June 2018 FREE

# East Anglia



Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia



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The Diocese of East Anglia pilgrimage enters the village of Walsingham.

# 900 join the East Anglia pilgrimage

Around 900 people joined the annual Diocese of East Anglia pilgrimage to Walsingham on Bank Holiday Monday, May 7, which took on a new format in record-breaking temperatures. Keith Morris reports.

■ The pilgrimage began at the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, rather than in Walsingham's Friday market place, with a Pontifical Mass of Our Lady of Cana held in and outside the Chapel of Our Lady of Reconciliation in bright sun and a record-breaking temperature of 25C.

In his homily, Bishop Alan welcomed a large group of young pilgrims who had walked across the Norfolk countryside to Walsingham after attending the Ignite Festival in Swaffham.

He went on to speak about the Ark of the Covenant which was, for the Jewish people, the one and only dwelling place of God on earth among his people.

When Mary carried Jesus in her womb, she became the House of  $\operatorname{\mathsf{God}}$  – the  $\operatorname{\mathsf{Ark}}$  of the Covenant.

"No house can ever be given to God which is more beautiful or worthy than his Mother," said Bishop Alan. "But when we have received the Eucharist of the Body and Blood of Christ, we too become a beautiful house, a beautiful ark, tabernacling God in our very souls and bodies.

"We are commanded at the end of Mass to go out and to be the presence of Jesus in our world, to proclaim his Gospel and to live as those who have experienced the love and mercy of God.

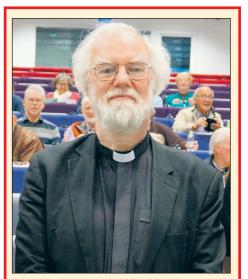
"We are to commit ourselves to love and serve the people of our world and especially those who are the neediest in our society," said Bishop Alan.

After Mass, groups from across Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough enjoyed their lunches in the grounds of the Shrine before Bishop Alan performed the traditional crowning of the statue of Mary.

Most pilgrims then joining a Blessed Sacrament Procession to the Priory grounds in Walsingham along the Holy Mile, while others went in coaches.

On arrival at the Priory grounds, the Blessed Sacrament was placed on the altar and Bishop Alan gave a benediction and then led devotions at the original site of the Holy House which contained the image of Our Lady, before it was destroyed at the time of the Reformation. This included a prayer for England and singing the Lady of Walsingham hymn.

■ See page three for more pictures.



# Archbishop's stories of urban saints

Holiness – demonstrated through the lives of three modern urban saints – was the subject of a Newman Lecture, given by former Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams at the University of East Anglia on April 23.

■ Addressing an audience of around 120, Dr Williams, now Master of Magdalene College in Cambridge, spoke about the lives of three rather remarkable 20th century women.

"They are to my mind among the very greatest Christian witnesses of the last 100 years," said Dr Williams.

None of them were conventional saintly figures, all caused controversy and a degree of scandal in their day and all of them came to embrace the fullness of faith as adults.

"There is an extraordinary convergence in the vision of these three women, their writings and the heart of their witness in the 20th century city. They all ran their hands down the grain of reality and found it ran in the same way," said Dr Williams. "They shared the experience of a

"They shared the experience of a century which witnessed an immense upheaval, suffering, violence and injustice on an exceptional scale. Each of them was directly involved in the consequences of it and each lived out their vocation in an urban environment."

Maria Skobtsova, grew up as a radical and communist in Russia. She became politically active, was twice divorced and had to leave Russia in poverty. She ended up in Paris and, after the death of her youngest child at the age of five, turned towards faith and met the needs of the homeless and refugees. She became a nun and continued her work, using her home as a refuge for refugees first from

**■** Continued on page five.

#### **VOCATION JOURNEY**



Fr Benedict Bedingfeld (aged 41), grew up in Oxburgh Hall near King's Lynn and is a priest in the Community of St John, serving in the Diocese of Bentwood in London. Here he talks briefly about his vocation journey.

■ I spent the earliest years of my life in the parish of Our Lady of Pity, Swaffham and received my first education in the Faith from the wonderful sisters at the Sacred Heart convent.

At aged seven, I experienced the first awakening of a desire to be a priest. This desire was later accompanied by other ambitions, but God nevertheless had planted a seed in my heart that would prove more compelling.

Growing up in the countryside, although not always in East Anglia, offered me a relatively protected environment until the day I arrived at Manchester University in the 1990s and was exposed to a culture largely unfamiliar to me.

This provoked considerable soulsearching. While the culture posed me unsettling questions, the answers it offered left me deeply unsatisfied. Religious life attracted me as it seemed the one state of life which would leave me free to give myself in all the dimensions of my person; nothing else would have quenched my thirst.

It was in the Community of St John that I eventually found a place that felt like home: a Community in which I could lead a life of interior prayer, receive an in-depth formation and share the joy of fraternal life with other men who, like me, understood first-hand the challenge involved in following Christ when everything in the world around pulls in the opposite direction. <a href="https://csjohn.org/">http://csjohn.org/</a>

### **EastAnglia**

#### Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

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### Michael receives lector ministry in Rome

■ East Anglia Diocese seminarian Michael Smith received the ministry of lector on May 9 at the Pontifical Beda College in Rome during an evening vigil mass to celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord.

First year student Michael received this ministry at the hands of the College Rector, Canon Philip Gillespie, along with seven other first year seminarians.

The ministry of lector marks a first stage in the four-year course of formation at the seminary during which each candidate is entrusted with the responsibility of reading at Mass and passing on God's Word to others by word and example.

Michael is one of four seminarians at the Beda for the Diocese of East Anglia: Alan Hodgson, Michael Brookes and Paul Spellman are third year students at the College and in June will be ordained as Deacons in Rome.



Michael receiving the ministry of lector from Canon Philip Gillespie, Rector of the Pontifical Beda College assisted by fellow seminarian Norman Allred.

# Vigil for life changed hearts and minds

Hearts and minds being changed was the most evident fruit of a 40 Days for Life vigil held outside an abortion clinic in Norwich. Eldred Willey reports.

■ Just before the start of Lent, the Students' Union at the University of East Anglia voted overwhelmingly to organise a protest outside the abortion clinic on Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.

They were responding to news that a 40 Days for Life vigil would be taking place, and they were determined to face down the pro-life group. They resolved, if necessary, to put on buses for students, to ensure continued free access for women to the clinic.

On the opening day of the vigil, a group of students gathered at the bottom of Bowthorpe Road, apparently bemused by the lack of evidence for intimidation.

After a little reconnaissance, they processed past on the opposite pavement, banner discreetly rolled. Observing just a few Christians calmly praying, but no harassment against which they could protest, they slipped quietly away.

A member of academic staff at the University, who had heard rumours of intimidation, came down to see for herself, and went back saying that this was 'far from what was being presented at the University'.

A writer for the university magazine 'Concrete' followed her, introducing himself to the 40 Days group as being pro-choice. Later he published his article about the vigil until the surprising title: 'A long way from a pitchforked mob'.

"The most evident fruit of the vigil," commented Fr Henry Whisenant from St John's Cathedral, "is hearts and minds being changed".

Over the six weeks of Lent around 50 different people took part in the vigil. There was mercifully little hostility towards them, though a little monitoring, including a lady who lingered on the pavement opposite and took photographs.

A few passers-by pulled up their



The 40 Days for Life vigil outside the abortion clinic in Norwich.

vehicles on the double yellow lines or walked up to make negative remarks, some of them sharp and not all of them printable. But these were outnumbered by the friendly hoots, the thumbs-up signs, and the 'keep it up' comments.

One woman approached the 40 Days group and confided that when younger she had gone through an abortion, because no-one had been there to support her. "Thank you so much for being here," she said.

On the very first day a man in his thirties approached Katy, the vigil organiser, to ask what was going on. "I've been through this myself," he revealed. "When me and my girlfriend were teenagers she got pregnant, and had an abortion. Now we're Christians, married with children. But we still sometimes think about what happened. Thank you for standing here—it's important that people know there is help."

A woman hovered on the pavement opposite, studying the sign which said: 'Pregnant? Worried?' Finally she crossed the road and asked for prayer for a friend of hers, who was disabled and pregnant.

Another young woman, a cut on her face and in poor health, stopped to ask the way to the abortion clinic. She fell into conversation, and accepted a card

from the 40 Days group. They prayed as she headed for the clinic, and she emerged only a short time later, hood up, and went off. We may never know what fruit that short exchange brought in her life

We do know, however, that every prayer has an effect and, occasionally, we get a glimpse of encouragement like a ray of sunshine on an overcast day. A volunteer at a pregnancy counselling centre in Norwich reported that until recently she was mostly seeing women who needed emotional help following an abortion. In recent weeks – to her amazement – she was counselling noticeably more pregnant women who wanted guidance about how to keep their babies. One had come in the very day before she was booked for an abortion, and had chosen life for her child.

When Bishop Alan Hopes attended one of the first pro-life vigils in London, a certain young woman was on the pavement nearby, vehemently protesting against him. She had herself undergone an abortion. That young woman has since had a change of attitude and is again practising her faith in Norwich.

Hearts and minds changed: that is the fruit we are seeing and that is why the work will continue.



# 900 join Walsingham pilgrimage

Around 900 people joined the annual Diocese of East Anglia pilgrimage to Walsingham on Bank Holiday Monday, May 7, which took on a new format in record-breaking temperatures.

■ See front page for a full report. For a full picgallery of the pilgrimage visit: www.flickr.com/photos/dioceseofeastanglia



#### news in brief

### Disappointment as schools faith cap pledge scrapped

Following the Government's announcement on May 11 to abandon its election promise to remove the 50% faith cap on new free schools, Bishop Alan Hopes has expressed his disappointment with the decision.

Bishop Alan said: "We are extremely disappointed to hear that the Government has decided not to stand by its election pledge to remove the 50% cap on faith admissions to new faith schools. The cap has never achieved what it was set out to do, namely to increase diversity in faith schools. Instead it has served as a very effective barrier to building new Catholic schools, which are some of the most successful and popular schools in the country. They are also more ethnically and socially diverse than non-Catholic schools, as indicated by recent census data on Catholic schools. This shows that in Catholic schools, more than 39% of pupils are not White British, compared to just 31% in non-Catholic schools.

"In addition, East Anglia has some of the severest shortages of Catholic school places in the country and has also been identified, according to the Governments own data, as needing more school places both now and increasingly over the next five years. We sincerely hope that a way forward can quickly be found to meet, not only the demand for Catholic school places, but also the need for more school places generally."

The Diocese has been working on plans to open up to eight new Catholic schools to meet demand for places.



The Pilgrim's Choice

Join the Diocesan of East Anglia Lourdes Pilgrimage with Bishop Alan Hopes and the Catholic Association 018 theme - "Do whatever He tells you'



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29 June 1 Night From £249 pp Inc. flights 13 July 7 Nights From £599 pp Inc. flights 3 Sept. 4 Nights From £575 pp Inc. flights 12 Oct. Day trip From £149 pp Inc. flights

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11 Sept 6 Nights From £679 pp inc. flights

#### Holy Land Pilgrimages

12 Nov 7 Nights From £999 pp plus flights

15 Oct 7 Nights From £729 pp plus flights







### **NEW EVANGELISATION**

# FAICEUS KITO

# Proclaiming the Gospel

Last autumn some parishioners from St George's in Norwich undertook to participate in a Proclaim initiative piloted in the Plymouth Diocese on Evangelisation. Monica Barnham reports on progress so far.

■ With the help of New Evangelisation Co-ordinator Rebecca Bretherton, the St George's Proclaim Team took part in a six-week programme where each of them individually read two chapters of the book by Sherry Weddell called 'Forming Intentional Disciples' in each of the consecutive six weeks.

The book is about the need for evangelisation within the Catholic Church. It is based on research amongst American Catholics and their relationship with God. Sherry Weddell looks at realistic ways to get people talking about their faith and breaking the silence.

During the programme undertaken in St George's, two groups of six people met each week to share the most significant thing they had drawn from the chapters they had read individually.

This was a challenge as the participants had up to three minutes to share with the others in the group without interruption. It was not a discussion group or a book club, but after the initial challenge, members of the group felt it had helped them to learn to listen more carefully to others. Each session began with 15 minutes of Adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

At the conclusion of the six weeks, the two groups came together as the 'Proclaim Team' and agreed to meet on a



The St George's Proclaim Team away day at Poringland, led by Mark and Debra Watkins.

monthly basis to talk to each other more openly about their faith journeys and any encounters they had had in spreading the Gospel message to others.

In the course of these meetings, it was felt it would be beneficial to have an Away Day to explore more fully through prayer and reflection ways to evangelise within St George's Parish and beyond. One of the group members, Mark Watkins and his wife, Debra undertook to put together a programme for the day.

The St George's Proclaim Team met on Saturday May 12 at Poringland and had an enjoyable and productive day. They all agreed that the benefits of meeting together had been encouraging, enabling them to talk honestly about their personal faith experiences/journeys; through listening and prayer and all members, without exception, felt that they had grown together in faith.

Members of the group felt that it would be beneficial for other parishioners to take part in a similar programme of reading, listening and prayer to enable others to benefit from the extraordinary opportunities of talking openly to others about their personal relationship with God.

They all agreed that evangelisation was about overcoming the barriers to sharing the good news of the gospel through prayer and action. A warm wel-

come for anyone attending the churches in the Parish was essential. In order to continue to grow it was important for the group to reach out to existing Parish groups and seize every opportunity to share the good news in parish life and beyond.

Please pray for the parishes who are Creating Missionary Parishes: St George's Norwich, Sacred Heart St Ives, Our Lady of the Annunication Walsingham and St Henry Morse Diss

If you or your parish might be interested in participating in a similar initiative, please get in touch with Rebecca Bretherton at rebecca.bretherton@icloud.com

## Port chaplain plays vital role for Catholic seafarers

If you're a Catholic seafarer, you can go for months without receiving the sacraments or having any contact with the Church. This is where Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) East Anglia port chaplains such as Pat Ezra come in, writes Greg Watts.

■ While Pat, the AoS chaplain to the ports on the coast of East Anglia, spends much of her time providing practical help to seafarers, such as mobile phone top-up cards, warm clothing, or transport to local shops, she also helps support their faith.

"Catholic seafarers are away from the sacraments for up to nine months due to the nature of their work. As ships are often now in port for not much more than 24 hours, getting to Mass or the Sacrament of Reconciliation can be very difficult and often impossible," said Pat.

The maritime industry and the seafarers who work in it might seem remote from our daily lives. Yet around 90% of the goods imported into the UK arrive by ship. This includes everything from coffee and cars to fridges and oranges. The seafarers who bring all of this are often away from



Port chaplain Pat Eza, in her distinctive pink hard hat, on board a ship.

their families for months.

July 8 is Sea Sunday, when the Church asks us to pray for seafarers and support the work of AoS, the maritime agency of the Catholic Church.

Pat often carries with her prayer cards

and copies of Bible Alive when she goes on board a ship. And she also distributes where possible the times of Masses for Easter at the churches which are closest to the ports.

During Lent and Easter, she travelled

around the ports, distributing ashes, blessed palms and, after Easter Sunday, gifts.

"This year small bundles of eggs were given out to seafarers that I met after Easter in Felixstowe, on ships such as the Vione, the Msc Carmen and the Zhen Hua.

"At Ipswich I visited the Fagelgracht, Wes Nicole, Kitty C and other ships, wishing seafarers happy Easter, both those who are Catholic and those from the Orthodox faiths which celebrate Easter a week later than us."

The majority of Catholic seafarers are Filipino and are often serving the longest contracts, usually nine months, explained Pat.

"Due to the shift patterns and short times in port, they rarely get to Mass but never the less are always delighted with the gift of a rosary as recognition of their faith.

"What seems to make a great difference is the fact that someone has remembered that they are still part of the Church, even if they are unable to attend Mass very often.

"Not being forgotten is important to us all but even more so to the seafarers who silently work on our behalf bringing us the goods that fill our shops," said Pat.

www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk

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# Songs of praise as church celebrates

■ St Laurence's Church in Cambridge has celebrated its 60th birthday in style with a Songs of Praise service.

The foundation stone for St Laurence's, was laid on March 8, 1958, and on May 13 parishioners celebrated the last 60 years.

Sarah Sykes said: "We were delighted to welcome several ecumenical guests and we were also pleased that some took up our request to send prayers to share."

Over several weeks in Lent, parishioners voted on what their favourite hymn was. Votes went to over 50 different hymns, and the favourite one chosen was 'Christ be our Light' by Bernadette Farrell.

Amongst the service hymns, a selection of readings from the Bible, Julian of

Norwich on love and thanksgiving, some poetry, prayers, and a short history of the church were sprinkled. Some of the children from St Laurence School Choir joined to sing and sign 'We are the Church' by Christopher Walker - a hymn they had learnt on a trip to the



hymns, a selection of read. St Laurence's Church 60th birthday Songs of Praise celebration service.

Cathedral in Norwich last year.

Sarah said: "Afterwards, we had a wonderful tea party organised served by the CWL and other volunteers.

A slideshow of photos of St Laurence's over the years, which had been collected from parishioners, was shown and brought back many happy memories.

"The whole congregation found the celebration to be an amazing time of prayer, praise and joy – a moving, prayerful occasion which uplifted everyone who came," said Sarah.

# Archbishop talks about urban saints

■ Continued from front page. Russia and then Jews from Nazi Germany.

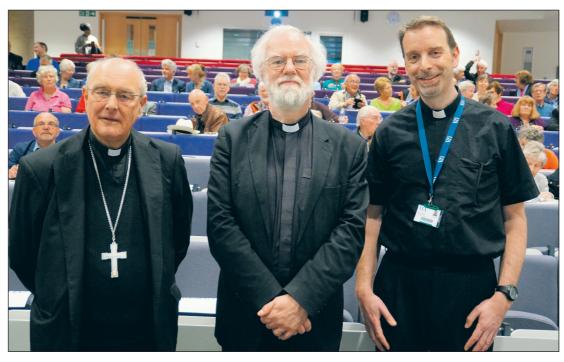
When the Nazis arrived in Paris she smuggled many Jews out. She was arrested and sent to Ravensbruck concentration camp when she was executed.

Dorothy Day, from New York, was the founder of the Catholic Worker movement in the US. She was active as a communist, a single mother and led a colourful life.

"She has a radical passion for the poor which consumed her and which made no sense at all unless there was a radical passion in the universe for the good of the human race," said Dr Williams.

She organised small communities across the USA for vagrants, the homeless and the destitute, with no preconditions. She genuinely believed that if there was a need at the door, the door had to be opened. She did this for decades and it cost her and her family dearly.

French woman, Madeleine Delbrel, was a lively and unconventional young woman and a Communist. She was from a well-to-do and anti-religious background. When she discovered that there was something missing from her life she turned to a life of radical Christian discipleship at Ivry near Paris.



Dr Rowan Williams (centre), with Bishop Alan Hopes (left) and Deacon Andrew Eburne.

It was essentially prayer that converted Madeleine and she trained as a social worker and spent most of her adult life as a director of social services. She set up a small community of single women who practiced hospitality.

"These three women are remarkable examples of lives of forbidding intensity and self-sacrifice which make me feel extremely half-hearted," said Dr Williams.

"They organised their Christian discipleship around

a couple of very simple principles. The person who is before you with empty or open hands is God - understand that and all sorts of sometimes uncomfortable things follow.

"Also, part of what is in front of you holding out hands is yourself – a needy, confused and quite often chaotic self. Be patient with that self as well, as that is God too," said Dr Williams.

"These three woman don't give us a theory of how to be holy in the modern city or modern world. They give us three stories of holiness, which is always the best way to approach holiness – narratives not theories."

The Newman Lecture series coincides with the recent release by Pope Francis of an apostolic exhortation, Gaudete et Exsultate – a call to holiness in today's world.

The Newman lectures also featured Sr Ann Swailes of Cambridge University and Professor Stephen Bullivant from St Mary's University.

#### news in brief

# Invitation to celebrate family

■ Bishop Alan Hopes has invited all married and engaged couples across the Diocese of East Anglia to the annual Marriage and Family Celebration Mass at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich on Saturday June 16.

The Mass begins at 12 noon and is followed by tea and cake with Bishop Alan. Attendees are welcome to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in the Narthex gardens.

There will be a cash bar and food will be available to order from the

Certificates will be awarded to those couples married for one year, five years and every multiple of five thereafter

RSVP to receive a certificate, to Kerry Urdzik on 07852 561259, or email mflc@rcdea.org.uk

Parking at the cathedral is limited, and will be reserved on the day of the Mass for blue badge holders only (please indicate on your RSVP).

There will be a photographer present for family photos before Mass, as well as to capture the bishop presenting couples with their certificates. These pictures will be available for purchase after the event.



# New president wins debating cup

■ Tony Baker, the new Norwich Circle Catenians president, has won the annual George Saubolle debating cup competition for incoming presidents across Province 2.

The Billericay Circle of the Catenian Association in Essex hosted this year's competition on Friday April 6 at the Stock Brook Country Club.

The competition tests the debating abilities of the 15 incoming Circle Presidents of Province 2, which covers the area between Central London and West Norfolk.

Tony Baker, who lives in Hemblington, represented Norwich Circle and his witty speech, based on plays on the word 'Circles', was adjudged by the presiding panel to be the best of the night.

He was presented with the cup by Bernard Noakes (pictured above), Director of Province 2.

The idea of the cup was conceived in 1976 as a tribute to the late George Saubolle, a long-time member of Upminster Circle.

The Catenian Association is an international brotherhood providing practising Catholic laymen and their families with friendship, social activities and support.

### Still time to book Celebrate event

■ There are still spaces available at the Celebrate East Anglia Catholic charismatic conference being held in Bury St Edmunds on June 2 and 3.

The main speakers at the conference, which is suitable for people of all ages, are Michelle Moran (one of the founders of the Sion Community), Jo and Sarah Wells (part of One Hope Project), and Steve Burston (one of the church leaders at St Peter's in Brighton).

The conference is also welcoming back Matt Dean, who will be leading worship; mime artist Steve Murray, and Bishop Alan Hopes, who will attending on the Saturday to celebrate

Tickets are: £38 - Adults (over 22 years), £15 - Young adults (18 - 22 years), £8 - Children (Reception upwards), Free - babies and preschool.

Booking details can be found at www.celebrateconference.org/east-anglia







regulated by the FCA

# Hundreds join

The Rosary on the Coast prayer initiative was marked by hundreds of people who braved cold, wet and windy conditions at over a dozen locations across the Diocese of East Anglia on April 29. Keith Morris reports.

■ Scores of people gathered in up to 15 locations across the Norfolk and Suffolk coast including the ruins of Greyfriars Priory at Dunwich, led by Dominican friars from Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Cambridge.

A group from Our Lady of Perpetual Succour and St Edmund met at the ruins of St Edmund's Chapel on the cliff at Hunstanton, led by Fr Peter Rollings. They were joined by a coach and car loads of people from parishes in Leicester.

At Felixstowe Ferry around 50, led by Fr John Barnes of St Felix Church, Felixstowe, prayed the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. Those who attended were also from St Mary (Ipswich), St Mark's (Ipswich) and the religious Sisters of Jesus and Mary (Felixstowe).

"It was an extremely cold and windswept afternoon, but the atmosphere was great and helped to take our mind off the cold," said Julian Wong.

In Lowestoft, a small group from Our

Lady Star of the Sea, Beccles and Kelvedon walked to Ness Point, the most easterly location in the UK from the church saying the Rosary, led by Knight of St Columba Chris Brooks and including Apostleship of the Sea port chaplain Patricia Ezra. A further group of around 15 led by Fr Paul Chanh, remained in the church to say the Rosary.

At Sea Palling on the Norfolk coast, around 60 people, including students from the University of East Anglia Catholic Society and parishioners from St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich, were joined by Bishop Alan Hopes on the beach next to the lifeboat station.

Bishop Alan said: "I commend wholeheartedly this national prayer





# Rosary on Coast

make their way to a location on the coast, and to say the Rosary in union with Catholics around our country's shores, for three purposes: the renewal of the faith in this Dowry of Mary, a greater recognition in our culture of the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death, and finally for peace for our country and the world, in a time of great instability."

Braving the elements at Cart Gap, Happisburgh, next to the lifeboat station, were members of the Sacred Heart Parish led by Elaine Haughton, including the communities from St Helen Hoveton and St John of the Cross Aylsham. They also buried a miraculous medal of Our Blessed Virgin Mary.

initiative. Our parishes were encouraged to Mgr John Armitage and England national coordinator Antonia Moffat. Proceedings were broadcast live around the world on Facebook by EWTN TV, who have a base in Walsingham, to thousands of viewers. There were a further 90 people at the National Shrine at Walsingham. A coach-load from Peterborough churches plus Milton Keynes joined the group.

Antonia said: "It was such a joyous moment of prayer knowing that we were part of the great surrounding of our British Isles in the great prayer of the Rosary for Faith, Life and Peace. We consecrated our Isles to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in union with everyone else. The children planted a miraculous medal in the sand and there was such a children, representing St Edmund's in Bungay, held their own gathering on the beach by the pier.

Other groups taking part included: Our Lady of the Annunciation in King's Lynn; St Joseph's Church, Sheringham and Our Lady of Refuge, Cromer with groups both at the churches and the beach; St Mary's Church in Great Yarmouth Led by Brian Lafferty KSC; at Bacton and Walcott beach in Norfolk led by Ann, Edna, Lucy and Cynth from St Boniface and Our Lady in Norwich; and at Our Lady and St Peter Church, Aldeburgh, led by Fr Tony Rogers.

Pope Francis has given his apostolic blessing to all who participated in Rosary on the Coast and Cardinal Vincent Nichols gave his



### **DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS**



# Winning paintings from school pupils

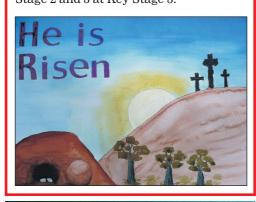
■ Pupils at Catholic schools across the Diocese of East Anglia have been painting pictures on the theme of Easter and the two winning entries have now been entered into a national competition.

Bro Chris Brooks, Youth Officer of the Knights of St Columba, who organized the competition, said: "We have had some excellent entries from local schools for the painting competition that have highlighted the biblical theme of Eastertide. The winning entries of the competition in East Anglia were Key Stage 2 by Patryk Uzyczak of St Mary's Primary School – Lowestoft (painting above) and Key Stage 3 by Donovan Cobb of St Alban's High School, Ipswich (painting below).

"They have now both been forwarded to the National Final Judging Round where they stand a chance of winning substantial prizes."

Schools participating in the Diocese were St Benet's Primary Beccles, St Laurence Primary Cambridge, St Martha's Primary King's Lynn, St Mary's Primary Lowestoft and St Alban's High School, Ipswich.

Chris is arranging to visit the schools to present Provincial Round awards of a framed picture, certificate and cash prizes to the nine winners in the school competitions: 3 at Key Stage 1, 3 at Key Stage 2 and 3 at Key Stage 3.





# ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

PARK LANE, PETERBOROUGH
PE1 5JW
HEADTEACHER
MRS MCELHINNEY
TELEPHONE 01733 566005

### Introduction course for Catholic teachers

■ A short course introduction to the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies – the national programme for Catholic Teachers – is being offered at the Margaret Beaufort Institute in Cambridge in June, backed by the Diocese of East Anglia.

The Diocesan Certificate in Catholic Studies Course is primarily for teachers and teaching assistants in Catholic Schools across the Diocese of East Anglia and is run on behalf of Bishop Alan Hopes, who initiated the course. The topics covered are: Old and New Testament, the Person of Christ, the Sacraments, The Church and Catholic Moral Teaching and participants can gain accreditation by completing a 2000-word essay. Everyone who attends will receive an Attendance Certificate.

Sessions will be lively and participative and you can attend the course without completing the assignment.

The course will be held at Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, 12-14 Grange Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DU from 3-6pm on June 21, 28 and July 5. Costs: £120 for the course, + £60 for the assignment which will lead to accreditation.

For two members of staff from the same school/parish, the cost will be £110 per person (+ £60 each for the assignment); for three or more from the same school/parish the cost will be £100 per person (+£60 each for the assignment).

For more details, please contact Sue Price on <a href="mailto:suepricestar@gmail.com">suepricestar@gmail.com</a>

# Bishop visits school

Bishop Alan Hopes spent the day at Moreton Hall Prep School on April 30 where he celebrated Mass and met with staff, pupils and governors.

■ During the Dress A Girl Assembly on March 12, the children heard about and saw photos of children who live in Malawi. Andy told a wonderful story which helped the children to realise that things that seem of little worth to them can be of great value to people they have never met.

Bishop Alan Hopes spent the day at Moreton Hall Prep School on April 30 where he took Mass and met with staff, pupils and governors.

The Bishop's visit began with Mass during which money raised from the School's Lenten Fundraiser for the learning centres in St Edmund's twin parish in Cambodia was included with the offertory.

The pupils were inspired to collect after parish priest Fr Mark Hackeson, told the children about his visits to Cambodia and so, during Lent, children were asked to count



Bishop Alan (centre) with Moreton Hall altar servers and Fr Mark Hackeson (left) and Fr Padraig Hawkins (right).

the number of eggs and bags of rice they had at home. The number of pencils in their pencil cases were also enthusiastically counted and the corresponding amount of money brought in for the children in Cambodia.

After Mass, Bishop Alan, Fr Mark Hackeson and Fr Padraig Hawkins enjoyed lunch with the Headmaster and his wife and School Governors before meeting preprep children.

They delighted in singing to the Bishop and were keen to share their creative writing with him. This was followed by an audience with Year 8 pupils who were keen to find out about the role of the bishop having been learning about the mission of the church and Jesus' teaching on discipleship.

Headmaster Chris Moxon said: "It was a great pleasure

to welcome Bishop Alan to Moreton Hall. I am delighted that he was so thrilled by the warm welcome he received and he has offered to come back and see us again next year."

Moreton Hall Prep has close links with the church and plays a unique part in supporting and building up the Catholic faith in the parish of St Edmund's and the diocese.

## Students walk to raise Kenya funds



Three teenage pupils from St Bede's Inter-church School in Cambridge walked 12 miles to school to help raise funds for a summer trip to Kenya where they will teach in primary schools.

Josh Heath-Murchie, Rizwan Hossain and Kairo Olusanya were raising money for the Year 11 trip to Kenya by walking 12 miles to school from Melbourn to St Bede's. It took the boys four hours to walk and they left at 4:50am and narrowly avoided being on the late list as they arrived just before tutor time.

Josh and Kairo are going to Kenya after their exams in July to teach in primary schools.

Josh has managed to raise over £400 towards his flight and accommodation in Nakuru, Kenya, where he says is looking forward to teaching needy and vulnerable children about physics and also baking. Josh has worked hard to raise money for his trip and has even managed to raise a bit extra that he will use to buy educational materials for the children he meets.

#### YOUTH MATTERS

# Festival aims to Ignite young people's faith

Over 200 young people from across the Diocese of East Anglia enjoyed the **Ignite Youth** Festival in early May, camping at the Sacred Heart School in Swaffham. Keith Morris reports.

■ Groups from Norwich, Cambridge, Peterborough, Ipswich, Peterborough, St Edmunds, Swaffham and elsewhere were offered a packed-programme of activities, speakers and entertainment.

On Saturday, the Youth

for Christ band from St John's Cathedral in Norwich played worship music while Clive Sheridan and Cat Williams from the Ignite team got everyone into the festival mood with some games. They then interviewed Gabby and Paige who featured, along with Sisters from the Daughters of Diving Charity in Swaffham, in the recent Channel 5 documentary Bad Habits-Holy Orders.

Gabby said: "The nuns taught us a lot about ourselves and gave us a chance to think as well. I learnt not to do things just to impress other people

– I had been living in a world where I just wanted to impress others, which you should never do. When you mobile phone is taken away you learn a lot more about

Paige said: "The time at the convent taught me not to be as selfish as I used to be. It has made me realise that there is much more to the world than just the screen of your mobile phone."

Fr Luke Goymour, Cat and Ciaran Losasso spoke about Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) and then there was a quiet time of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the opportunity for the young people to go to confession - which many of them did.

The evening was rounded off by a dance session from DJ Breaker.

On Sunday, Sr Theresa Weight from the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, mime artist Steve Murray and

> Derek Williams from Walsingham all spoke and Bishop Alan celebrated Mass.

> There were workshops including: giant

Rosary bead making as well as more thoughtful ones such as: Made for Love, Ask Anything and What are you doing with your life? There was also some late-night entertainment from Norwich band Mengelmoes.

Reflecting on the event, Diocesan Youth Service director, Hamish MacQueen, said: "The young people really engaged with the activities. The focus, as always, is to help theme grow in their relationship with Jesus.

The theme is 'Be Not Afraid' as spoken by the angel Gabriel to Mary, because Pope Francis has chosen that theme for World Youth Day this year.

"The Adoration and Confes-

Olympics, mime, Nerf battle and sion is a chance for the young people to spend some time with Jesus face-to-face. There is lot of noisy stuff going on but this is a time of quiet just to bring people into an atmosphere where they can be more aware of God's presence and aware of his love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation - very real ways for our young people to encounter Jesus.

> "We have been able to put on the event this year because we have a great team of over 20 people which enables us to put on a much bigger and more professional event - so thanks to them all," said Hamish.

> On Bank Holiday Monday a large group of young people who had attended the festival walked around five miles to join the Diocesan pilgrimage at Walsingham.

> To see a full picture gallery of the festival visit: <a href="https://flic.kr/s/aHskxBReXz">https://flic.kr/s/aHskxBReXz</a>

### Key 2018 dates

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

- July 24 29: Youth Summer Pilgrimage to the North of England and Scotland. The 'Northern Saints Pilgrimage,' is for 16 -35s. We will be visiting Lindisfarne, Durham and Iona amongst other places with a focus on the saints who lived in these locations and what they can teach us. To register your interest please email dys@rcdea.org.uk.
- July 30 August 3: New Dawn Family Conference, Walsingham
- August 24 31: Pilgrimage to Lourdes
- August 23 27: Youth 2000 Prayer Festival, Walsingham, for those aged 16+
- August: Summer Camp (location and dates to be decided), for those aged 8-14

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

#### Youth contacts

Tel: 01508 486236

Above, tThe

**Christ band** 

worship, left,

nuns and Bad

Habits girls

Gabby and

Paige, below,

Adoration of

the Blessed

Sacrament.

**Swaffham** 

Youth For

leading

**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/



IGNITE

### evangelist **NORTHERN SAINTS** YOUTH PILGRIMAGE York • Durham • Lindisfarne • Iona

24th July - 29th July 2018 Age 16 - 35

Led by the Ignite Team

For more information and to book a place please see Bookings must be received by 15th June

the DIOCESE of EAST ANGLIA

**Your chance** to join the **Ignite team** 

■ The Ignite Youth Team is recruiting members for 2018-2019 sharing the Gospel message in schools and parishes. It is ideal as a gap year. So if you are aged between 18 - 30 and will have just left school or university, be in between jobs or just want to do something different, why not think about applying? Or perhaps you know someone who might be interested? Board, lodging, living expenses and a monthly allowance provided. Contact: igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk more information.

#### Catholic East Anglia / June 2018

## Pilgrims remember fallen



Pictured laying a wreath at the Menin Gate on May 4 are Mgr Tony Rogers, Captain Paul Bishop RN (retired) and Teresa Maybury. Picture by Kathy Bishop.

A small group of pilgrims from the Diocese of East Anglia have recently returned from a pilgrimage to Flanders commemorating the end of the First World War. Fr Paul Maddison reports.

■ Led by Mgr Tony Rogers the group were based in Ypres in Belgium and visited the Everyman club in Popperinge known as Toc H where they held Mass. They then visited the parade ground to remember the many soldiers who were shot for desertion, before stopping to visit and pray at the Brandhoek cemetery.

The following day the group visited Vimy Ridge and were shown round by some young Canadian volunteers. Visiting the underground trenches, the memorial and no-mansland it was a thought provoking and memorable day; which concluded with Mass

celebrated at St Jacob's church in Ypres.

The next day saw a visit to the Cloth Hall Museum in Ypres and then St George's Church which was rebuilt as the memorial church for all the British soldiers. After lunch a short bus ride took the group to Tyne Cot where another tour and presentation was laid on before stopping to visit and pray at the German cemetery at Langemark.

After an early dinner the group took part in the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate where a wreath was laid on behalf of the Diocese

The pilgrimage was both moving and memorable and was organised by Pilgrimage People which is happy to arrange similar pilgrimages if requested. Our photo shows the laying of the wreath at the Menin Gate.

www.pilgrimagepeople.org



St John's pilgrims at the Massabielle Grotto in Lourdes

# Cathedral group makes pilgrimage journey to Lourdes

A group of 38 people from the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich recently took part in a three-day pilgrimage to Lourdes. Dr Martin Auger reports.

■ Organised and led by Fr Arockiya Seelan the group included the young and not-so-young, the physically less able and physically able, women and men, families and individuals from a range of countries of origin, altar servers, stewards, catechists, reader and all with their individual reasons for going. For some it was a first visit to Lourdes, for others a return.

Lourdes itself provides an affirmation that the frail, the sick and the disabled enjoy a special place in God's heart.

After a coach journey and flight from Stansted, we checked into our hotel, had dinner and then joined the nightly Torchlight Procession and Rosary. It is led by a statue of the Virgin Mary carried by volunteers and begins near the Massabielle Grotto, continues around the esplanade and ends in the Rosary Square.

Most participants carry a candle and the Rosary is introduced in several languages and the Ave Maria and Our Father said in each individual's native language, giving a real sense of the universal nature of the Church and our common humanity.

At the conclusion we were invited to exchange the sign of peace with those around us. The Torchlight Procession and Rosary is a very moving event and was instituted in 1863 to mark Our Lady's Apparitions in Lourdes to the poor, uneducated, guileless young woman Bernadette Soubirous, who was only 14 years old at the time, but open to God. There were 18 Apparitions in total and Bernadette and others usually visited the site at Massabielle carrying candles.

On Thursday we walked together to participate in a Mass celebrated by Fr Seelan at the Massabielle Grotto, where Bernadette knelt before the apparition of Our Lady. Fr Seelan's homily was based on the account of the Wedding at Cana in St John's Gospel and Mary's instructions to "Do whatever He tells you" - the Lourdes theme for 2018.

That afternoon, Fr Seelan had arranged a guided tour "In Bernadette's Footsteps" allowing us to learn more about Bernadette's early family life. Our tour guide was Sr Anne who encouraged us all to proclaim "God is love and He loves me as I am" – a powerful and affirming message whoever we are and whatever our situation in life.

Later there was an opportunity to take part in the Eucharistic Procession back over the River Gave to the vast underground Basilica of Saint Pius X, with its stunning stained glass windows. There is a time for adoration and then blessing of the sick.

On our last day we went to a private Mass in St Anne's Chapel in the Immaculate Conception Basilica, celebrated by Fr Seelan during which he preached about the importance and significance of grandparents and parents in a child's formation in faith. Prayers and intercessions were made for our group, the dead, the sick and for personal intentions.

As the weather had improved, Fr Seelan then led a small group in the Way of the Cross, which follows a hilly, winding and rugged path, with each station made up of two metre high cast iron figures (115 figures in total). At the first station (Jesus is condemned to death) we were invited to silently climb a short, but steep series of stone steps on our knees up to the station. Arriving at the top of the steps to meet the figure of Christ surrounded by Roman soldiers was a humbling and profoundly moving experience, preparing us to engage more deeply in the subsequent meditations at the end of our visit.



### "Open my eyes, that I may see wonderful things." - Psalm 119:18



#### Augustine has been living his childhood in darkness. Will you help a child see the wonder of God's creation?

Dear Catholic East Anglia reader,

As a fellow Christian, I wanted to share with you how incredibly powerful it is to witness a child seeing for the first time, after eye surgery.

As we carry out our work at Christian Blind Mission, we are constantly moved by the astonishment and wonder on the faces of children when the bandages are removed and they get their first clear look at their smiling loved ones.

The photo to the right shows 6-year-old Augustine with cataracts, leaving him barely able to see. But cataracts aren't difficult to treat. Surgery taking just a couple of hours could restore his sight.

Just think, in this short time his entire life can be transformed. Instead of living with darkness, frustration and

exclusion he could have light, colour and a future filled with opportunity. He could start school and find a way out of poverty. He could even fulfil his dream of becoming a radio reporter.

Cataract removal surgery costs £95, but families like Augustine's can barely afford even basic necessities, so I am turning to you in the hope that you can help.

If you could send a gift of £95 today, you could pay for surgery for a child like Augustine. You could open a child's eyes to the beauty of God's creation. And we'll send you an update on Augustine's surgery.

God bless you,

Andrea Brandt von Lindau Programme Manager for Inclusive Eye Health



Augustine has been living his life in darkness, due to his cataracts



His tearful question each morning: "Why can't I go to school?"



Your gift could help a child see and transform a life

Christian Blind Mission is a huge inspiration to me. It works in more than 50 countries, including some of the world's poorest communities, to restore sight, mobility and independence to people living with disability. It's putting Christ's love into action for the most marginalised people. Will you join Christian Blind Mission by supporting this amazing work?



#### Diane Louise Jordan, Friend of CBM

Yes, I will give £95 to make a blind child see the wonder of God's creation.			
I will give: ☐ £95 ☐ My choice amount of:			cbm Christian Blind Mission
Card holder's name:			
Card number:		Expiry date:	M/YY
3-digit Cardhold security number: Cardhold signature		Date:	/ / /
Title: First Name:	Si	urname:	
Address:			
	Po	ostcode:	
We will send you an update on Augustine's surgery.			
We'd love to keep you informed about our work and how your support is transforming lives. If you are happy to hear from CBM UK by email or phone, please let us know your details:			
Phone:	Email:		
We like to contact our supporters with postal fundraising messages and updates from the projects we support. If you do NOT want to receive such messages from us in the future			
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today. THANK YOU.

## News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese



■ St Benet's parishioners in Beccles were delighted to host a local Inter-faith Service, part of the annual Women's World Day of Prayer on April 28 after the original service was postponed from March due to the "Beast from the East".

The service was written by a group of women in Suriname, in South America, with the theme "All God's Creation is Very Good!" Representatives from all faiths in Beccles spoke the parts of seven Suriname women and gave examples of how much we have to thank God for.

They then made clear that we also have real responsibilities to protect the environment and ensure there will be a future home for the human race. The seven women, and all those present, made a personal commitment to do one thing - however small - that will help lessen the damage we do to our world. The service was concluded with a blessing from Fr Martin Gowman, before the congregation adjourned to the Parish Hall for fair trade tea.

Pictured are the seven women from Beccles who took the roles of the Suriname speakers and led the commitment to change.



■ The parish of St Etheldreda's in Ely was delighted to celebrate its links with Cambodia by welcoming friends from other twinned parishes to join in a celebration Mass on April 20.

Fr Philip Shryane led the Mass in the Khmer language, concelebrating with his brother, Fr Tony and Fr John Warrington. Everyone was encouraged to wear any Cambodian dress they had, including the traditional checked Kroma scarf.

The Mass followed Cambodian traditions: the congregation was sprinkled with water as an Easter Blessing, prayers of thanksgiving were offered for all friends and contacts in Cambodia and the offertory procession included donations to Ely Foodbank, before rose petals were sprinkled during the Consecration.

The service concluded with incense sticks placed in memory of loved ones. A selection of Khmer music was played during the Mass and refreshments were enjoyed in the parish rooms afterwards.

The next diocesan Mass for Cambodia will be on Friday, October 12 at 7pm in Sacred Heart, North Walsham. Before then we look forward to welcoming Fr Totet Banaynal from St John's Siem Reap to our diocese in the middle of May.



■ It has become a tradition for the Polish community in the Ely parish of St Etheldreda's to provide a Sunday lunch once a year. Once again this year a group of ladies provided a magnificent selection of traditional dishes demonstrating their wonderful culinary skills. Not only were there lots of savoury items but people were spoilt for choice when it came to desserts.



■ A group of 24 Lithuanian children made their First holy Communion on Sunday 6th May in the Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation King's Lynn. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Andrejius Lazeriux, Lithuanian chaplain based in London assisted by Canon Peter Rollings, the Parish Priest. Fr Andrejius comes once a month to celebrate a Sunday Mass in Lithuanian for the large community in the area.