouth and St Peter's Gorleston, with St Ignatius Caister and Acle.

Fr Dick White retired at the end of August to live in the parish of Diss.

Fr Paul Maddison and Fr Henry Whisenant are discerning their vocations in the Benedictine life in Douai Abbey and Tasmania, respectively.

Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology

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Classes will start after the October half term, covering Old Testament, New Testament, the Church and the Person of Christ. Get in touch to join the mailing list for more info: ew263@cam.ac.uk

Spirituality, Religion and Ethics in the Prison Service

Wednesdays of 7, 14 and 21 November 2018, 10am-4pm

A three-day interactive and interdisciplinary course, designed to explore the themes of spirituality, religion and ethics in relation to prisons, by exploring topics like faith and beliefs, values and the common good, justice and care, exclusion and healing as well moral imagination and character of the prison service staff. The course aims to offer the prison service staff, chaplains, volunteers and anyone interested in current debates around religion, violence, punishment, healing and restoration some resources for a better understanding of these issues.

Attendance Certificates will be issued at the end of the course.

Fee: £200

Bursaries are available - please contact Dr Anna Abram, Principal aa2008@cam.ac.uk to find out whether you are eligible.

To register or find out more about the course, please email Ela Wolbek (ew263@cam.ac.uk).

Registration deadline: 10 October 2018.

Places are limited so register early to avoid disappointment.



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Almost 100 pilgrims from 20 parishes across the Diocese of East Anglia joined the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes this year (August 24-31), reports pilgrimage director, Deacon John Morrill.



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■ Led by Bishop Alan, accompanied by four priests and two deacons of the diocese, about half of our group were 'assisted pilgrims' (staying in the accueil or hospital, or in hotels) and their helpers (doctors, nurses, and those who pushed wheelchairs or otherwise helped them) and about half were 'just' pilgrims.

As usual, we were part of the Catholic Association — joining 500 pilgrims from the dioceses of Northampton, Clifton and Southwark, from Stoneyhurst School and from the Glandfield Group of those with profound physical or mental challenges.

Highlights were the Mass in the Grotto where Bernadette met Our Lady, and the Eucharistic procession from the outdoor altar on the opposite side of the river from the Grotto to the underground basilica, led by Bishop Alan.

There were masses and other liturgies every day and it is becoming the custom for one priest to preach at all the major liturgies, binding them together. This year it was our own Mgr Tony Rogers from Aldeburgh, and the theme he was given was taken from Our Lady's instruction to the steward at the Marriage Feast at Cana: 'Do whatever He [Jesus] tells you'.

An innovation this year was a diocesan procession from the Crowned Statue of the Virgin to the place where candles are displayed. Our candle — just about the biggest of the lot! — represented the prayers of all the pilgrims for themselves, for others and for the whole diocese.

Lourdes is, of course, a very special place, where all give and few take, where there is a chance for prayer and 'space' for reflection. For me, there is nothing like sitting on one of the benches outside the

Church of St Bernadette and hearing the Mass sung in the distance in a strange language to familiar tunes, while another group is praying the rosary 100 yards away and a procession is passing quietly by. Prayer comes easily in such a setting.

Lourdes is also a place where new friendships are formed and important conversations had, and those who come back year after year (Lourdes is very addictive) renew acquaintance.

Unlike many dioceses, we do not get many parish groups (although there was a wonderfully lively group from Gorleston with us this year) and that would add another dimension. As a diocese we pull our weight in the number of medical staff we take, and helpers in the Accueil, but we do not have so many young helpers, although the half-dozen drawn from three schools in the diocese said they had a whale of a time.

It is expensive, which obviously is a deterrent. We need better fund-raising, and

while there is help available, especially for nurses and helpers and for assisted pilgrims, we could do with more and that must be a priority. But we are going from strength to strength.

After several years when Deacon Clive Brooks from Ipswich was a wonderfully effective Director, creating a great family atmosphere, I am determined to help more and more people to discover the wonder of Lourdes. It was here that on 18 separate occasions in 1858, the desperately poor and illiterate Bernadette Soubirous was privileged to encounter Our Lady who instructed her (in Bernadette's own remembrance): "she repeated to me several times that I was to tell the priests they were to build a Chapel there, and I was to go to the fountain to wash, and that I was to pray for sinners."

So Lourdes remains a place of prayer, of reconciliation and of healing. One of the dioceses in the Catholic Association comes by bus to Lourdes and they use their bus to take their pilgrims to Mass in the little village of Bartres, three miles up into the mountains. That is where the infant Bernadette was sent to be wet-nursed when her own mother was unable to feed her, and where later, at the age of 12, she would work as a servant on a farm.

It is hoped that next year East Anglia pilgrims will also have a chance to go to Bartres, to feel close to Bernadette and for a Holy Hour in the church which is very much as it was when she worshipped there.

Anyone who wants to know more, or is interested in organising a parish group, should contact Deacon John Morrill at jsm1000@cam.ac.uk or 1, Bradfords Close, Bottisham, Cambridge CB25 9DW.



of healing

Pictured is the Diocese of East Anglia group at Lourdes and, below, Bishop Alan at Mass and praying for a pilgrim and a Eucharistic procession.



■ The completion of a £67,000 project to repair and redecorate St Thomas of Canterbury church, Woodbridge, has been celebrated by parishioners, reports Parish Publicity Officer Kathleen Coates.

Parishioners expressed their delight at the work which had been done on the church to get rid of the damp and ugly mould. It was then redecorated including the addition of stars above the altar. The church looks and smells clean. An extensive programme of repairs outside the building had been completed earlier this year, before the interior of the church was repaired and redecorated.

Father Edmund Eggleston planned the work in compliance with the requirements of the diocesan Historic Churches Committee, and it was project managed by the Ipswich based conservation architect Nicholas Jacob & Associates. On the Thursday before the reopening many

parishioners turned up to clean and replace statues and other liturgical furnishings. It was a great opportunity to work together and chat as we worked, often with people who attend a different Mass.

Fr Edmund said: "The parish has been in the very fortunate position that we have not had to do any fundraising or seek any grants towards the cost of the recent repair and redecorating work at Woodbridge. The generosity of our parishioners has meant that we have been able to fund the work ourselves from existing parish funds. The repair and redecorating cost around £67,000. The professional fees for our architects were paid from our Alive-in-Faith fundraising."

During the redecoration the Methodists along the road kindly allowed Mass to be celebrated there on Sundays, and Saturday Mass moved to St Clare's, Framlingham. See more at: www.wfrpc.org.uk

Marriage and family life Walsingham retreats

Marriage and family life are being celebrated at Walsingham this year through two major retreats: the Marriage and Family Life week and the Loving For Life marriage enrichment retreat. Dr Bonnie Lander Johnson reports.

■ The Family Life week welcomes whole families together and enjoyed its third year in August, when over 30 families gathered at the National Shrine to hear daily talks by Professor William Newton of Steubenville, Ohio.

While the children were occupied with craft sessions run by the Sisters from The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, William led parents through John Paul II's *Familias Consortio* and Pope Paul VI's *Humanae Vitae*.

We discussed questions about how we could build better community within our families, how we can help to build stronger community in society through hospitality, witness, charity, and political activism, while still nurturing the needs of our own children. We were reminded that one of the key missions of the family is to foster vocations, but also, in an increasingly unchurched society, to be one of the most visible points of contact that non-Christians have with the faith.

On October 6 and 7, a much quieter Dowry House will host Walsingham's first Loving For Life marriage enrichment retreat.

This event has been running in the UK for the past 11 years.

It originated in the USA where it is known as 'Living in Love'. It then went to Australia where it was re-named Celebrate Love. After making it a better fit for the UK audience and incorporating more of the teaching of John Paul II it was re-named Loving For Life.

The coordinator of this programme, Jane Deegan, has studied Theology at Maryvale and psychology at the Divine Mercy University. She understands how hard it is to amalgamate the spiritual and the psychological aspects of Catholic marriage enrichment and believes that Loving For Life has met this challenge with great success.

The retreat aims to help couples understand themselves and their relationship at a new level. It will look at formation in the family, sexuality (in its widest sense) as a gift, male and female differences and complementarity, what creates and sustains trust and what threatens it, forgiveness and healing.

It provides couples with a safe space and tools/skills to enable them to connect/reconnect at a deep level. The presenting couples give examples from their own marriages so as to help the teaching come alive and to help couples see that they are not alone in many of the issues they face.

More details at www.loving4life.co.uk or contact Jane Deegan on 07595 724300 or at jane@loving4life.net.

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

Celebrating the Congo

■ St Benet's & St Edmunds Catholic Schools in Beccles and Bungay have recently held a Congolese Exhibition in each school celebrating the links with these schools and the St Benet's School for Peace in the Congo. Both schools sponsor children there so that they are able to attend school.

In order to help pupils understand what life might be like in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), children spent a whole week learning about different aspects of this vast country. Working in House Groups, one class made a rain-forest wall, covered in plants and animals made of paper, others made masks made from papier-mâché. The children reported to visitors how much they enjoyed their work and visitors reported that they were amazed by the depth of knowledge that the children showed.

The exhibition, which was visited by Bishop Alan Hopes, the Mayors of Beccles and Bungay and many parents and governors, showcased art work of the wild life, masks and costumes, songs and dances of the DRC.



Chair of Governors, Helen Kirby said: "What an absolutely wonderful opportunity for the children. It was great to see the different topics explored, many of them directly linked to the curriculum."

A total of £73 was raised through the sale of refreshments and will go directly to support St Benet's School for Peace in the DRC. (www.schoolforpeace.org)

Pictured above is Bishop Alan at the St Edmunds exhibition with Matthew and Fi.



Celebrating our Schools Adverts

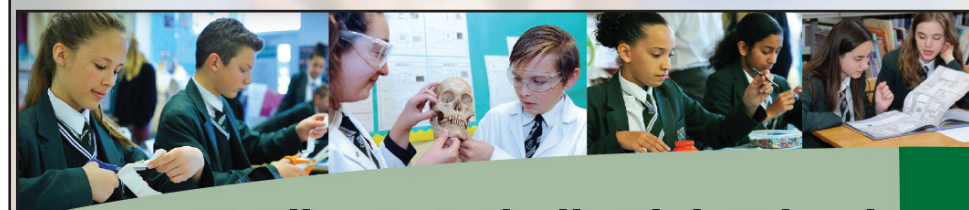
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St Alban's Catholic High School

Open Evening

Wednesday 3 October, 5.30pm - 8.30pm

For all current Year 6 students and their parents / carers.

Open Morning

Monday 8 October, 9.30am - midday

For all current Year 6 students and their parents / carers. If you wish to come and see the school in action, please contact the school office in advance to book a tour.

Sixth Form Open Evening

Wednesday 17 October, 5.30pm - 8.30pm

For any Year 11 students considering entry into our Sixth Form.

Further details and a prospectus can be found on our website:

www.st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk

or by calling the school office

Tel: (01473) 726178

Digby Road, Ipswich IP4 3NJ



The Marian procession at St Benet's.

Ways to honour Mary

■ Pupils at St Edmund's in Bungay and St Benet's in Beccles have been learning about different ways of honouring our Blessed Mother this term, reports Becky Clarke.

Pupils chose to explore Marian prayer and devotion through opting to take part in catechist-led workshops.

Learning to pray the Rosary was the focus of two of the workshops. Some pupils made their own rosary bracelets whilst others explored ways of saying the rosary using their stepping stones rosary garden.

The wonderful story of the 19th Century French nun, Saint Catherine Labouré, was the focus of another activity, during which children made their own beautiful, giant-sized Miraculous Medals, using an embossing technique.

Children with an interest in linguistics and church history had the option to reflect on the rich history of Marian prayers through studying them in Latin and copying them out using a quill pen, reflecting on the labours of the Benedictine Monks who once carried out such tasks at Norwich Cathedral Priory.

To finish, both schools had their own Crowning celebration. Parents were invited to join in and all pupils brought posies from home which were carried in procession to the Grotto. The youngest child in each school had the great honour of placing a floral crown on Mary's head. As an added blessing, the sun shone down on us throughout. This is a much-loved tradition in both schools and staff, pupils and families look forward to it each year.



Pictured are Sacred Heart pupils script writing with the help of James McCullough from EWTN TV.

Literary feast

For three days the pupils at the Sacred Heart School in Swaffham were released from their normal timetable to take part in a literary extravaganza, reports organiser Sally Gooderson.

■ Staff, past and present, had worked hard to transform the school hall into themed bays (eg Victorian, Wildlife, Biggles, Exploration) to accommodate literary workshops from June 27 to 29.

Storyteller, Paul Jackson, captivated all ages with his tales of wonder and use of cultural instruments, with some pupils attempting to produce sound from his didgeridoo; Dr Sue Gattuso of Swaffham Museum enthralled them with the history of comics and annuals and the story of The Pedlar of Swaffham; illustrator and author Peter Kavanagh encouraged pupils and staff to access their imagina-

tion and create cartoon characters whilst two creative writers from the University of East Anglia encouraged older pupils to write short imaginative pieces of writing.

As well as introducing her books, author and designer Mandy Stanley took the children through the process of producing a book and this was complemented by a former pupil, natural history writer and publisher Sarah Whitley, who brought in proofs of her new book straight from the press.

Some groups even had the opportunity work with James McCullough, from EWTN TV company, to script write and present a short video production which could be used on the school website. And all of this was backed up by YouTube clips provided by American author Natasha Friend and James Johnson, script and podcast writer.

Parish celebrates its first young Confirmation group

■ Bishop Alan Hopes has celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation with the first official 'group' of 13 youngsters in the new parish of Sawston and Cambourne, reports catechist Mel Ward.

With very few able to attend Catholic schools and renting our shared church, it is a great joy to us that the young people recognised the truth expressed by our patron St John Fisher that 'A good man is not a perfect man; a good man is an honest man-faithful and unhesitatingly responsive to the voice of God in their life' and wish for the strengthening of His presence



Confirmation candidates with Fr John Minh and Gail Osman.

in their lives.

We started formally preparing together in September 2017,

beginning with each Saturday Mass together in which all the 'Cambourners' were all already

participants as readers, servers, musicians and fundraisers for Cafod. This was followed by a communal meal – usually based around huge piles of pizza.

In addition to our 11 from the St John Fisher community in Cambourne we were joined by two enthusiastic girls from Our Lady of Lourdes community in Sawston who have made firm links across our large new parish.

The Ablaze Mass at St Laurence's and the Ignite Festival helped to affirm their desire for the Spirit to transform their lives. Congratulations to our courageous young people who

have been strengthened to stand out, stand up, step up and step forth and bring the joy and hope of the gospel to the world as apostles and prophets.

Already some have been leaders in the local Churches Together summer club, sharing with younger children the message and mission of the prophet Daniel as well as volunteering for more active ministry in the church – hoping to lead the music for a Mass each term and to further their involvement with children's liturgy and our sacramental preparation.

The Confirmations took place in July.



The expanded Ignite Youth Mission Team, from the left, Fr Luke, Catherine, Jess, Mary, Ciaran and Hamish.

Mission team grows

An expanded Youth Mission Team for East Anglia – Ignite – is set to enter its third year in operation travelling around the Diocese of East Anglia ministering in parishes and schools and running popular youth events.

■ Catherine Williams is continuing her role as the Team Leader under the guidance of Hamish MacQueen, Director of Youth Services.

Catherine said: "Our aim is simply to draw people into a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith and to an encounter with Jesus Christ, the one we are called to a deeply personal relationship with."

"Our last academic year of work was hugely successful with the team being greatly in demand both from schools and parishes, something we hope will continue! We also have a volunteer team, Ignite Lite, open to anyone aged 16 - 30 along with a prayer network which is open to all ages."

In the new academic year, Fr Luke Goymour will continue in his role as Chaplain to the team albeit part-time since his appointment as Parish Priest in Brandon and Mildenhall.

Ciaran Losasso, native to Norwich, who joined the Team last year after completing a Degree in History at UEA, has chosen to stay on for another year. "To be a part of evangelisation is such a privilege and I feel blessed to have the opportunity to continue to serve on the Ignite Team," he said. "I have much to thank God for over the last year and look forward to seeing where He'll take our new team over the coming months."

The team has expanded to include two more ladies on the team, Jessica McCall and Mary Desbruslais. Jess, who comes from Ipswich, has just finished her Masters in Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies at UEA. "It's exciting to join the Team this year and to work with the young people in the diocese. It's an amazing opportunity and I look forward to developing my faith," she said.

Mary has recently graduated from City & Guilds of London Art School with a BA

in Fine Art. She has been volunteering with Youth 2000 for the past five years, travelling all over the UK, drawing young people to God. "I really want to learn from the young people I meet and journey towards God with them, side-by-side," said Mary. "I am so looking forward to the community aspect of being on the team, we are all different, but united we hold each other up."

"Another exciting change is that the team is now living in community in a house in Walsingham, very much the 'spiritual home' for the people of this nation and particularly this Diocese," said Catherine. "This is a development which the team is incredibly grateful for and looking forward to experiencing. We look forward to continuing our travels around the Diocese and continuing to expand what we offer as a team and drawing the young people of the Diocese ever closer to Christ."

If you are interested in having the Ignite Team visit your school or parish, contact Ignite Team Leader, Catherine Williams at: igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk or call her on 07769 315031.

Key diary dates

■ **November 24:** Glow

Retreat Day, for all those of secondary school age, St John the Baptist Cathedral, Norwich

■ **January 6:** Epiphany Youth Mass and Firworks, White House, Poringland.

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

Youth contacts

Tel: 01508 486236

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

All other enquiries: dys@rcdea.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/igniteyea

Twitter: @igniteyea

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



Chance for young people to put faith into action - coming soon

Singing success for St John's Cathedral choir members

■ Two members of St John the Baptist Cathedral Choir, Caitlin Obee and Sam Kibble are leaving the Norwich choir after two years of dedicated service, to continue their music studies at distinguished institutions.

Caitlin (18) has been singing alto in the Cathedral Choir, and is set to start her further education reading Music at the University of Cambridge. Caitlin started as a Choral Scholar in the Cathedral Choir in February 2017 whilst completing her sixth form studies at Norwich School. She has been awarded a Choral Scholarship to Clare College, Cambridge, where she will join the renowned Choir singing services in the Chapel, and on tours and recordings.

Sam (23) studied at St John's College in The University of Durham, returning to Norwich in 2016 to take up the position of Graduate Music Assistant at Norwich School. Sam was among the founder members of the Cathedral's Schola Cantorum, the body of professional musicians who make up the bedrock of the Cathedral Choir. Sam will be going on to study for a Masters degree in vocal studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Sam said: "I'm sad to be leaving the cathedral choir after two great years of music-making. It's been a pleasure to sing with an ever-growing and improving group of musicians led by our fantastic director of music, Daniel. Highlights of my time with the choir include the weekly sung vespers on Tuesday evenings, a wonderfully atmospheric service with some great music."

"I have also enjoyed the opportunity to sing a large amount of Gregorian Chant with the choir, an important skill which I'm grateful to have had to opportunity to learn and refine. I hope to return to sing the occasional service with the choir when the chance arises."

Daniel Justin, Master of Music, said: "It's so great to have two of our choir members going from the Cathedral to forge their way in the world of music. The experience of singing in a Cathedral Choir is something which is so valuable for musicianship, and I'm pleased that their time in the Cathedral Choir has helped them springboard into working as professional musicians."

The Cathedral Choir is always looking for members - to arrange an audition email daniel.justin@rcdea.org.uk



Caitlin Obee and Sam Kibble, who are leaving St John's choir to pursue their music studies.

news in brief

Bears, frog and unicorn at picnic

■ Teddy bears, a frog and a unicorn enjoyed a picnic tea with their young owners in the presbytery garden at St Felix parish, Felixstowe on Sunday August 19.

Members of the children's liturgy team and others organised games with a teddy bear theme and there were art activities, including making teddy bear masks for around 20 participants. A tea was served which featured crisps and cakes in the form of teddy bears and the afternoon ended with a singing of the teddy bears picnic song and a reading of Goldie Locks and the Three Bears by the Parish Priest.



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

Fr John celebrates his silver jubilee

Fr John Warrington, parish priest at St Mary's in Ipswich, celebrated his silver jubilee as a priest with the help of a packed church of parish-ioners from across the diocese on Saturday July 28. John Cassidy reports.

■ As the clock struck noon, the choir began to sing the first line of the opening hymn. The huge congregation stood up and joined in: "Let us build a house where love can dwell..."

Sixteen priests and two deacons processed from the rear of the church. As they reached the sanctuary, the whole congregation sang the chorus with gusto: "All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place."

We were in St Mary's Church, Ipswich to celebrate 25 years of service from Fr John Warrington. It was a fitting hymn because as well as St Mary's parish-ioners, many from Fr John's previous parishes – Poringland, Peterborough and Bury St Edmunds – had travelled.

On the sanctuary were his brother priests and deacons both locally and from across the diocese. The hearty singing "all are welcome" focused too on Fr John, who had returned to St Mary's – just for the day – from his programme of recuperation after a serious illness.

Canon David Bagstaff, Vicar General of the Diocese, who clearly knew Fr John very well, preached beautifully. In his homily he gave some insights into Fr John's personal faith and spiritually: two Shrines of Our Lady are the backbone of his faith. One is Walsingham, in his native Norfolk. It had a deep influence on his vocation. The other is Lourdes, which Fr John has visited every August since 1986 with the Diocesan Pilgrimage and Catholic Association Stage Group and at Easter since 2007 with the Handi-



Fr John Warrington cutting his silver jubilee cake.

capped Children's Pilgrimage Trust alongside various groups in the diocese.

He always goes as a roll-up-the-sleeves worker – putting his faith into practice.

After Mass, it seemed like the whole congregation retired to the Parish hall for refreshments – a delicious bring and share lunch was bolstered by authentic Indian curry and rice from the local Kerala community. It was a wonderfully happy and memorable afternoon during which Fr John was presented with a cheque and all raised their glasses and promised prayers for his continued recovery.

The final words came in a short tribute from a primary school pupil: "We love to see Fr John come to our school because he makes us laugh and he talks to us. Fr John come back soon, we love you."

BUILDING BRIDGES

Prayers after devastating Kerala floods

■ Parishioners at St John's Cathedral in Norwich (pictured right) and at churches across the diocese have been praying for those affected by the devastating floods in Kerala in south India, including some families from Norwich who were caught up in the disaster.

On August 20, a special Adoration was held in cathedral from 7pm to 9pm to pray for floods affected Kerala. Some families from Norwich were reportedly stranded in the floods.

Sony Joseph said: "We really need to pray for Kerala. Millions have lost their homes and are without food, water, medicine and electricity. The death toll continues to rise, and many have been taking shelter in overcrowded rescue camps. They are in great need of aid, and we can't just stand by and watch as our brothers and sisters suffer."



Ely answers prayers from floating school

The parish of Ely became the answer to the prayers of Prek Toal, its twinned community in Cambodia, when it was able to provide funds to save the floating schoolroom next to the floating church, reports Stella Fox.

■ Earlier this year the schoolroom at Prek Toal was about to sink into the Tonle Sap lake as the raft on which it floats had completely disintegrated.

In February this year when a group from Ely parish visited we heard that the work on the repairs could start as the parish had managed to raise all the funds needed.

Fr Totet, the parish priest, had prayed on the feast of St Joseph for some help to do this essential work as he had no idea where to find the money. One of his youths had told him that same night not to worry as he would hear some good news that day.

Later that night Fr Totet opened his emails to find a message from Ely stating that the money was on its way. His prayers had been answered.

The work is now complete and the schoolroom is looking totally new. The work was done by members of the community, also providing them with some income. Once again the children will be able to have some basic teaching so essential for their spiritual education and general development. They will now also have a place to enjoy the rice soup which is so important for their nutrition.



■ The summer catechism camp for 180 children in the Siem Reap parish in Cambodia has been financed by a member of the Ely parish group who visited the twinned parish earlier this year. The children spent six days studying the parables of Jesus. The children were transported from many remote areas and housed and fed for the week by the parish.

Alice Fox, from Newmarket, donated her birthday collection which provided half of the money needed. Alice joined the last Ely group visit.

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".

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Postcode.....
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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.

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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.

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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



■ Members of Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association enjoyed a walk around Norwich city centre, led by President Tony Baker (pictured in the straw hat) at Coslany Bridge, on Friday August 3. Wives and family joined members for the tour which was led by official guide Paul Dickson who noted points of interest and gave fascinating background stories about the various buildings. Afterwards an excellent meal was enjoyed at the Grosvenor Fish Bar.



■ A group of cyclists from St Edmund's Parish, Bungay, joined thousands of others taking part in the annual Historic Churches Trust Annual Ride and Stride on Saturday September 8, visiting a dozen churches and one pub reports Andy Parris.

Participants walked or cycled between churches and, sponsored by family and friends, raised thousands of pounds for the charity. In Norfolk and Suffolk, participants plotted their own route to include some of over 800 churches that were open for the event.

Sponsorship money will be divided equally between their chosen church and the Norfolk and Suffolk Historic Churches Trusts. The trusts give grants for repairs to churches and chapels.

This year, seven friends from St Edmund's cycled as a group and cycled a combined total of 200 miles, including tackling some quite steep hills. Most importantly, they had good fun whilst visiting 12 churches and a pub.

The money raised by all the cyclists from St Edmund's Parish is £650.

Pictured, from the left, Cathy Scott, Martin Benatar, Mark Kalinauckas, Dave Cranfield, Fr Charles Fitzgerald-Lombard, Crispin Muir and Andrew Scott prepare for their post-lunch challenge.



■ Members of Ely parish enjoyed the annual barbecue prepared by a couple of the American families in the parish recently. Although rain was forecast, the event remained dry and a good afternoon was enjoyed by young and old.



■ Members of the North Norfolk SVP conference recently teamed up with the Waveney Stardust Trust charity to arrange an afternoon cruise on the Norfolk Broads reports David Burns.

The Trust's mission is to increase wellbeing for people with impairments by enabling them to enjoy the beauty and wonders of the Norfolk Broads. They have two adapted boats which can take up to six wheelchairs and 12 people.

An afternoon cruise was arranged from Stalham and the SVP group of 12, included three wheelchair users and others who may not normally be able to board a boat. SVP members provided a picnic tea to be enjoyed during the three-hour cruise down and back up the River Ant.

For further information visit: www.waveneystardust.co.uk



■ A Cream Tea Party was held at St Michael's Huntingdon on Sunday September 2, on a perfect warm and sunny Sunday afternoon with clear blue sky in the church garden.

About 40 parishioners enjoyed home-made scones and jam with cream and unlimited cups of tea. Fr Philip Shryane said: "It was a very enjoyable afternoon giving parishioners the chance to meet and chat, often with others who attend a different Mass and whom they do not get to see very often. It was a very well good event".

Fr Philip and a few others were the waiters and the afternoon also raised a little over £150 for the parish.