



Students learn about modern-day slavery – page 3



Engaging musical staged by students – page 8



Help to solve a 100-year-old mystery – page 12



Pictured is the East Anglia group at World Youth Day in Panama City.

East Anglia pilgrims join Pope in Panama

A group of young people representing the Diocese of East Anglia joined Pope Francis and up to 600,000 other pilgrims at a huge overnight vigil and Mass at the end of World Youth Day in Panama City on January 27.

■ The group of seven, who flew from Norwich, spent a week with hundreds of thousands of other young pilgrims enjoying teaching sessions, cultural events, concerts and several large-scale set-piece events in and around Panama City.

World Youth Day culminated with an overnight vigil and final Mass which was celebrated by Pope Francis himself.

Pope Francis tweeted from the event: "With her 'yes', Mary became the most



Pope Francis, picture by WYD Panama.

influential woman in history. Without social networks, she became the first 'influencer': the 'influencer' of God."

Jess McCall, from the Ignite Youth

Team, based in Walsingham, said: "The evening vigil was a beautiful event and Pope Francis talked about how we should embrace life as it comes and say yes to God even though it may seem difficult. He used the phrase "only that which is loved can be saved" - highlighting the importance that love should have in our lives. The Pope reminded us that every time we fall, God helps us back up and that he is always there to help us.

"We have all really enjoyed our experience and are really looking forward to World Youth Day Lisbon 2022."

Fr Michael Johnstone (aged 85) from Norwich, who has attended eight previous WYDs since 1981 across Europe, Australia and North and South America, was one of the oldest pilgrims. He said: "For young Catholics it is an eye-opener to be with a vast number of enthusiastic fellow Christians and be led by Pope Francis, reminding us of our unity in Christ."

■ See a diary of World Youth Day in the centre pages.

As we enter the season of Lent

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Ash Wednesday, March 6, we will enter the season of Lent. Since the earliest centuries, the Church has observed a period of 40 days of Lenten preparation. In these days we follow Christ Himself, who, scripture tells us, spent 40 days fasting in the desert before the great events of His ministry among us.

Those 40 days evoke in turn an earlier time of desert wandering: the 40 years spent by the people of Israel in the wilderness, before they could cross into the Promised Land of milk and honey.

Our Lent is, like these earlier examples, a time of preparation and of pilgrimage, that will lead us to the Promised Land of new life in Jesus Christ, risen and glorified, and celebrated above all in the great Mass of the Easter Vigil.

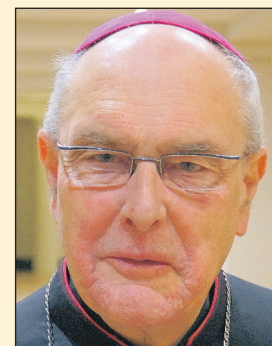
It is a journey that begins with Ash Wednesday, when we literally take up our cross to follow Jesus – when the sign of the cross is made on our foreheads in ash, for repentance. It is a journey marked too by the three great pillars of Lent: fasting, almsgiving and prayer. We have the opportunity to renew our prayer life, in Lenten devotions such as the Stations of the Cross.

Almsgiving teaches us to respond anew to our neighbour's needs and to share with others all that we have been blessed with. And fasting helps us to refrain from those things which would separate us from God: as Jesus says in the desert, "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God".

Of course fasting is not simply an external observance. It is an inner commitment, made with God's help, to abstain not just from food but from sin and evil, and to live by the Gospel. This is a reminder that our Lenten pilgrimage is also an interior one, a journey of the heart and soul just as much as the body: "come back to me with all your heart", as we hear in the first reading for Ash Wednesday. So on the very first Sunday of Lent we shall seek God's help in this interior pilgrimage, in the opening prayer of the Mass: "Father, through our observance of Lent... help us to understand the meaning of your Son's death and Resurrection, and teach us to reflect it in our lives."

My prayer for you all, is that our Lenten observances of prayer, fasting and almsgiving may indeed help us to that deeper understanding of Jesus Christ and bring us to a new intimacy and closeness to Him in every way.

With all good wishes and the assurance of my prayers for a truly blessed Lent,
Bishop Alan



news in brief

Station Masses to be held in Lent

■ Station Masses are being held in the seven Deaneries across the Diocese of East Anglia, all celebrated by Bishop Alan as part of the regular pattern of Lent devotions in the church, reports Fr Andrew Eburne.

The tradition of the Station Mass goes right back to the time of Pope Gregory, who used to make a pilgrimage to 40 churches in Rome during Lent, accompanied by pilgrims who would join him in a rite of penitence.

Station Masses are therefore a wonderful opportunity to go to Confession. The season of Lent is itself a gift that helps us turn back to the Lord 'with all our hearts'; and that journey of turning back is most fruitful when it incorporates the Sacrament of Confession. Especially for people who haven't been to Confession for some time, this can be a time of real healing and a deepening of their spiritual life.

Each Deanery will hold its own Station Mass, and each Mass begins with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession at 6pm, followed by the Station Mass at 7pm and refreshments afterwards. At each Mass the Sacrament of Confession will be available not just before the Mass, but throughout the entire evening.

The full list of Station Masses is:

Peterborough Deanery – St Luke's – March 12; Bury St Edmunds Deanery – St Edmunds – March 14; Norwich Deanery – St George's – March 21; Ipswich Deanery – St Mary's – March 26; King's Lynn Deanery – Holy Family – March 28; Coastal Deanery – St Mary's, Lowestoft – April 4; Cambridge Deanery – Our Lady and the English Martyrs – April 9

History newsletter

■ The latest edition of the newsletter of the East Anglian Catholic History Society, *Oriente Lumen* has been published and contains stories about recent discoveries relating to the history of Catholicism in East Anglia.

You can download a copy at:

<https://catholicseastanglia2016.wordpress.com/>

Catholic East Anglia

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

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Articles and photographs for the next edition are very welcome and should be sent to the editor, ideally via email, by the deadline of Monday March 11.

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Taking care of our environment

■ To discover practical ways in which we can respond to Pope Francis encyclical on care for our common home 'Laudato Si', a group of parishioners from Our Lady and St Peter Aldeburgh with All Saints Leiston recently visited the education centre and Materials Recovery Facility at Great Blakenham in Ipswich reports Chris McElhatton.

Before the facility began operating, household waste all went to landfill. Craig Renton, the Suffolk Council facilitator, explained how to help prevent waste, reuse, recycle and recover energy from the things we throw away.

Prevention: Waste can be prevented in many ways, including purchasing a 'shopping bag for life' and a reusable coffee cup, but preferably by not purchasing produce in packaging or selecting products in recyclable packaging like non-waxed paper. Large cardboard packaging may be composted at home.

Reuse: Waste from household recycling bins and kerbside locations is sorted at the facility and supplied to companies to make new products in metals, plastics, card and paper. The majority of sorted materials from the facility is recycled and the remaining 8% goes to energy recovery. Recycling aluminium for example uses 95% less energy than producing new aluminium. This provides



Aldeburgh and Leiston parishioners visit the recycling facility at Great Blakenham.

the largest income for the facility.

Recovering energy: 8% of household waste which the facility cannot recycle is sent to the Energy Recovery Centre. This can then generate enough electricity to power 40,000 homes.

Many of the visiting parishioners have signed the Laudato Si' pledge 'to pray for and with creation, live more simply and

protect our common home:

<http://livedaudatosi.org/>

The parish is currently researching ways to reduce its carbon footprint with the possibility of solar panels and signing up to a sustainable energy supplier. Find out more practical ways of taking action at www.greensuffolk.org and at www.ourcommonhome.co.uk

40 churches join chain of prayer

An ecumenical Chain of Prayer involving 40 churches from eight different denominations took place over six hours at Norwich Anglican Cathedral on Thursday January 24 during Christian Unity Week. Laurette Burton reports.

■ St Luke's Chapel in the Cathedral provided an appropriate setting for the annual Chain of Prayer during the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Indonesia, a country with a wide ethnic and religious diversity highlighting a need for unity, provided this year's material for ecumenical services in Christian Unity week.

The central theme was Justice, based on Deuteronomy 16:18-20 – "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue..."

The Chain of Prayer ran from 10am to 4pm, with 15-minute sessions being led by clergy from the city of Norwich who represented 40 different Christian communities.

Most slots were shared, providing a truly ecumenical flavour.



Fr Sean Connolly helps to lead a session of the Chain of Prayer in Norwich.

One of the sessions was led by Fr Sean Connolly, with around 32 parishioners from St George's together with the Rev Debbie Caulk, a Methodist minister from Chapel Field Church and some of her parishioners.

Central to Fr Sean's contribution was an apt reading from St Paul's letter to the Galatians (1:11-24).

The Norwich Chain of Prayer is organised by the County Ecumenical Officer, Catherine Howe, assisted by the Denominational Ecumenical Officers of Norfolk & Waveney Churches Together.

Catherine said: "We would like to thank everyone who supported this initiative – those who led prayers, those who just dropped by to pray

silently, our Ecumenical Canons and the Cathedral – who let us use their beautiful and peaceful chapel.

"We can already announce the date for 2020 – Thursday January 23 from 10am to 4pm, again in St Luke's chapel."

Contact Catherine at: catherine.howe@diocese-ofnorwich.org www.nwct.org.uk

Students from St John Fisher High School in Peterborough have learnt about the massive problem of modern-day slavery from a high-powered panel of professionals including two bishops, officers of the Santa Marta Group, Cambridgeshire Police and the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority. Keith Morris reports.



A drama by students at St John Fisher High School in Peterborough during the St Josephine Bakhita Day event. Picture by Marcin Mazur.

Students learn about modern slavery issues

■ Around 200 students took part in the day-long event on Friday (February 8) which marked the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita, the patron saint linked with human trafficking and modern slavery, having been trafficked herself in the 19th Century.

They heard heart-breaking stories about people who have experienced exploitation, the huge extent of the issue both world-wide and in areas like East Anglia, and what the range of organisations represented are doing to help tackle the problem.

Bishop Patrick Lynch, Lead Bishop on Human Trafficking & Modern Day Slavery for the CBCEW, told students of his own brief experience of the back-breaking work of picking potatoes out in the fields. Also about his time as a priest in Peterborough when he regularly said Mass in a sugar-beet factory for Irish fishermen who came to the town for work to provide for their families during the winter months when they could not fish.

"One of the sad features of our world today is that slavery still exists all over the world including our own country, especially in the agricultural sector in places such as East Anglia," he said.

"So today, on the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita who herself was exploited as a slave, we pray that as individuals, as a Church and as a country we may have the wisdom to see that exploitation, the courage to speak about it and the determination to eliminate it."

Bishop Alan Hopes told students: "Slavery is not something from the past – it is happening today, just in different ways. The church is



Bishop Alan speaking in front of a painting of St Josephine Bakhita. Picture by Marcin Mazur.

involved because we believe in the dignity and sanctity of every human life and the personal freedom given to them by God himself."

Phoebe Prendergast and Cecilia Taylor-Camara, from the Santa Marta Group, spoke about how vulnerable people can become victims of slavery while Deputy Director, Michael Duthie, a former senior Met Police officer, explained how the Group had been formed after concerns surrounding exploitation leading up to the

2012 Olympics in London and now aimed to help the Catholic Church work closely with local Police forces to help stop exploitation through prevention work, safe houses and campaigning.

www.santamartagroup.com
Lysbeth Ford, Partnership Development Manager from the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA), gave an informative talk to students about the organisation's important work in preventing worker exploitation and its

powers to investigate the organised criminals behind such activities as car washes, nail bars, massage parlours, construction work, agriculture, cleaning, hospitality and care home work.

"Labour exploitation is all about the money that can be made with organised crime behind it," said Lysbeth. "If you are forced, coerced or deceived into work then you are being exploited."

www.gla.gov.uk

PC Kevin Murphy of the Cambridgeshire Police's Youth Offending Services spoke about Gangs and Knife Crime which, he said, are very prevalent in and around Peterborough. Gangs forced out of big cities by Police attention move into towns such as Peterborough and are often referred to as County Lines.

They recruit young people who appear to be at a loose end out on the streets. Better school attendance and providing sport or other activities can prevent this happening.

Knife-related crime in Britain today is at its highest level since the second world war said PC Murphy, who stressed to students the dangers of carry a knife or similar sharp object which is now a criminal offence and attracts a prison sentence. "They can also be used against you," he warned.

Sixth Formers and year 10 and 11 students attended workshops during the day and a special liturgy service which included drama, singing, prayers and readings by students.

See a full picture gallery at: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsm-vivPgo>

Reaction

■ **St John Fisher Headteacher, Sean Hayes**, said: "We were delighted to be asked to host this year's event and sought to include as many students as possible. The Sixth Form experienced a carousel of workshops on different aspects of the issues of human trafficking and modern slavery, while Years 10 and 11 had an assembly and a series of talks respectively. Students in Years 7-9 explored the topic in lessons in the previous weeks and produced a display of chain links that each recorded an aspect of the issue."

"The students found the content eye-opening and informative. Many said that they had not appreciated the issues were so real and close. It was certainly a very educational day."

■ "It made me think about previous things I had noticed at a car wash. I had seen the signs but not realised what they meant; I do now."
Princess, Year 12 (aged 16)

■ "It made me more aware of the organisations that can help young people deal with issues such as gang crime and knife violence. I now understand more that victims are exploited and targeted for a reason."
Lerica, Year 12 (aged 16)

■ "I now know that these issues are all around us but we don't see them. We see them in the movies but don't think of that as reality."
Asiyah, Year 13 (aged 18)

■ "It was scary to learn that gangmasters could be in Peterborough recruiting children."
Joao, Year 13 (aged 17)

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Candlemas at Downham Market

For Candlemas, Downham Market parishioners were invited to a Mass to celebrate all those who help in the parish. Rebecca Bretherton reports.



■ On a snowy Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (February 2), Father Erico offered Mass for the Parish community of St Dominic's, giving thanks for support given in so many different ways. Everyone was given a small prayer card with the words of St Teresa of Avila.

*Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.*

This was the first activity

planned by the new Parish Evangelisation team which was formed as a result of the 'Creating Missionary Parishes' programme which was held last autumn in the parish.

Creating Missionary Parishes is based on the book

by Sherry Weddell called Forming Intentional Disciples. The programme gives a Catholic parish group the opportunity to learn about evangelisation and to practice telling people about Jesus Christ in everyday life.

Poringland parish will be

starting the programme for Lent.

If you and your parish are interested in setting up a Parish Evangelisation team, please contact Rebecca Bretherton, co-ordinator of the New Evangelisation at rebecca.bretherton@icloud.com

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VOCATIONS – Fr Joseph Welch

In our occasional series on vocations with an East Anglia connection, Fr Joseph Welch talks about his role as a Priest of the Oratory of St Philip Neri in Oxford.

■ Born and brought up in the parish of Our Lady & St Walstan, Costessey, I had thought first to become a priest for the diocese. Indeed, I studied at Oscott for two years soon after 'A' levels.

However, I was not yet ready for all that this would entail and leaving seminary I turned to teaching instead. Many years later – and, following a serious relationship with a non-Catholic girl, knowing that were I ever to marry I could not bring up any children except in the Faith – my thoughts turned once more to examining just how much my faith meant to me.

By this time a new Oratory had been established and, having remained in touch with the three Fathers from the Birmingham Oratory who had moved to Oxford, I began to

make a number of visits.

Slowly, my sense of vocation was re-ignited and, deeply moved by the beauty of the liturgy that truly lifted heart and mind to God, and being humbled by the sight of priests not just hearing Confessions but going to Confession themselves, I began to explore what it was that the sixteenth century Apostle of Rome, St Philip Neri, had bequeathed to the Church.

Members of this congregation of secular priests live in community without vows, being bound to each other simply by the bond of fraternal charity. Without the scaffolding of solemn vows we have only our love for each other to persuade us to persevere when things get tough, as happens in any set of relationships from time to time.

But the "saint of gentleness and kindness," as Blessed John Henry Newman called our founder, remains a constant inspiration, and striving to become more like Christ after the model of St Philip can bring that interior peace which so many seek, but fail to find.





On the Feast of Saints Paul Miki and Companions (February 6), Fr Philip John was installed as the new Parish Priest of Saint Philip Howard, Cherry Hinton in Cambridge reports Bienn Carlo Manuntag.

In his homily, Bishop Alan reminded everyone that the installation of a new parish priest, is a moment of grace and a moment of challenge and opportunity both for Fr Philip and for the parish community.

He also emphasised the importance of prayer - that it must be the heart of a priest's daily life. That without that heart at its centre, priesthood has no purpose and certainly no lasting effect. And prayer must also be at the

heart of the daily life of each member of the Parish community. Without prayer, parish renewal can never really begin. Prayer opens up our lives to the possibility of God's working in and through our lives.

Bishop Alan also thanked Mgr Canon Eugene Harkness for his pastoral ministry in the Parish. Mgr Eugene will be installed as the new parish priest of Our Lady of the Assumption and the English Martyrs in Cambridge on March 19, the Feast of Saint Joseph.

Pictured above is Fr Philip John, to the left of Bishop Alan, with Mgr Canon Eugene Harkness on the Bishop's right.

Christian communities sign ecumenical covenant

In a packed service at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Sunday January 20, representatives from all nine members of North Walsham Churches Together met for worship and signed an ecumenical covenant of mutual support.

■ The service was part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and all churches took part in the service in various ways. Those involved included North Walsham Methodist church, St Nicholas Church of England, Sacred Heart Catholic, North Walsham Congregational church, Worstead Baptist Church, Swan-

ton Abbott chapel, Society of Friends, the Salvation Army and New Life church.

"This was a significant and indeed historic event, and proved to be a truly uplifting and positive service," said Major Richard Durrant, Chairman of North Walsham Churches Together.

"This is the first time that all nine churches have met together in this way and we pray that this will be the start of us moving forward to reach out more effectively to our local community, as the church should indeed do."

Sacred Heart Church hosted the event and Fr James Walsh preached the sermon. He said: "This event is the result of close co-operation and growing friendship between the churches involved and was planned by the ministers fraternal which meets on a regular basis. The covenant we signed commits us to praying for each other, working together

when possible and learning from each other. Altogether an important milestone in our future."

Rev Patrick Coghlan, minister of Worstead Baptist Church, said "I think this is one of the most significant events that has taken place in our area since we ran a joint mission several years ago. I really believe that God will honour this step, and that as a result we will see significant growth in all the local churches. It is very exciting."

Revd John Fenn said: "The Methodist Church is proud to be a part of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. Our agreement in North Walsham is one which is common across local Covenants across the country. North Walsham Methodist Church is happy to be part of such an arrangement, covering six churches in North Walsham, plus three others in the neighbouring villages."

news in brief

All invited to Chrism Mass

■ Priests and people of the Diocese of East Anglia will gather with Bishop Alan for its annual Chrism Mass, at St John's Cathedral in Norwich, on the Tuesday of Holy Week (April 16), at 7pm. Fr Andrew Eburne reports.

The word 'Chrism' comes from the Greek word chrisme, which means anointing. It is why Jesus is called 'Christ' - He is 'the anointed one' - and it is in turn why we are called Christian. It is at the heart of our faith.

From ancient times, the prophets, priests and kings of Israel were anointed with olive oil as a sign that the Spirit of God rested upon them; and the sick too were anointed with oil for its healing properties.

At the Chrism Mass, three urns of oil are offered by the faithful and blessed by the Bishop: the Oil of the Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick, and finally the Oil for the Holy Chrism. Anointing with these sacred oils is integral to the Sacraments of Baptism, of Confirmation, of the Sick and of Ordination. Following the Chrism Mass, the sacred oils are distributed to every parish in the diocese.

At the Chrism Mass, too, the priests of the diocese are asked by the Bishop to renew their ordination promises. Not only the priests, however, but all the baptized are called to renewal. For as the Bishop prays at the beginning of Mass, we are all 'made sharers in Christ's consecration,' so that we may all 'witness to His Redemption in the world'.

The entire Diocese is warmly welcomed to take part in this Mass which is so central to our faith.



Talk is highlight of Catenian dinner

■ The highlight of the January meeting of the Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association, held in the Refectory of the Great Hospital, was a fascinating talk by Jacinta Goode, East Anglia Diocesan representative of the Medaille Trust, a Catholic charity which supports victims of human trafficking and modern slavery in the UK.

The presentation was greeted enthusiastically by the 60-strong audience of brothers and wives led by the Circle's President Tony Baker who later arranged for a donation to be made to the charity from Circle funds.

Pictured are Jacinta Goode and Tony Baker at the Catenian dinner in Norwich.



The Catenian Association

An international brotherhood of Catholic men who aim to:

- Strengthen family life through friendship and faith.
- Advance the interests of young Catholics.
- Establish, maintain and administer benevolent funds.
- The Association is non-political, is not a fund raising agent or action pressure group.

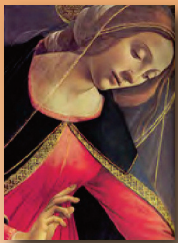
'We, the women and men of the church, are in the middle of a love story: each of us is a link in this chain of love.'

Pope Francis

For further information about the Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association contact:

THE MEMBERSHIP OFFICER
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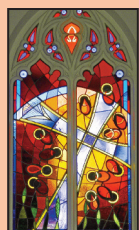
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Panama World

A group of young people from the Diocese of East Anglia flew 5,400 miles to Panama for the World Youth Day pilgrimage in late January. Jess McCall reports.

Day One

■ Six intrepid pilgrims set off from Norwich Airport for a very early morning flight to Schiphol Airport near Amsterdam. They were Fr Luke Goymour, youth director Hamish MacQueen, Jessica McCall from Ipswich, Clive Sheridan from Peterborough and Bridget Holmes and Lauren Thorpe from Norwich, along with a statue of Our Lady of Walsingham.

At Schiphol Airport, Fr Luke conducted a Mass for the group and they met other pilgrims heading for Panama in the form of a group from Korea, before catching the plane to Panama City.

We left freezing cold East Anglia for sunny Panama having been up since 3am. First we flew to Amsterdam where we had Mass in the meditation room in the airport. The chaplain had everything ready for use when we arrived even though he wasn't expecting us. We also bumped into our first group of World Youth Day pilgrims who had come from Korea.

The flight to Panama seemed to be mostly filled with people who were going to World Youth Day. We also met people from Poland, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Italy. We finally arrived in Panama 5pm local time and got our transport to the hotel. After some much needed food we were finally able to get some sleep 24 hours after some of us had woken up.

Day Two

■ This morning we had some free time to go and explore Panama City so we decided to go to Ancon Hill which has some amazing views of the city – even from only half-way up. We also got to meet lots of different groups from so many different countries. We saw some local people dancing and got invited to join in with them.

We did however manage to get lost on the way back to the hotel and had help from so many local people trying to help us get back. We ended up having to take a taxi back, but we made it back in one piece, just about.

After getting lost again we finally made it to the opening Mass near the beach. We brought with us the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham, many people were fascinated by her and wanted photos of her and to ask all about her. It was really lovely to see so many people taking an interest.

Day Three

■ Today we had our first day of catechesis (teaching session) in English with Bishop Burns from the USA. He spoke on the Bible quote "speak Lord your servant is listening". He talked about how we should put down our electronic gadgets for a while and listen to God, what he is asking us to do, and where he is guid-



East Anglia pilgrims and Pope Francis in Panama courtesy of WYD Panama/ Cristina Rodrigues.

ing us, so that we can say yes to God!

We had lots of interest in the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham today with particular interest from some Canadian and some American groups. They really enjoyed the opportunity to take pictures with her and to learn about her. They were all shocked to hear that people had been visiting the shrine in Walsingham for so many years.

Fr Michael Johnstone from Norwich was asked to do a live interview on Premier Christian Radio in London via Skype, talking about being one of the oldest pilgrims at World Youth Day at the age of 85.

There were no main events on this evening so we had the opportunity to go to different events and sample some Latin American culture. We chose to go

to a stage where there was a dancer and a band singing in Spanish – it was really amazing to see some traditional culture.

At the end of the evening we stopped by a beautiful looking church just to have a look and it turns out that Adoration was taking place inside. The atmosphere in the church was amazing and the whole experience was peaceful and refreshing. It was really great to be able to spend some time with God in silence listening to what he had to say – just as Bishop Burns had spoken about during catechesis in the morning.

Day Four

■ Today started with our catechesis session's key speaker being Bishop Alan

Youth Day adventure



Williams from the Diocese of Brentwood and a past rector of the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. He spoke about Mary and her "yes" to God and that we should learn from her.

Also that we should start asking "what do you want from me Lord" that we should not only serve God but also each other.

As a part of his talk he asked us to bring up the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham to the front and put her on the altar so that the entire group could learn about her. As an English-speaking session it was a great opportunity to spread the news about Our Lady of Walsingham.

In the afternoon we went to the main opening ceremony with Pope Francis. We managed to see the Pope as he went past, heading towards the stage and got some

great pictures – it was amazing how close we were.

Pope Francis talked about not being afraid to take risks and that we should keep walking, because disciples keep walking. He said we should be united, that our differences should work in harmony and that we should build bridges but not walls.

Pope Francis was quoted as saying: "How good it is to get together again, this time in a land that receives us with such radiance and warmth! As we gather in Panama, World Youth Day is once more a celebration of joy and hope for the whole Church and, for the world, a witness of faith."

It was an amazing opportunity to hear the Pope speak and we were all looking forward to the final vigil on Saturday!

Day Five

■ Today was our final catechesis session! It was a reconciliation service which meant that there were priests hearing confessions during the entire session. We also had the opportunity in our groups to talk about where we thought our relationship with God was now and where we would like our relationship with God to be! It was really great to think about our relationship with God and where he is in our lives.

The statue of Our Lady of Walsingham was a massive hit again with a group from Chile wanting me to talk to them about the statue and the Shrine and why she is so important. We also bumped into the group that came from Middlesbrough. One of the boys in their group is actually from Bury St Edmunds and he had brought with him the Bury St Edmunds flag! We got a great photo of both groups with the UK and Bury St Edmunds flags as well as the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Days Six & Seven

■ On Days Six and Seven of World Youth Day in Panama City, the East Anglia group joined an overnight vigil and final morning sending Mass with Pope Francis and up to 6000,000 other pilgrims.

We left our hotel at 8.30am to get to the site of the overnight vigil and final sending Mass, the Campo San Juan Pablo II (John Paul II Field), but ended up heading in the wrong direction. A very kind pick-up truck driver then gave us a lift to the end of the extremely long queue for the event. In the queue we met a small group that had come from the University of Leeds and had a great time chatting with them while we waited for the gates to open.

Once we'd made our way to our section, Fr Luke said Mass for us in the field and we were joined in this by some people from Mexico.

We had a few tickets that meant some of us were able to get closer to the stage, so we took the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham with us and she made it on to the big TV screen four or five times.

The evening vigil was a beautiful event and Pope Francis talked about how we should embrace life as it comes and say yes to God even though it may seem difficult. He used the phrase "only that which is loved can be saved" – highlighting the importance that love should have in our lives. The Pope reminded us that every time we fall, God helps us back up and that he is always there to help us.

After Pope Francis spoke, we took part in a time of adoration which ended with a special blessing from the Pope and a procession of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

There was music on until about midnight, after which we tried our best to get some sleep in the field! We were woken up at 6am ready for Mass said by the Pope who, at the end, announced that the next World Youth Day in 2022 will take place in Lisbon, Portugal.

After this, all that was left was to get back to the hotel in the midday sun. We made it back to the hotel in one piece and ready for our 19-hour journey to get back home.

We all really enjoyed our experience and are really looking forward to World Youth Day Lisbon 2022.



Discipleship Days

■ The Ignite Team is launching a new series of retreats entitled 'Discipleship Days' for all those aged



16 – 35 who are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. The first one to be run this year will take place in Brandon on February 23, beginning at 10am and finishing by 5pm. Discipleship Days are free of charge. More information will be posted on our website (www.rcdea.org.uk/youth) soon, or contact Catherine Williams at: igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk.

Diary dates 2019

■ **March 2:** Flame 2019 - Now fully booked with around 200 people going from East Anglia to the biggest Catholic event in the UK at Wembley Arena.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Youth contacts

Tel: 01508 486236

Email: Ignite Team enquiries

igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk

All other enquiries: dys@rcdea.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/igniteyea

Twitter: @igniteyea

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

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

Notre Dame students stage engaging musical

■ A jazz bar recently appeared in Notre Dame High School's Sports Hall, complete with dancers and chorus singers, all accompanied by a live 15-piece big band, reports lay chaplain Alex Savage.

The colourful scenes were conjured up by Y13 students Owen Whiteside-Ward and James O'Donnell. Together they wrote, composed and directed *White Socks*, an original, full-blown musical set in 1960s New York. Students from all year groups performed, played and worked backstage to bring the story to life.

Pupils from St Augustine, St Francis of Assisi and St Mary and St Peter's primaries were transfixed by the first performance. They found themselves in the middle of the action as dancers weaved between their tables and rival gangs fought for their territory.

Samantha Orciel, Head of English, was full of praise for such an ambitious production: "It is an incredible achievement, not just for the students, but in itself," she said. For Chris Ellis, Director of Music, performing arts opportunities like this are invaluable for "developing students' inner confidence and a sense of what they can achieve".

It has certainly inspired many students to get involved in future performances, either on, or backstage. The uplifting climax of the final song summed up the experience perfectly "it's the best way to feel so good".



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Big support for new school bids

The Diocese of East Anglia has submitted bids to open three new voluntary-aided Catholic primary schools in Cambridgeshire, backed by over 730 expressions of interest gathered in less than a month.

■ The three bids, submitted on February 1, are in areas of significant housing development – Northstowe, Hampton East (Peterborough) and Great Haddon (Peterborough) – and gained substantial public support but more is still needed, according to Helen Bates, Assistant Director for Schools.

"So far we have received 734 expressions of interest in the three schools from over 300 respondents – most people expressed interest in more than one school.

"So thank you to everyone who has taken the time to respond. However, we need to continue to receive more responses as the Government may ask us if this number has increased before they make a decision. Please therefore continue to do all you can to highlight this consultation to everyone you know."

The Diocese is expecting to hear from the Government by the end of March.

"At the moment we expect that when full Northstowe and Hampton East could have 90 places in each year group, which means three classes in each year group. Gt Haddon is expected to have 60 places in each year group, or two classes. We also expect each school to have a nursery, but at the moment we don't know how



many hours the nursery will be open for each day.

"It is unlikely that the schools will start with all year groups being open. We think we'll open the younger year groups straight away and then grow the schools one year group at a time. However, final decisions on all these matters will be made closer to the time of opening," said Helen.

"This bidding round represents the first opportunity to build new Catholic schools in East Anglia for many years. Our Diocese has some of the severest shortages of Catholic school places in the

country and, whilst there are many parts of East Anglia where we would like new schools, they have to be in areas where there is also a general shortage of places.

"We have worked closely with both Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council, to identify these three areas where we all want more school places," she said.

People can still express their interest and support by going to the Diocesan website at www.rcdea.org.uk/vaschools by following the project on Twitter @RCNewSchools and on Facebook at RCDEANewSchools.

YOUTH MATTERS

Imagination is caught

■ In January, the Ignite Youth Team revisited St John Fisher in Cambourne and led workshops with young people of different ages based upon the theme 'Called to be Sent' reports Melanie Ward.

Youth Chaplain Fr Luke Goymour caught their imagination with his example of letting God be in the driving seat of our lives... not just as a passenger or worse!

The whole church was invited to a massive bring and share supper and was treated to entertainment by the youngsters. Thanks again to Hamish and crew for giving our children space and time out to reflect upon vocation and helping us all to celebrate them as precious members of our church family.



Ignite Lite chance

■ From March 29 - 31 the Ignite Team will be holding its next 'Ignite Lite Discipleship Weekend' in Walsingham. This weekend is open to all those aged 16 - 35 who would like to join them for a weekend of prayer, formation and fellowship, all near England's National Shrine.

If you would like to join them for the whole weekend, accommodation will be provided with prices to be confirmed. Please contact Catherine Williams to book a place at: igniteeam@rcdea.org.uk

Glow Retreat Day

■ The Ignite Team will be running a 'Glow Retreat Day' at Sacred Heart and St Oswald's Catholic Church, Peterborough on March 23. This event is free and open to all those who are secondary-school ages and looking to grow in their faith through a day of fellowship, prayer and food. The day will begin at 10am and end at 5pm.



■ A choir from St Martha's Catholic Primary School, King's Lynn, took part in a Holocaust memorial day in King's Lynn Town Hall at 12 noon on Sunday January 27. Headteacher Aidan McGovern said: "This is the 15th year that the choir have been involved with the service and, as always, it was a memorable and emotional event." Picture by Donna Semmens.



The Shrine of Saint Jude was founded in 1955 and is served by the Carmelites.

The Shrine distributes a quarterly newsletter called Carmelite News, written by the Prior Provincial, Fr Kevin Alban. If you would like to receive a copy of our free newsletter, please send your contact details to: newsletter@stjudeshrine.org.uk, or call 01795 539 214.

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Celebrating a silver jubilee

Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology in Cambridge has been celebrating its Silver Jubilee over the last year and remains faithful to its founding aims of theological education of the laity, as Principal Dr Anna Abram explains.

■ The founders of the Institute, amongst whom were several religious orders, intended the Institute to be firmly rooted in the inspiration of the Second Vatican Council. They considered the theological education of the laity as indispensable to the Church's mission in the modern world. The Institute is faithful to this foundational principle.

At the time of ideologically driven social fragmentation, fuelled by fake news, environmental, political and other upheavals, religious hostility and fundamentalism, the Institute is committed to building bridges, fostering transformations and healing.

During this special 25th anniversary year several significant developments have taken place: the Religious Life Institute, directed by Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ, moved to the Institute; four new MAs (Contemporary Ethics; Contemporary Faith and Belief; Spirituality; Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy) have been introduced; two inter-disciplinary symposia on 'pastoral discernment' and 'theology and spirituality of ageing' as well as several intensive courses such as 'Global Ethics' and 'Spirituality, Religion and Ethics in the Prison Service' have taken place.

The latter was inspired by Bishop Alan Hopes and one of the prison chaplains in the Diocese, Antoinette Askin. The Institute aims to continue to develop theological training for prison chaplains.

Recently, Fr Luke Goymour presided at the Mass which marked the end of Silver Jubilee Year. Fr Luke also led a ceremony of mounting two special Silver Jubilee gifts: the olive wood carving from the Holy Land from Sr Bridget Tighe FMDM (the Institute's first Principal, now Secretary General of Caritas Jerusalem) and Pope Francis' Apostolic Blessing.

The New Year promises to be equally exciting. The

Charities receive £10k from fair

■ Over £10,000 had been presented to a host of charities following the successful Clare Priory Craft Fair in Suffolk last summer, with another one to follow this July.

Since 1993, Grade 1 listed Clare Priory has been hosting a Craft Fair on the second full weekend in July. This has grown steadily to become a very popular event, and now receives around 10,000 visitors over the two days.

One of the organisers, Steven Cubitt, said: "Exhibitors and visitors alike greatly appreciate the unique atmosphere and setting of the Priory, and many have become familiar friends as they return year after year."

"All proceeds go to charity, and the organisers and helpers are all unpaid volunteers who give their time freely and generously. Thanks to the generosity of exhibitors, visitors and helpers at the 2018 Clare Priory Craft

Fair we were able to distribute over £10,000 to a number of charities and good causes."

The money was presented to representatives of most of the organisations gathered at Clare Priory on Friday February 1.

Recipients include: St Nicholas Hospice, East Anglian Children's Hospice, Clare Playing Fields, East

Anglian Air Ambulance, Clare Seekers, One World Group, Cavendish Care, CLASP (Clare Liaison & Support Project), Bridge Project, St Clare Hospice, Macmillan Cancer Trust, The Christopher Centre and the Reach Foodbank

The 2019 Craft Fair will take place on July 13/14 find out more at: www.clarepriory.org.uk/CraftFair



Charities reps who received gifts from the Clare Priory Craft Fair, with Prior Fr Stefan Park.

Institute is currently recruiting for the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies – for more information please visit www.margaretbeaufort.cam.ac.uk/ccrs/

Other events such as retreats, talks and degree pro-

grammes (PhD, MPhil, Professional Doctorate in Practical Theology, the new MAs), open to men and women, are publicised on the Institute's website www.margaretbeaufort.cam.ac.uk



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BUILDING BRIDGES

A fond Norwich farewell to Fr Seelan

■ St John the Baptist Cathedral bid a sad farewell to well-loved priest Fr Arockiya Seelan on Sunday January 27, reports Jean Scotter.

“Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine.” With these words from Ezra the priest the congregation was sent out following a farewell Mass for Fr Seelan attended by over 300 people who turned out to wish him all the best for his new role and to thank him for his great contribution to St John’s, particularly as chaplain at the hospital.

Afterwards a pot luck party was held in the Narthex hall, provided by parishioners who were encouraged to come along in traditional dress and bring their national food. They had cooked up a rich feast with a variety of international dishes, including a whole roast pig.

A presentation was made and, after a thank-you speech by Fr Seelan, a farewell cake was cut and Fr Seelan was given presents including a slow cooker and a clock that plays a variety of tunes, including Christmas carols.

Fr Seelan, born in Chennai, India, had served the Cathedral for four years. He did his seminary training in Bangalore and was ordained a priest on April 16, 2005.



Fr Seelan with friends and parishioners at St John’s after his farewell Mass.

He served as a missionary in East Africa. The farewell party was an opportunity for parishioners to express their gratitude to Fr Seelan for his loving ministry and his friendship to us all. We didn’t want him to go without letting him know how much we appreciate him and will miss him so much.

For four years he has served the Cathedral with love and dedication, bringing his warmth and kindness to everyone. He has been generous with his time and has a

gentle way of listening to people’s problems, always going the extra mile to help. He has a gift of making people feel very welcome.

Although St John’s will miss Fr Seelan, we take heart from the final words of the reading at Mass: “Do not be sad; the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.”

We wish Fr Seelan every blessing for his new ministry as Parish Priest at St Oswald Peterborough.



The Katherine of Aragon Mass at Peterborough Cathedral.

Memorial Mass for Katherine of Aragon

On January 25 the annual Catholic Mass which commemorates the anniversary of Katherine of Aragon’s death was celebrated in Peterborough Cathedral.

■ The Mass was presided over by Fr Jeffrey Downie, the Catholic local Dean, and concelebrated by Frs Seelan of St Oswald’s and Fr Adam and Fr Walde of All Souls; with the assistance of the deacons: John and Claudio.

Fr Adam preached the homily and said: “Even when differences separate us, we acknowledge that we belong to the redeemed people of God loved by the one Father.

“I believe that Katherine, whose 483rd

anniversary we celebrate this January, will help us to appreciate the grace of God given to his church.

“When we go to her tomb at the end of this Eucharist, we can think of: ‘A queen cherished by the English people for her loyalty, piety, courage and compassion’.”

Afterwards Fr Adam said: “Many Catholic parishioners were present for the Mass and expressed their gratitude to the Cathedral authorities for welcoming them to celebrate this annual Mass.”

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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News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese



■ The Carmelite Sisters at the monastery in Quidenham, Norfolk are celebrating 100 years of presence in East Anglia in 2020 and are asking for help to mark the occasion.

Sr Elizabeth Obbard ODC, said: "Our Community was founded in 1921 at Woodbridge in Suffolk, moved to Rushmere and thence to Quidenham in 1948. We are planning to publish a book in time for the anniversary in September 2020.

"So if anyone has memories of those early days, especially in the parishes or Woodbridge, Rushmere, and Holy Family and St Michael, Kesgrave (where our Sr Margaret Rope made the stained glass windows in memory of her brother Michael), we would be pleased to receive them. Pictures too would be very welcome of both places as they are today or were in the past."

People who have any items of interest can contact Sr Elizabeth at the monastery by post or by email: Sr Elizabeth Obbard, Carmelite Monastery, Quidenham, Norfolk NR16 2PH, or email her at: beth-ruth@hotmail.com

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



■ A Catholic archivist from Peterborough is requesting help to solve a mystery almost 100 years old.

Peter Waszak, honorary archivist at St Peter and All Souls Church, has uncovered an intriguing picture and wants help to unravel its mystery.

Peter said: "I have a photo of a garden party that may be in the grounds of a Norfolk chapel or convent taken in the 1920s or 1930s. The flint walls suggest Norfolk. The nuns are Sisters of Charity who had a convent here in Peterborough and they may have been visiting another convent? If anyone can help identify the building in the background, any of the people in the picture of the date that would be wonderful."

If you can help please email Peter at: peter.waszak@transecocentre.com

■ Four altar servers from St John Fisher in Cambourne have received long-awaited St Stephens Guild Medals after several years of faithful service after Fr John Minh registered the parish with the Guild.

Mel Ward reports: "We look forward to many more presentations over the next few months as we catch up with presentations for those pledging themselves to continued service. The whole community was invited to share a celebration with cake provide by the families and is greatly encouraged by the youth who are a great example of active ministry."



■ The Norwich Secular Franciscans, 'Pax et Bonum' community, celebrated Christmas-tide with three major events, reports Anne Murrin.

In addition to the regular feeding of the needy and homeless on Wednesday evenings on the Haymarket in Norwich, the Wednesday prior to Christmas saw, in addition, the handing out of gifts to those who were around.

These gift-wrapped parcels consisted of warm socks for the men and cosmetics for the women plus other goodies. As well as the usual sandwiches and coffee, the hungry were treated to mince pies and some homemade Christmas biscuits.

On January 3, the annual event of Carols round the Crib was celebrated at St George's,

Norwich, to which parishioners and fellow Anglican Tertiaries were invited. This was followed by mulled wine and mince pies and a chance for a social get-together.

Our regular monthly meeting for January happened to fall on the feast of the Epiphany, and for our third event we began with a little celebration with each member bringing one small gift. These were distributed randomly among the fraternity members with expressions of good wishes and blessings for the coming year.

Our meetings are open to anyone who wishes to explore the Secular Franciscan way of life. We meet on the first Sunday of every month at 4pm at St George's Church, Sprowston Road, Norwich, NR3 4HZ. Please contact: Debbie Bool OFS on 07737 909366.