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Bishop Alan with the three sacred oils at the Chrism Mass at St John's Cathedral in Norwich.

Cathedral packed for chrism mass

Over 1,000 people attended the annual Chrism Mass at a packed Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich on April 16, during which priestly promises were renewed and sacred oils blessed. Keith Morris reports.

■ In the biggest gathering in the diocesan year, Bishop Alan Hopes welcomed clergy and laity from parishes right across the Diocese, with coaches lining the nearby roads.

In his homily, Bishop Alan said that at the heart of the Chrism Mass is the blessing of the three Holy Oils – the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick and the sacred Oil of Chrism.

"Oil is the outward sign of the Holy Spirit. The anointing in the Sacraments, is an efficacious sign

that the Lord has touched our lives in a powerful way.

"Oil also speaks to us of the person and ministry of Jesus Christ. Oil also says something about us – for we too are the anointed ones – Christians – people who belong to Christ – people who have a share in his anointing – people who have been filled with his Holy Spirit," said Bishop Alan.

"As we gather together today as the particular Church of East Anglia, I want to express my gratitude and that of the whole Diocese to both our priests and our deacons.

"I thank you for the generous and whole-hearted way in which you continue to serve both God and his people so faithfully in these challenging times.

"And we want to thank all of you, our lay faithful, for the wonderful ways in which you support and encourage all of us through your love and your prayers and the many ways in which you collaborate with us the mission of the Diocese and that of each one of our parishes."

Around 85 priests from across the diocese then renewed their priestly promises. This was followed by the blessing of the three oils.

The Oil of Chrism, a mixture of olive oil and a sweet smelling perfume, is consecrated by Bishop Alan to be sent out to all the parishes of the diocese where it will be used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination and for the consecration of churches and altars.

The Bishop also blessed two other oils to be sent for use in parishes: the oil used by priests in the sacrament of anointing of the sick and the oil used to strengthen catechumen prior to baptism.

At the end of the Mass, the oils were collected by the seven diocesan Deans for distribution to their parishes.

When the Mass had finished, everyone was invited to have a hot drink and a hot cross bun in the Narthex.

■ To see a full picture gallery visit www.rcdea.org.uk

Mary is theme of lectures

■ Mary, one of Cardinal Newman's great loves, is the theme of the popular 2019 Newman Lecture series in Norwich during May and June.

The three lectures will look at Mary in Sacred Scripture, in Sacred Music and in Sacred Art.

The lecture series is moving venue to the Narthex at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich, so attendees can take advantage of the Cathedral gardens and the Narthex Bar before and after each lecture.

The opening lecture, on May 23 is by Fr John Hemer on Mary in Sacred Scripture. Fr John is the Scripture professor at Allen Hall Seminary in Westminster, and a hugely engaging speaker.

Mary in Sacred Music on Thursday 30 May will be led by Director of Music Daniel Justin & the Cathedral Schola, Cathedral of St John the Baptist.

Finally on Thursday 6 June, will be Mary in Sacred Art by Dr Caroline Farey, formerly Director of Studies at the School of the Annunciation – Centre for the New Evangelisation at Buckfast Abbey in Devon.

There is no need to book tickets to these events, and everyone is welcome to attend. Lectures start at 6.30pm, and parking at the Cathedral is free.

www.newmanlectures.co.uk

2019 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham

Bank Holiday Monday - May 6

■ Bishop Alan warmly invites the clergy, religious and all God's people to join the Diocese of East Anglia Pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham.

■ Parish Coaches are welcome as are families and individuals making their own way! The young people who will have been celebrating the Ignite Weekend will also be joining us in Walsingham. All Diocesan altar servers are also invited to vest for the Mass and procession.

■ Timetable

1100 Confessions

1200 Pilgrimage Mass of Our Lady celebrated by Bishop Alan and the priests of the Diocese followed by Lunch

1500 Rosary Procession of Our Lady from the Basilica to the Village finishing with **Benediction** in the ancient Priory Grounds and the Consecration of the Diocese on the original site of the Holy House.

news in brief

Cyclone appeal support urged

■ Catholics across East Anglia are being asked to support an emergency joint CAFOD and Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) appeal for victims of the recent Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

The cyclone has left a trail of destruction, killing hundreds of people and affecting an estimated 2.6 million people across the three southern African countries. Houses, bridges and roads have been ripped apart and agricultural land is completely submerged. More than 750 people are confirmed dead and 400,000 have lost their homes.

Our Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury in Wymondham has already acted after Jane Crone, CAFOD's Community Participation Coordinator for the Diocese of East Anglia, spoke at Mass. The church held a collection and raised £130 from a Spud Sunday meal after Mass.

Jane said: 'CAFOD supporters in parishes and schools have spoken of their concern for those affected by this terrible cyclone.'

www.cafod.org.uk/cycloneidai



Special screening

■ St Felix Catholic church in Felixstowe is presenting a special screening of the award-winning documentary Apparition Hill, which follows seven strangers as they investigate one of the greatest paranormal mysteries in the world – the apparitions of Our Lady at Medjugorje.

The film will be shown on Saturday May 18 from 7.30pm at St Felix Church, 8 Gainsborough Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7HT.

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 Tuesday May 7.

Diocese website: www.rcdea.org.uk

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

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Invitation to renewal weekend

The seventh annual Celebrate East Anglia weekend will be held on June 1 and 2 at St Benedict's High School in Bury St Edmunds, organised for the Catholic community by people who have found renewal in their faith.

■ Many families have experienced the joy of celebrating their faith together over the last six years, with lively music, inspiring talks, Mass and Reconciliation and a special programme for children and young people according to co-organiser Philip Walters.

"Although Celebrate provides for families, including a creche, there is a warm welcome and a different timetable for people of all ages, so whether you are young or old, joining us for the first time or returning, coming on your own or with a group or family – you are very welcome.

"Our vision is to offer a faith-filled and fun event, which combines good Catholic teaching, inspirational speakers and celebration of the liturgy, where young and old alike join together in a vibrant atmosphere to celebrate the love of God."

Bishop Alan will be there again this year and saying Mass on Sunday. He is very enthusiastic and encourages everyone: "to come back again next year and bring someone with you."

Speakers this year include:

Charles Whitehead: who along with his wife Sue, is the founder of Celebrate. He is a director of Premier Christian Radio



and the Christian Healing Mission. He is a past president of International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services and received a Papal Knighthood from Pope St Jean-Paul II in 2003.

Fr Chris Thomas: ordained priest in 1985, he has been a full-time youth chaplain, a university chaplain, a parish priest and is now the director of the Irenaeus project. Chris has spoken at conferences in England, Ireland, and mainland Europe. He is a Trustee of CREW Trust (Catholic Renewal in England and Wales).

Mary Hardiman: a former high school teacher, Mary is a Person-Centred Counsellor and Head of Wellbeing at a Pupil Health Referral Unit in Salford for

teenagers with mental health problems. Mary has a great gift for unwrapping the Scriptures and presenting them in ways that are inspiring. Her insightful reflections are full of faith, humanity and humour.

A choice of workshops will run each day and these will include: "Prayer", "Walking in the Spirit", "Writing your own testimony", "Alive in Christ", "Spreading the Good News", "Mothers' Prayers", "Ways of using the Bible", "Renewing our Baptismal commitment" and others.

For more information on how to book visit www.celebrateconference.org and click on "weekends" and "East Anglia" or contact Philip Walters on 07910157584 or at eastanglia@celebrateconference.org

Special reunion as Bishop visits hospital

Bishop Alan Hopes visited the James Paget hospital in Gorleston on April 2 and for one member of staff there was the opportunity for a very special reunion, 40 years on.

■ Bishop Alan visited several wards at the hospital and spoke to staff and patients before celebrating Mass in the hospital chapel.

But for one member of staff it was a very special reunion – as paediatric medical secretary Vicky Eastlake and her husband Les were married by the Bishop some 40 years before.

Then a vicar in London, he married the couple in Tottenham in December 1978.

A couple of years later Vicky and Les moved to East Anglia – with Vicky starting work at the James Paget in 1986.

When she heard about Bishop Alan's visit to the hospital she contacted the chaplaincy team who



Bishop Alan reunited with Vicky and Les Eastlake, 40 years after he married the couple.

arranged the meeting during the visit.

Hospital lead chaplain, Rev Dr Alan Palmer, said: "We were delighted to welcome Bishop Alan to the James

Paget, with staff taking the opportunity to speak with him about their work and patients gaining comfort from his presence.

"It was such a pleasure and

a blessing.

"We would like to thank him for visiting and have extended an invitation for him to return as he is sure to receive a warm welcome."



The procession at the end of the Chrism Mass at St John's Cathedral in Norwich. See story on front page.

Call to pray after Notre Dame fire

Catholics across East Anglia have expressed their support after the devastating fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris on April 16, offering their prayers.

■ The massive fire spread rapidly through much of the 850-year-old medieval cathedral in the centre of Paris and its spire and roof collapsed. By the following day the structure of the cathedral had been saved as had many of the priceless arts and relics inside.

Bishop Alan Hopes said: "The prayers and thoughts of Catholics in East Anglia are with the people of France and those French citizens who live and worship in our diocese, as they have witnessed the devastating fire rage through their ancient and beautiful Cathedral of Our Lady, in Paris. This building has been a powerful symbol of the Christian Faith not just in France but around the world and we all share in their sadness."

"It is particularly poignant that it should happen at this moment when Catholics in Paris are preparing for the most solemn celebration of the year, the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, made all the more poignant by the Cross which remains standing amidst all the ashes and ruins of the Cathedral."

Matthew Fernandez-Graham, Director of Finance and Resources for the Diocese, studied in Paris for several weeks while completing a degree in French at Cambridge University.

He described the cathedral as "the soul of France" and said: "I am just heart-broken and feel so much for the people of Paris and France. I would urge people to



Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris on fire. Picture by LeLaisserPasserA38.

pray for the people involved, and those fighting the fire and that as much of the building and its content as possible can be saved."

Sister Gemma Simmonds CJ, Director of the Religious Life Institute at the Margaret Beaufort Institute in Cambridge, sang in the choir at Notre Dame in the 1970s.

She wrote on Facebook: "I've just been sitting watching Notre Dame go up in flames. It hardly seems possible. I sang in the choir there when I was a student at the Sorbonne in the 70s and it felt like being immersed in the middle ages. It feels like an old friend dying..."

The Diocese has many links with Notre Dame with the High School in Norwich, the independent Prep School in Norwich and several parish churches named after Our Lady (Notre Dame).

Film uncovers prayer power

■ A new film which uncovers the beauty and the power of the prayer of the Rosary is to be shown at the Narthex at St John the Baptist Cathedral on May 7

Power in my Hands is a brand new (2018) film from the Rosary Evangelization Apostolate in America, which uncovers the beauty and the power of the prayer of the Rosary. It has an all-star cast including, amongst others, Jeff Cavins from EWTN and the Great Adventure Bible Study series.

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo (Archbishop of Galveston-Houston) has said of the film:

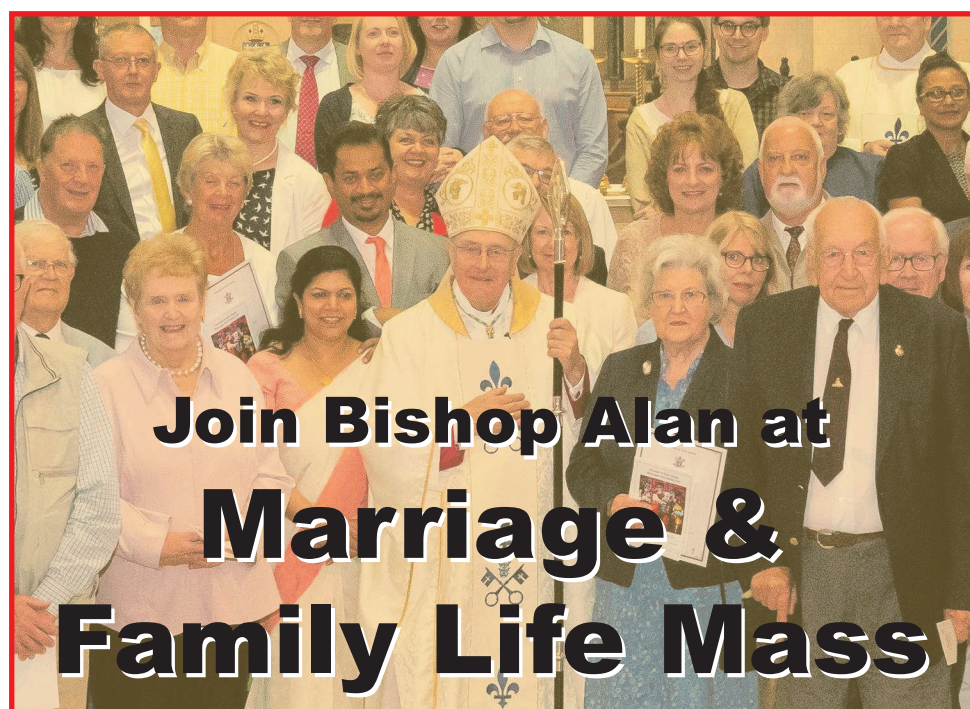
"I am very pleased to wholeheartedly endorse Power in My Hands, a beautiful and captivating film which powerfully reminds us of the Blessed Virgin's ever-present maternal help in the midst of so much spiritual turmoil in our culture today."

The charity film night on Tuesday May 7 from 7.15pm, will raise money for Mary's Meals. Mary's Meals provides one good school meal each day to some of the world's poorest children.

Their vision is that every child receives one daily meal in their place of education. Their work (named after Mary, the mother of Jesus, who brought up her own child in poverty), consists of, respects, and reaches out to people of all faiths and of none.

Tickets are available from the Narthex shop or on the door on the evening of the film. Tickets are £3 (£1.50 cons) and additional donations for Mary's Meals are welcome.

powerinmyhandsthemovie.com



Join Bishop Alan at Marriage & Family Life Mass

Saturday June 8, 11.30am

St John the Baptist Cathedral, Norwich

■ Certificates available for those celebrating significant anniversaries (one year, five years and every multiple of five years)

■ Register for a certificate with Bonnie Lander Johnson on mflc.eastanglia@rcdea.org.uk or 07849357518.

■ Tea and cake afterwards in the Narthex and Cathedral gardens.

■ Photographs will be available for purchase online.

■ Collection for Marriage and Family Life Commission

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What you do has the power to change lives

Simple acts can change lives says Rebecca Bretherton.

■ In his recent book, Dr Muthuraj Swamy, the Director of the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide, describes his conversion to Christianity.

As a child, he was invited to church by Christian friends. After a while, the priest asked him if he would like to join the Sunday school group. He writes: "I wasn't really sure what to say, but I thought: 'every Sunday after the service people gather casually in front of the church, smile and converse with one another and with me too. It shows me what the Church of Christ is, and I feel part of a fellowship and community'."

"So I said to the priest, 'yes, I want to continue to come'. I have always regarded this as the moment I committed my life to Christ."

His initial conversion was based on what happened in church where people witnessed to Christ and were kind and caring. Their lives attracted him.

If you were part of last month's challenge to speak to people you don't know at Church: keep going this month. You are changing lives.

■ **To do this month:** Pray for the strangers in our midst. For those you don't know yet;



Bishop Alan Hopes washing the feet of congregation members at St John's Cathedral in Norwich on Maundy Thursday at the Mass of the Lord's Supper.

for those who are new to your town or parish; for those who have not found your church yet: that they will find Christ's welcome in your church.

■ **Pray for yourself:** that you will have the wisdom and courage to welcome the stranger into an encounter with Jesus Christ.

■ *The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2019: Dr*

Muthuraj Swamy, Reconciliation, SPCK Publishing.

■ If you were unable to come to the Sharing Hope in Crisis event held in Norwich last year, another event is being run in Brentwood and the invitation is for everyone.

The event takes place at the Conference Centre, Brentwood Cathedral on Saturday May 18.

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sh

aring-hope-in-crisis-seminar-tickets-58994806053

■ **Run to the Son:** Welcome the dawn in the splendour of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of Buckfast Abbey after a night vigil of prayer.

A weekend of Prayer and Inspiration for Mission 21st-23rd June at Buckfast Abbey. More information at www.buckfast.org.uk/run-to-the-son

Unafraid to wear signs of our faith

American Catholics are unafraid to wear their Ash Wednesday crosses as an outward sign of faith, as Bungay parishioner Pio Altarelli

discovered on a recent visit to New York.



■ Early on Ash Wednesday, Sue and I were standing in the Broadway ticket line on Duffy Square in Manhattan. It was bitterly cold as we stood waiting and watching the seemingly endless representatives of all nationalities and colours

visiting and passing through that iconic space on Broadway, a melting pot for the human race.

I began to notice passers-by displaying dark smudges on their foreheads. At first, I couldn't work out what it was, then it dawned on me - Catholics, Ash Wednesday.

The thing that surprised me was that there were so many: so many Catholics and unafraid to wear an outward sign of their faith. So many also in the restaurant and no-one batted an eyelid!

In New York, one grows accustomed to seeing Hasidim, resplendent in their shiny black frock coats and tall hats; others wearing the yarmulke, and all kinds of religious and cultural garb. Catholics are not normally so easy to differentiate.

Later, in the theatre, behind us were men with wearing the yarmulke. In our row families were wearing ash on their foreheads, as were so many across the

rows and even on stage, one actor was proudly wearing his Ash Wednesday symbol of mortality.

Here in the UK, we quickly remove it, fearful of drawing attention to ourselves. In what is ostensibly a Christian country, where the Queen is head of state and of the Christian church, the cross can be seen as so offensive that individuals have been known to lose their jobs for wearing a crucifix!

In the US, strangely, where state and church are separated by the constitution, Jew and Christian alike wear their faith symbols side by side in respectful harmony. Even in the workplace, it is seen as normal, at least in NYC.

Indeed, in Utah, a primary school teacher was suspended for forcing a pupil to remove the mark from his forehead.

The only mention I read in the UK press was criticism, ash causing burns!

Bishop expresses sorrow for victims

■ Fr Francis McDermott, a retired priest from the Diocese of Northampton, who was found guilty of abusing six children during the 1970s in London, High Wycombe and Norwich has been jailed for nine years and 11 months.

Bishop Alan said: "I want to express my horror and deep sorrow for the hurt and damage that has been caused to the victim-survivors of this terrible abuse and

their families.

"These men and women have shown such great courage in coming forward at this time after carrying the burden of this hurt and damage for so many years. I hope and pray that today will bring some closure and much healing to their lives.

"Any kind of abuse is not tolerated in the Church. Our robust present day procedures ensure that we are continuing to

build a safe environment for all."

Bishop Alan has offered to meet and listen to the victims of this case and anyone else who wants to talk to him about abuse in the church.

In the event of any concerns arising from this case, or over safeguarding issues, please contact the East Anglia Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator, Mick Thurley on 07429 215344.



Fr Tony Shryane, centre, with fellow priests at the celebratory Mass in Ely.

Ely priest celebrates a golden 50 years

Ely priest Fr Anthony Shryane celebrated 50 years of ministry as a priest with a Mass on Saturday, March 2, at St Etheldreda church, reports Mary Durkacz.

■ The Ely Parish came together in thanksgiving and celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Fr Tony's ordination. Fr Philip Shryane, Fr John Ablewhite, Fr Simon Blakesley, Fr John Minh, Fr John Warrington, Fr David Bagstaff, Fr Walter from Zimbabwe and Deacon John Bedford concelebrated Mass with him.

The church was full to capacity with parishioners joining Fr Tony's family and friends to wish him well before enjoying a buffet lunch in the parish rooms.

With his characteristic quiet humility and dry sense of humour, Fr Tony

accepted bottles of fine wine, a cheque and a Papal Blessing from well-wishers and parishioners.

As his younger brother, Fr Philip, said at the end of Mass: "Well done - here's to the next 50 years!"

Tony was born in 1942 in Worcestershire, the younger of identical twins. The family moved to Coventry, then Hinckley and then Peterborough, living close to St Peter and All Souls Church.

The parish priest, recognising the twins' devotion and faithfulness as altar boys, recommended that John and Anthony try their vocation at Ushaw College, County Durham. They continued at Ushaw for Senior Seminary and Fr Tony's training took 13 years in all. In the middle of their seminary training, John had a serious bicycle accident and sustained injuries which meant he was no longer able to continue his studies and he died in 2000.

Fr Tony was ordained on March 2, 1969, at St Peter and All Souls. His first placement as an assistant priest was at the

cathedral in Northampton. He was then appointed to St John the Baptist in Norwich, where he worked as an assistant for six years. In 1977, he was appointed as parish priest of St Mary's Thetford. After eight years he went to Our Lady of the Annunciation, King's Lynn. In October 1998, Fr Tony went to St Etheldreda's in Ely where he has faithfully served the community ever since.

Fr Tony was Vocations Director for the diocese from 1977 to 1985. In addition he has provided Mass for prisoners and staff in HMP Whitemoor. He currently assists in chaplaincy work at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.

Since 2008, Fr Tony has led parishioners on biennial visits to the St Etheldreda's twinned parish near Siem Reap in Cambodia, a floating church in Prek Toal on Tonle Sap Lake, and he has encouraged and enabled much financial and prayer support for people in that country. Father often proudly wears a stole showing the broken cross of Cambodia.

news in brief

Cash boost for refugee project

■ The leader of the local community choir The Cringleford Singers, Margaret Smith, presented a cheque for £500 to Carol Chilton instigator of The Welcome Rucksack Project.

Carol is a member of the Norwich Justice and Peace Group based at St John's Cathedral and devised the scheme two years ago to respond to the needs of newly arrived asylum seekers into the city.

Carol said: "This generous funding from the choir will enable us to buy the rucksacks we will give out in the coming year. They are filled with cleaning products, personal hygiene items as well as extras like a mug and sewing kit. We also provide rucksacks for children between 4 and 6 and pre/teens for those 7-14 with age appropriate fillings.

"Together with a bag of food from Foodbank and a hand-knitted blanket, the asylum seekers become aware that there is a welcome here for them and that people care."

Carol would welcome any help with the project so feel free to email her on carolchilton@hotmail.co.uk

Evening highlight

■ The enrolment of head teacher Gerry Batty who attends St George's Church, Norwich, and musical director Nick Walmsley, who attends St Helen's Church, Hoveton, was the highlight of the latest Norwich Catenian Association meeting.

Enrolment scrolls were presented by Provincial President Mike Evans assisted by Norwich Circle President, Tony Baker. The monthly meeting and dinner was held on March 14 in the Refectory of the Great Hospital Norwich. Pictured, from left, are Tony, Gerry, Nick and Mike.



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
norwichcatenians@yahoo.com

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It is thus in a spirit of thanksgiving and joy that three of our seminarians have received these ministries. We wish them well in their future service of God and His People and pray that he will fill them with his blessing and strengthen them for faithful service in his Church.



o priesthood



Main picture, Bienn Carlo Manuntag receives the ministry of lector at St Mary's College, Oscott, in Birmingham.

Inset above, Michael Smith receives the ministry of acolyte at the Beda College in Rome.

Left, Mark Ashwood receives the ministry of lector at Allen Hall in Westminster.

Celebrating Mary in May

In the first of a new series of monthly reflections, Deacon Peter Coates from Woodbridge looks at celebrations of Mary in May.



■ She was probably only a teenager at the time she was promised in marriage. It was the normal way for good Jewish families to arrange things and it was expected that the marriage would take place within a year of the betrothal.

The ceremony would be as lavish as possible in line with the social standing of the families. She would be expected to care for her husband, run the home, bring up the children and become an important member of the local community. But, and it was a very big but, God had other plans for Mary. She was to become Mother of God and Queen of Heaven. Her response – how can these things be? – is hardly a surprise!

During May, we celebrate Mary. We crown her statues. There are flowers everywhere and processions. Some people pray more. If you visit Mary's House at Selcuk near Ephesus today, it seems like a permanent celebration of processions and Masses but inside the house there is silence, semi-darkness and a palpable sense of peace.

When Mary stood on Golgotha to see her Son executed, He gave her into the care of the Apostle John who brought her

to share in the life of the young church at Ephesus. Mary had experienced the horror of Golgotha, but she shared in the wonder of Jesus's resurrection living in the exciting life of the missionary church.

It is no wonder that Mary holds such a place of honour in the church today. We rightly call her Mother of God (Theotokos – the God-bearer) because she gave physical birth to Jesus the Son of God. As the meaning of that title has been understood in the church, Mary's importance in the history of our salvation has been more clearly seen and we see her place in Heaven.

Sadly not all Christians recognise Mary's significance. It is also sad that many Christians do not experience the depth of meaning in another of her titles; Mary, Help of Christians.

Because of her experiences, from the Annunciation to the Assumption, Mary is uniquely placed to help us. She has loved and been loved, she has seen poverty and danger, she has shared happiness and joy. We can come to Mary, our Lady, as to a friend for support, for guidance, for hope. From the cross, Mary was given not only to John but to us all. We should defend and care for her as did John, we should rely on her as the mother given to the church.

Our lady, help of Christians; Pray for us.

■ Peter spent 15 years as a Methodist minister before European Education and Training projects in Portugal (where he converted), Hungary, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova where he lived for six years. He was the first permanent deacon ordained in the former Soviet Union in the Diocese of Chisinau, Moldova.

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DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

Kate is new headteacher

■ Following the retirement of head-teacher Sean Hayes after more than ten years, Kate Pereira is taking over the role at St John Fisher Catholic High School in Peterborough.

Sean came to the school in July 2008 when it had just gone into special measures and the governors had been replaced. Under his leadership it came out of special measure in March 2010 and was judged good in October 2013 and again in November 2017. A diocesan inspection of December 2013 said the school was outstanding. Results last year showing pupil progress at GCSE level was above the national average.

Kate was assistant head at the school for eight years until 2015. She then went to St Thomas More in Bedford as deputy head, followed by St Benedict's in Bury St Edmunds as head.

She said: "St John Fisher has been on a journey of significant improvement over the ten years under the strong leadership of Sean."

"Having worked closely with him, I feel privileged and immensely proud to be



Sean Hayes and Kate Pereira outside St John Fisher Catholic High School in Peterborough.

taking over the leadership of such a wonderful school. St John Fisher is very special and in many ways a unique school.

"I am delighted to be returning after four years in two other Catholic schools as deputy head and head. What I love is the family feel of St John Fisher because

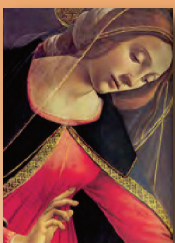
of its small size and the way everybody is known well.

"I am particularly looking forward to getting to know staff, students, parents and governors over the course of my first half term, some of whom I already know from my previous time at St John Fisher.

"I am also looking forward to working with the talented, dedicated staff body to establish our next steps for the school in order to take St John Fisher on into the future."

Picture and article extracts from www.peterboroughtoday.co.uk

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School marks its 60th anniversary

St John Fisher Catholic High School in Peterborough has celebrated its 60th anniversary, and marked the retirement of its headteacher, with a special Mass.

■ The Mass on April 3 was celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes and many priests from the deanery past and present. Guests, included headteachers from across the diocese, staff and parents.

The school opened on its Park Lane site in April 1959 as a secondary modern school. Over the years it became a comprehensive and expanded to its age range to 11-18. In 2009 a substantial rebuild created the bright and modern campus which can be seen today.

In his homily Bishop Alan spoke about Catholic education and of its roots being with education of the poor. Also how 60 years was a milestone for such a good Catholic school but a small period of time when compared with the history of Catholic education.

The event also marked the retirement of headteacher Sean Hayes on his own 60th birthday and so many headteachers from other city schools were in attendance, as well as past members of staff and new headteacher, Kate Pereira.

The procession of clergy was led by students carrying the flags of their home nations to represent the multi-cultural nature of the student body. The bidding prayers were read by representative of key groups of students, including the army cadets, The Brilliant Club, the Learning Leaders and the Football Schol-



Retiring headteacher Sean Hayes speaking at the special St John Fisher 60th anniversary Mass, watched by Bishop Alan.

arship. Choirs from Sacred Heart and St Thomas More primary schools helped the school's own choir and musicians lead the music.

Chair of governors, Paul Rossi, thanked Sean for his over ten years at the school and presented him with a painting of the school, by school chaplain, Rowena Goodfellow. Bishop Alan then presented Sean with a Papal Blessing on behalf of the diocese.

To mark the anniversary, students have been fundraising to create a sensory garden on the site; their target is £10,000 and they are close to achieving it. The school has a unit for children with hearing

impairment and it is hoped the garden will benefit these and others with sensory needs.

The anniversary has also been marked by the installation of stained glass windows in the school Chapel. These have been designed and made by former Head of Art, Emma Guppy. There is one window associated with each of the school's four houses, which are named after key places in the life of John Fisher. The Beverley window represents the Holy Spirit, the Cambridge one the Water of Life, the Rochester one the Light of the World, and the Westminster one the Earth that Sustain Us.

YOUTH MATTERS

Faith and fun weekend

The latest Ignite Lite weekend held in Walsingham at the end of March was filled with faith, fun and planning for future events that the Ignite Team run. Jessica McCall reports.

Pictured are three crosses from the Anglican shrine at Walsingham.

■ The Ignite Lite Team is made up of volunteers who want to help evangelise the youth of East Anglia through a variety of days and events alongside the Ignite Team.

Over the weekend we had the opportunity to plan in detail the upcoming Ignite Festival, which will run from May 4 to 5 before joining the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham on May 6.

The meeting was an opportunity for a variety of people with a range of experiences to help make it the best festival yet!

Some members of the Prayer Network were able to join us for the meeting and afterwards for a time of prayer for the

Ignite Festival.

We spent time in the afternoon doing the Stations of the Cross around Walsingham, going to the different chapels around the village for different stations.

One person at the event commented: "We were so lucky that we could tie the Stations of the Cross into visiting the different chapels in the village. It was a great opportunity to reflect on the Easter story and to explore the many prayerful places in Walsingham."

We ended the weekend on Sunday morning with Mass at St Edmunds in Bungay. We ran a short session for the First Communion Group after Mass look-

ing at how Mary is also our mother and the idea of aiming to be saints.

If you would like to pray for the work of the Ignite Team, Ignite Lite, and young people in our diocese, do join our prayer network. You can sign up at www.rcdea.org.uk/youth/prayer. If you are interested in joining Ignite Lite or the full time Ignite Team, contact igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk

If you are over 18 and are interested in volunteering at the Ignite Festival or with the Ignite Team in general as a part of the Ignite Lite Team then contact the Ignite Team on: igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk



Diary dates 2019

■ **June 1 – 2:** Celebrate East Anglia Family Conference, St Benedict's School, Bury St Edmunds. Lively music, inspiring talks, Mass and Reconciliation. Also a special programme for children and young people. For more information and to book a place, visit: www.celebrateconference.org

■ **August 5 - 9:** 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/

E-news: If you would like to sign up to the Diocesan Youth Service mailing list to receive information about new initiatives and upcoming events then visit www.rcdea.org.uk/youth

CAFOD young leader takes up challenge

■ Anastasia Ward, a CAFOD sixth form Young Leader from St Mary's School Cambridge has taken up the challenge of leading a First Holy Communion group session at her home parish St John Fisher Parish in Cambourne, reports Jane Crone.

Catechists Lorretta and Ian Peck and Mary Humphrey invited her to lead a session focused on 'To Love and Serve'. Anastasia was able to use the skills she's learnt as part of her leadership training to explain CAFOD's work with people living in poverty. Activities included a Fairtrade game, reflections on the miracle of the huge catch of fishes and Jesus command to Peter, 'Feed my sheep'.

Inspired by the session the group organised a vibrant and enthusiastic cake sale on Saturday March 30 (pictured right) in aid of CAFOD's Lent appeal. The parish community responded enthusiastically to the group's generosity of time, spirit and money and a total of £243 was raised.

The first communion catechists were delighted with Anastasia's input saying: "It was a great example of how catechetics can be lived by the whole community - not isolated with 'books in a back room'."



The Cambourne charity cake stall.

An invitation to Lourdes

An invitation has been issued to join the annual Diocese of East Anglia pilgrimage to Lourdes in August, reports pilgrimage director, Deacon John Morrill.

■ Every year East Anglia takes part in a much larger pilgrimage to Lourdes at the end of August – this year it is Friday August 23 to Friday August 30.

We join with several other English dioceses, with young people from schools in this and those other dioceses, with up to 30 doctors and nurses and with the Glanfield Group of those with great physical or mental challenges for a week of prayer, activity and sociability. All are welcome. Here are some key benefits of the pilgrimage:

■ The unique sense of being in a place where holiness is so much more tangible
 ■ The chance to pray in the grotto where Our Lady revealed herself to a simple, illiterate girl, Bernadette and brought healing and hope to millions who share in the experience

■ Daily Mass and all kinds of other shared worship – processions, stations of the cross, reconciliation, going down into the waters of the spring which miraculously appeared as Bernadette responded to a request from Our Lady.

■ This year, a chance to go as a diocesan group up to Bartres where Bernadette spent two periods of her childhood for a Holy Hour in a church very much as she knew it and in the presence of relics of her.

■ To travel out as a group from Stansted, met at the airport and taken to our hotels



The East Anglia group in Lourdes last year.

where we get very well fed and watered on a full-board arrangement. Our preferred hotel, La Chapelle, is the one closest to the heart of Lourdes and to the Grotto. Single, twin and double rooms all available.

■ For the able-bodied and those needing assistance to share in all these experiences and to learn from one another

■ To be led by Bishop Alan, assisted by about ten of our diocesan priests and three or four of our deacons.

■ Information including application forms, if at all possible returned by 2

June 2, are available from your parishes and myself as diocesan director (details below).

■ We are also looking for more nurses and young helpers, so contact from them is especially welcome. They seem to have an even better time than all the other pilgrims!

For those with a limited knowledge of Lourdes and its history. There are many resources online.

For some visual images of what a pilgrimage is like, go to 'Lourdes' on any search engine and click on 'videos' and a

rich variety of short films is available to give a 'flavour' of what it is like.

We are hoping soon to have our own video but for the moment, look out for the Westminster or Salford dioceses offerings!

And think about coming to Lourdes in August – but beware, it can be very addictive!

■ CONTACT: Deacon John Morrill, Diocesan Director for Pilgrimage, 1 Bradfords Close, Bottisham, Cambridge CB25 9DW, jsm1000@cam.ac.uk, 01223 811822, 07956 536140



Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology

Catholic House of Cambridge Theological Federation

Beyond here there be dragons: The world's oldest story

A talk by
PROFESSOR ROBERT MILLER,
from the Catholic University of America

Tuesday 28 May 2019, 4.30pm

All welcome

Israel characterises evil not as a devil with horns, a tail, and pitchfork, but as a dragon. Israel borrowed this mythic image from its neighbours and used it strategically throughout the Old and New Testaments to say something about the nature of evil. As it turns out, the story Israel tells of the dragon is not hundreds, but thousands of years older than the Bible. Why? Why does Israel use this perennial human myth, and what does it mean theologically to worship a God who is both dragon-slayer and dragon-tamer?

To book contact Ela on
01223 741 039 or mbitadm@hermes.cam.ac.uk

DCCS The Diocese of East Anglia Certificate in Catholic Studies

When: 6th June 2019, 13th June 2019, 20th June 2019,
3.00 pm - 6.00pm.

Topics to be covered: The Old and New Testament, Jesus Christ, The Church, The Sacraments and Moral Theology.

Who is it for? Teachers and Teaching Assistants, Catechists, Pastoral Assistants.

Sessions will be lively and participative. You are free to attend the course without completing the assignment. The Diocesan Certificate is awarded to those who complete the assignment of one 2000 word essay. Every support will be given with essay writing.

Cost: £120 - course only (Certificate of Attendance will be awarded),
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12 Grange Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DU, 01223 741039 Website: www.margaretbeaufort.cam.ac.uk

BUILDING BRIDGES

A warm inter faith welcome from crew

When Patricia Ezra, East Anglia Port Chaplain with Apostleship of the Sea (AoS), went on board a ship in Ipswich recently she was warmly welcomed by a Muslim crew member.

■ During a friendly chat, the seafarer mentioned that he was from Tunisia and the only Muslim crew member on his ship.

But the seafarer – who speaks fluent Polish and 10 other languages – said he is never singled out because of his religion and there is mutual respect among the crew.

He was happy to receive Catholic prayer cards and other Catholic material handed out by Patricia.

The seafarer said the crew are a family on board and there is a real sense of community and inter-faith understanding. "During the Muslim month of Ramadan, some of my crew mates even join me in fasting from food and drink," he said.

Patricia says her ministry as an AoS (Stella Maris) port chaplain is to offer pastoral support and pray for seafarers, whatever their religion may be.

"When I go on board the ships I'm there to show that someone cares for them, someone remembers the good work seafarers do for us, to find out how they are and how they're getting on. It's showing God's love to them," she said.

As Easter approaches, Patricia and her team of ship visitors in East Anglia will distribute palm crosses, spiritual

Port Chaplain Patricia Ezra with the Muslim seafarer in Ipswich. Picture by Mazur/catholicnews.org.uk

reading material and chocolates to seafarers on ships.

Sea Sunday, on July 14, is a day when parishioners in the Diocese are asked to pray for seafarers and for those who work to support seafarers. A collection is also held that day for the work of Apostleship of the Sea.



VOCATIONS – Br Kes Watson



Norfolk-raised Kes Watson has recently made his First Profession into the Order of Friars Minor after spending time in a Novitiate in Wisconsin, USA. This is his vocation story.

■ Born in Lithuania, but having lived in Norfolk with his family since the age of six, Kes (now aged 25) often travelled back to his mother's homeland where he met the Lithuanian Friars of St Casimir Province. Witnessing their Gospel way of life and spirituality he first felt inspired to consider becoming a Friar, too.

Prior to joining the Friars of the UK Immaculate Conception Custody, Kes worked in a care home in his native Norfolk. In 2015, he entered the postulancy in Killarney, Ireland, with four other candidates and a year later travelled to the States for his novitiate at Burlington in the USA's Mid West.

He lived in a small community with 13 novices and three friars for the next 12 months.

"I was involved with St Ben's and the House of Peace, two organisations which worked with the local African-American communities," said Kes. "One was a food pantry supplying the needs of those who struggled paying bills and needed a helping hand. The services we offered there were varied: medical care, clothing, food supplies, housing assistance, counselling, spiritual support and just a friendly person

to talk to.

"The other site I helped out in was a greeting centre for the homeless. Welcoming the guests and helping in any way that we could, from medicine vouchers, clothing, showers, hygiene bags, birth certificates, out of state bus tickets for people stranded and simply being there for the guests in times of difficulty.

"My time in the Novitiate allowed me to take a step back and through prayer, community and working with the most vulnerable to challenge some of my opinions about how I look at the world and myself. It has given me some tools to continue doing my interior work and to respond to the world around me and to the people of God, which is every living person."

On August 2, 2017, on the Feast of Christ the King, Kes was clothed in the brown habit and white cord of the Order as he made his First Profession in Burlington, Wisconsin.

He has since continued his formation at Athlone Friary, Ireland and enrolled for philosophy studies at Maynooth University, part of the National University of Ireland.

"The road at first may not seem clear but answering that interior invitation is the beginning of a journey," said Kes. "I myself never imagined when I first left England at 20 years old that my life would have opened as it has, and that I would have been involved in some many people's lives."

Read more at: www.friar.org/kes-watson-first-profession

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Matthew 16:18

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News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese

■ Two centenarian pilgrims joined other Cambridgeshire Catholics for a quarterly Mass of Anointing and celebration tea at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Sawston, arranged by the SVP on Saturday March 23, reports Mel Ward.

Held at different churches, it is a great opportunity to meet old friends and new and especially encouraging for those who otherwise would be unable to attend.

Fr John Minh celebrated Mass with his usual compassion, gentleness and happiness and a warm welcome and generous hospitality from the parish and SVP.

For those of us making our regular pilgrimage from St John Fisher, Cambourne, to these Masses it was particularly lovely to be in our Parish church.

The highlight of our celebration tea was our 'First Lady' Beryl, who is 102, meeting Cathy, who is a youngster 101! Both are fantastic examples of faith and the grace of church community.

It was also good to have our regular young helpers Emily from Sawston and Ana from Cambourne.

Pictured are centenarians Beryl (left) and Cathy right.



■ A Peterborough couple have celebrated their 60th diamond wedding anniversary with a special Mass, a Papal Blessing and message from the Queen.

Mary and Bill Collin met in Malta whilst Bill was doing National Service. They were married in Malta on March 10, 1959 and returned to the UK to live in Peterborough where they raised their family.

They returned to Malta in 2009 to renew their marriage vows on their 50th wedding anniversary.

In March they celebrated 60 years of marriage with a special mass at St Oswald's church, attended by their four daughters, as well as grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The couple also received a congratulations card from the Queen and a framed Papal Blessing from Pope Francis.

Both Mary and Bill have recently celebrated their 80th birthdays and attribute their long and happy marriage to always putting the other first.



■ Palm Sunday at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Lowestoft including processional palms with an olive tree branch reflecting the parish's Italian community where olive branches and palms are brought into the churches.



■ Parishioners of St Benet's Beccles have gathered to celebrate a successful year of fundraising when they supported buying a Public Access Defibrillator and Guide Dogs for the Blind. Terry O'Brien reports.

On Saturday March 30, 50 parishioners gathered in the Parish Hall to enjoy a delicious Italian meal and celebrate another successful year of fundraising.

Spear-headed by Pam Storey – ably assisted by husband Arthur and her team of committed supporters – we aim to give help to some of our local charities. Pam organises monthly bric-a-brac stalls at Beccles Market, together with a range of other social events including themed meals.

For 2018, we worked with the Friends of St Benet's Primary School to provide a Public Access Defibrillator. It is now proudly mounted on the hall porch where it can be of service to school, church and the general public, in case of emergency.

We also committed to support the local branch of "Guide Dogs for the Blind", a cheque for £875 was present.

Looking forward to 2019, we were delighted to hear from Fay Baldry, organiser of the Waveney Centre, a very popular social facility in the centre of Beccles we aim to support.

Pictured (left to right) Guide Dogs volunteer, Julie Hills; Guide Dog owner, Georgina Chambers, parish fundraiser Pam Storey and Jacob. Picture by Helen O'Brien.