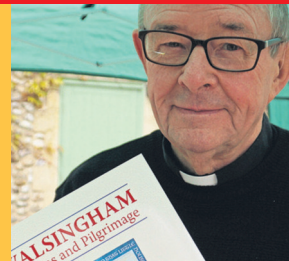




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Bishop Alan with the five newly-ordained priests from East Anglia.

Five priests ordained in a single day



A special and historic event in the Diocese of East Anglia took place on Saturday July 6 in St John's Cathedral, Norwich, when five men were ordained as priests on a single day. Keith Morris reports.

■ The Mass of Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood took place in front of a packed congregation of over 1,400 people, including around 120 clergy from across the Diocese and beyond, with every seat taken and others standing.

The only previous time in the 43-year history of the diocese when more men have been ordained on the same day was in September 1996 when seven former Anglicans joined the

Catholic priesthood.

Alfonso-Jude Belnas, Michael Brookes, Simon Davies, Alan Hodgson and Paul Spellman were ordained following studies of up to six years in length at seminaries in Birmingham (Oscott), Surrey (Wonersh) and Rome (Beda College), which were each represented by senior clergy at the Mass.

In his homily, Bishop Alan Hopes, said: "May the power of this Sacrament of Ordination lift us up today into the realms of eternity. Pray for our brothers, Jude, Michael, Simon, Alan and Paul that they may always remain close to Jesus Christ, our great High Priest.

"Pray that their lives and ministry may be filled anew with the Holy Spirit so that they may become powerful icons of the Lord's love and mercy to the Church and to the world.

"Out of the priestly people of God, Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, chooses men and sets them apart to serve God's people in his name as ordained priests. This is a truly noble calling."

Alan Hodgson, born in Cape Town, South Africa, is a former aircraft fitter and Operations Manager at Gatwick Airport. One evening, he was involved in a traumatic event on the way home from work which led him to really take stock of his life and begin a search to fill the gap.

"I found solace in front of the Blessed Sacrament and it was there that I realised that the call to priesthood, which I had buried for so long, was still there and yelling to get out," said Alan.

Alan trained at the Beda College in Rome and has been appointed as an Assistant Priest of St Mary's, Ipswich.

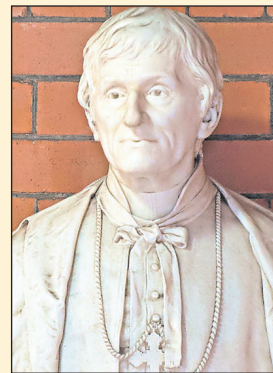
■ Continues on centre pages.

Cardinal Newman to be canonised in Rome

■ Representatives of the Diocese of East Anglia, including Bishop Alan Hopes, will be present in Rome on Sunday October 13 when Pope Francis will canonise Blessed John Henry Newman in St Peter's Square.

This will make Cardinal Newman the first English person who has lived since the 17th century officially recognised as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church.

John Henry Newman (1801-1890) was ordained as a Church of England priest and soon became the leader of the Oxford Movement but converted to Catholicism in 1845. He founded the Oratory in England and was later made a cardinal. When he died at the age of 89, more than 15,000 people lined the streets of Birmingham for his funeral.



Cardinal Newman is widely considered to be one of the most significant figures of the 19th century and the series of Newman Lectures at the University of East Anglia are named in his honour.

The cause for his sainthood was opened in 1958 and he was declared Venerable by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1991 after his life of 'heroic virtue' was recognised. Pope Benedict XVI declared him Blessed in Cofton Park near Birmingham in September 2010, as part of his historic visit to Britain.

The canonisation was made possible by a second miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed John Henry Newman, consisting in the medically inexplicable healing of a pregnant woman with life-threatening complications due to her pregnancy. The cure took place in Chicago, USA, in May 2013. It was approved by Pope Francis on February 13, 2019.

www.newmancanonisation.com



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news in brief

Free workshop to help couples

■ The Diocese of East Anglia is offering a free half-day session on the Smart Loving Breakthrough programme, which aims to help couples improve the way they communicate with each other.

Marriage and Family Life Co-ordinator, Dr Bonnie Lander Johnson, said: "Most marriages can, after a few years, begin to be weighed down by petty squabbles and the busyness of life. These minor tensions can then sometimes escalate into full blown conflict or 'gridlock'.

"The Breakthrough workshop is not about resolving disputes. Instead it helps participants to understand the dynamic of their relationship and the emotional needs that are driving their arguments, so that they can resolve their internal distress. Then, they are in a better space to address the relationship conflicts with confidence and calm.

"The Breakthrough workshop is authoritative and well-researched, but it is also very practical. It is informed by the Catholic personalism of John Paul II, which offers married couples a truly divine image through which to understand the promises we make to each other in our marriage vows.

"This half-day programme will cost nothing and asks just a few hours of your time, but I am sure it will prove rewarding in so many ways for the future of your marriage and family life," said Bonnie.

The programme draws on relationship psychology and the Theology of the Body. It is both scientific and fully Catholic.

It will take place from 10am to 1pm on Saturday September 14 at Our Lady Immaculate and St Etheldreda's, Newmarket.

Tea and coffee will be provided and the day is free of charge. To register as an individual or couple, email: mflc.eastanglia@rcdea.org.uk.

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 September 9.

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Role of altar servers celebrated

■ Altar servers from across the Diocese of East Anglia gathered with their families for a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes on Saturday (June 29) at St John's Cathedral in Norwich.

The Votive Mass was for St Stephen, the first martyr of the Christian church, and the patron saint of altar servers, who came from Norwich, Cambridge and Peterborough to attend.

In his homily, Bishop Alan said: "As we serve at the altar, God will draw us close to himself. Our serving will become a work of love and will enrich the celebration of the Mass and the lives of those who come to it.

"God might be calling some of you to think about a vocation in the heart of the church – as a priest, as a religious nun or monk. Many of our priests will tell you that

they started off life as altar servers. If you think God is calling you then respond to him with generosity."

"As altar servers, let us be people of faith and strong followers of Jesus; let us be people who have responded to God's call willingly and generously; let us be

people who are great witnesses to Jesus Christ."

After Mass the altar servers and their families enjoyed a barbecue in the grounds of the Cathedral Narthex.

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



Seminarian Peter is ordained in Rome

Diocese of East Anglia seminarian Peter Wagnanski from Cambridge was ordained as a transitory deacon by Bishop Alan Hopes at a Mass in Rome on Sunday July 14 reports Fr Tony Rogers.

■ Palazzola, the villa of the Venerable English College in Rome, looks across Lake Albano to the Papal Summer residence of Castelgandolfo. It has long been the venue for the ordination of deacons at the end of a student summer break following exams, and a refuge from the stifling heat of Rome.

Bishop Alan was invited to ordain Peter along with three other men from the Dioceses of Westminster, Hallam and Portsmouth. Three priests from the diocese joined the Bishop for a wonderful ordination mass in Palazzola's own chapel of Our Lady of the Snows.

After a ferocious storm in Rome the night before, the air was clear on Sunday, July 14 and the villa was a magnificent setting for the ordination and for the celebratory meal which followed – with students, staff, families and guests seated on long tables shaded by an avenue of trees.



Peter Wagnanski is ordained as a transitory deacon in Rome by Bishop Alan Hopes.

Peter has so far spent five years at 'The Venerable'. God willing, he will be ordained a priest next summer, and then return for a final year to complete his postgraduate studies.

Peter writes: "Diaconal ordination marks the end of five years studying and discerning a long way from home, family, and friends, so it was particularly moving to receive this gift from God, and

to celebrate it, in the company of family members and friends who had travelled for the occasion.

"I thank them for their support, and thank all those throughout the diocese who have been praying for me and the other seminarians. Your prayers are a great source of encouragement for us all.

"In his homily at the ordination, Bishop Alan put before

us the examples of three saintly deacons, Steven, Lawrence, and Francis, who exemplify the life of holy service I now, by the grace of God, hope to live up to.

"I look forward to trying my best to follow their example: over the summer in the diocese, especially my placement at the cathedral in September, and when I return to Rome to continue my formation."



Bishop Alan with the three newly ordained Permanent Deacons.

Trio of new deacons ordained at Cathedral

Three men from East Anglia were ordained to serve as Permanent Deacons during a Mass at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich on Saturday June 22. Keith Morris reports.

■ Brett Gladden (from Bury St Edmunds), James Hurst (from Newmarket) and Martin L'Es-trange (from King's Lynn) were ordained in front of around 400 family, friends and clergy from across the Diocese of East Anglia by Bishop Alan Hopes.

In his homily, Bishop Alan said: "You will be consecrated as deacons through the laying on of hands and prayer. This action is the symbol of the calling down of the Holy Spirit to give you new strength – the hand of God himself reaching from eternity into our world and setting you apart for this sacred duty.

"There are three distinct responsibilities for the deacon which have evolved from the New Testament ministry. You are to be a minister of the Word, you are to be a minister of the altar and you are called to be ministers of loving service to others – this must be the hallmark of your ministry.

"Your loving service must go way beyond what society would call service. You must



seek out ways in which you may find him and serve him and especially in the needs of the poor, those in need or who seek justice.

"In these three responsibilities you will be building up the Body of Christ in unity and service."

For Deacons Brett, James and Martin, ordination was the culmination of long faith journeys and more particularly of four years of study and formation (academic, spiritual, personal and pastoral – the 'four pillars') in a programme for men from all the southern dioceses of England.

Most of the formation takes place at St John's Seminary at Womersley (Guildford) roughly every third Saturday. They were part of a year group of 17 men from seven dioceses and they have formed very strong bonds and will be attending one another's ordinations.

All will serve in parishes in which there are already per-

manent deacons, but each brings his own gifts and each is very open to new challenges.

They join an East Anglian 'college of deacons' consisting now of 39 deacons – but with half of them 75 or over, three newcomers with an average age below 60 they will add much needed youthful vigour to the college.

Deacon John Morrill, assistant director for diaconal formation, who teaches on the formation programme and who, along with Deacon John Bell, journeys with the men through their formation at St John's Seminary, said "Brett, James and Martin bring a huge range of experience of the world with them and a great love of God and of the Church. They are all hugely supported by their wives Celia, Louise and Helen and by their seven children and growing number of grandchildren – indeed within 24 hours of being ordained Martin had the great joy and

privilege of baptising a grandchild.

"Perhaps above all, the grace of orders will help them to surrender more completely to God and to let Him gently lead them where He most needs them."

Ten of the current diocesan deacons have worked extensively in prison chaplaincy, for example, and many more in hospitals and schools, and few had expected or sought these challenges. In the early church, deacons were first and foremost the bishops' assistants and messengers in all kinds of ways, although with those in need always to the forefront.

After centuries when they were few and far between, permanent deacons are now active in 109 countries and there are now 700 in Britain and 50,000 around the world. Brett, James and Martin are in good company.

■ There is a full picture gallery available online at: www.rcdea.org.uk

news in brief

Priestly moves are announced

■ The appointment of newly ordained priests, priestly moves and retirements across the Diocese of East Anglia have been announced by Bishop Alan.

The following priests are due to retire from full-time parish ministry in September:

Fr Denys Lloyd, (Sheringham and Cromer)

Fr Anthony Shryane, (Ely)

Fr Gordon Williams, (Swaffham with Watton)

Fr Francis (Sam) Leeder (St Pancras, Ipswich)

Fr Roger Spencer (Southwold and Halesworth)

"I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their devoted service of the people of God in the Diocese over many years and wish them a fulfilling and peaceful retirement. I am sure that, although retired, they may still wish to be asked to supply in their local areas," said Bishop Alan.

The following appointments will take place after the summer holidays:

Fr David Bagstaff as Parish Priest of St Edmunds, Bury.

Fr James Caulfield as Parish Priest of St Charles Borromeo, Wisbech.

Fr David Finegan as Parish Priest of St Etheldreda, Ely.

Fr Russell Frost as Parish Priest of St Pancras, Ipswich.

Fr James Fyfe as Parish Priest of Our Lady & St Joseph, Sheringham & Cromer.

Fr Mark Hackeson as Parish Priest of Our Lady of Pity, Swaffham.

Fr Karol Porczak to join the Missionaries of La Sallettes at St Peter and All Souls, Peterborough.

Fr Peter Raj as Parish Priest of St Mary's, Ipswich.

Fr Tom Walton as Parish Priest of The Sacred Heart, St Ives.

Fr Alex Anaman as Priest-in-Charge at The Most Holy Trinity, Diss

Fr Ioan Sandor as Parish Priest of Our Lady's Stowmarket with Woolpit

Fr Richard Ireson as Parish Priest of The Sacred Heart Southwold

Fr Paul Vincent OCD as Parish Priest of St Mark's, Ipswich

Thenpriests who were ordained on July 6 have been appointed as follows:

Fr Jude Belnas as Assistant Priest of St Luke, Peterborough.

Fr Michael Brookes as Assistant Priest of St Edmunds, Bury.

Fr Simon Davies as Assistant Priest of St John's Cathedral, Norwich.

Fr Alan Hodgson as Assistant Priest of St Mary's, Ipswich.

Fr Paul Spellman as Assistant Priest of Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Cambridge.

The Parish of St James, Ipswich, will come under the canonical jurisdiction of St Mary, Ipswich, with pastoral responsibility being entrusted to Fr Thomas Parakandathil who will be in residence at St James.

"I am extremely grateful to these priests for their generous response to take up a new appointment and assure them of my prayers and good wishes as they prepare to do so," said Bishop Alan. "With an assurance of my prayers for all the priests and deacons of this Diocese who work so hard to spread the Gospel and help build the Kingdom of God."

NEW EVANGELISATION



Three Franciscans make profession

■ Three members of the Pax et Bonum Secular Franciscan Order in Norwich made their profession on Saturday May 11, at the Church of Our Lady and St Etheldreda, Newmarket.

The ceremony was held during the Mass that was the central event of a Regional Day of Recollection for Franciscans in the East Anglia area.

Francis Taylor, Laurence Smith, and Simon Hambrook, made their promises before Brigid Rawlinson, the Fraternity Minister, who accepted them on behalf of the fraternity and the Order.

This was witnessed by Fr Donald Walsh OFM, Spiritual Assistant, and other members of the East Anglia fraternities who had gathered for the day.

Creation celebration

■ Newmarket parish held a Creation Celebration on July 7, reports Marian Bardwell. Deacon James set the tone with his inaugural sermon on the theme of the climate crisis. After Mass there was a parish lunch and the CAFOD Climate Quiz. Tom Caple then described some of the challenges brought about by the climate crisis and some ideas about how we can respond.

Evangelisation and discipleship initiative

An evangelisation and discipleship initiative has been started by a group at St Peter & All Souls in Peterborough to try to re-ignite the faith of parishioners and make them more pro-active in the life of the Church. Deacon Claudio Chiappinelli reports.

■ The group – including Deacons; Catechists; Extraordinary Ministers and hungry enthusiastic lay people came together and have been meeting regularly since January 2019 to find ways to re-ignite, strengthen and ‘draw parishioners closer to God or return to the Catholic Faith’. Also to help encourage us to become true Disciples of the Word as part of the Diocesan Mission for Evangelization.

After much reading and research, the result has been to use a Catholic Programme ‘Word on Fire Catholic Ministries’ founded by Bishop Robert Barron in the US. He has numerous resources available covering all aspects of the Catholic Church and teachings.

As a pilot scheme, to gauge the interest of the parishioners, we decided to run a series of sessions focusing on having a clearer understanding of ‘The Mass’ with a further two sessions giving a



St Peter and All Souls parishioners taking part in the programme.

deeper meaning of ‘The Eucharist’.

These pilot sessions consisted of showing DVDs led by Bishop Barron, followed by group discussions and of course the usual refreshments.

Each session ran twice per week – Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings – with attendances ranging between 50 to 80 people. The feedback at the end of these two pilot schemes was a great success leaving parishioners wanting more of the same.

Other parishes in the Deanery of St Hugh have also shown a keen interest and are wanting to run the same DVD sessions on The Mass and The Eucharist to their own parishioners in the near future.

Bishop Alan is aware of

Bishop Robert Barron’s Word on Fire Ministry and was encouraged to hear about these courses being run at St Peter and All Souls.

He was impressed to hear of the high number of attendees on these two pilot schemes and gave his blessing to continue with similar programmes.

The high participation in, and success of, running these sessions has clearly shown us the need and the hunger to continue sharing similar courses with the parishioners, hopefully using Mother Teresa’s example of ‘The Ripple in the Pond’ spreading wider within the Diocese.

At St Peter and All Souls Parish we are currently looking into and evaluating other

materials to be able to assist and support parishioners in their own personal journey of faith. As part of The Mission of Evangelization and Discipleship we are hoping that parishioners will feel more connected to the Church and come forward to join existing or re-establishing pastoral ministries such as Welcomers, Outreach programmes, etc.

Through all of Bishop Barron’s presentations we are drawn into the true meaning of The Liturgy and The Liturgy of the Eucharist. We have learnt that The Mass is an intense encounter with God that we have the greatest relationship with Jesus and The Mass is a supreme moment of Encounter and Adoration.

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Free training chance with CV

A team from the well-known Catholic Voices project are set to run a free training day in Wymondham near Norwich on Saturday September 7 to help Catholics from across the Diocese of East Anglia talk about their faith in public situations.

■ Called How to Defend Your Faith in the Public Square, CEO Brenden Thompson will lead a team from Catholic Voices in running the event which is aimed at young adults, parish communications champions and New Evangelisation reps in particular, but is open to all.

Catholic Voices

We tell the Church’s story

Organised jointly by the diocese communications department, New Evangelisation team and Ignite Youth Team, the workshop aims to get participants to see chances to share their faith in public as an opportunity and to share some tips and techniques in preparing them to do so.

It will include practical skills in “defending your faith without raising your voice” and how to talk about controversial topics with charity and clarity.

New Evangelisation Co-ordinator, Rebecca Bretherton, said: “We know Jesus

Christ asks each one of us to tell people about God’s Good News. This training will give some practical ideas about how to really do so.”

The day, on Saturday September 7, will run from 11-4pm at the Parish Hall,

Our Lady & St Thomas of Canterbury, 1 Norwich Road, Wymondham, NR18 0QE. The venue is a short ten-minute walk from Wymondham train station and there is plenty of free parking at the church.

Place are free but are limited and participants are asked to book a free place in advance with Rebecca Bretherton at evangelisation@rcdea.org.uk

Drinks will be available but you are asked to bring your own lunch.

www.catholicvoices.org.uk

Weekend retreats offered by sisters

A series of weekend retreats are being offered by the sisters of the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham at Dowry House in Walsingham on subjects including prayer, marriage enrichment, relationships and Lectio Divina.

■ Dowry House Retreat is a beautiful, listed building situated just opposite the 12th Century Walsingham Abbey grounds in Walsingham. The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham would be delighted to welcome you to one of their many retreats taking place or simply to come for some quiet time.

■ **The door of entry to God's dwelling**

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A retreat led by Fr Matthew Blake OCD, a renowned retreat-giver, will guide us in exploring St Teresa of Avila's book, 'The Interior Castle'.

■ **Loving for Life – Marriage Enrichment Retreat: October 4 to 6**

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■ **Smart Loving: October 25 to 27**

A formation retreat for couples preparing to marry in the Catholic Church. This course satisfies the requirements for Marriage Preparation and a certificate will be given which is internationally accepted in the Church.

■ **Prayer, Intimacy and Relationships: November 22 to 24**

A weekend looking at how the journey into a deeper prayer life enables us to love the people in our lives, even the most difficult!

■ **Beginning Lectio Divina: November 29 to December 1**

Join others in learning the art of Lectio Divina so that entering more deeply into the Word of God, our hearts can be filled with the thoughts, desires and sentiments of Christ's.

For more information visit: www.dowry-house.org.uk/events

Email: dowryhouse@walsingham.org.uk or call 01328 801018

Dowry House Retreat, Walsingham, NR22 6BZ.

news in brief

Clare Craft Fair attracts 11,000

■ Around 11,000 visitors enjoyed the sunshine, unique arts and crafts and a range of adult and children's entertainment at Clare Priory Craft Fair, Clare on July 13 and 14.

Some 160 exhibitors displayed 140 different artisan crafts of high quality in the 14th century Priory and its eight acres of grounds. Refreshments available included artisan breads and cheeses, Indian cuisine, locally produced spirits and ales, cakes and a superb traditional English breakfast, burgers and sausages.

The family entertainment included Punch and Judy, Morris Dancing, a magician, barber's shop quartet and popular live music. Radio Suffolk broadcast the event live on Sunday morning with Parish Priest, Fr David Middleton, Robin Hughes, one of the Craft Fair organisers and eight exhibitors being interviewed. In addition, TV cameras filmed the whole weekend for a future TV programme.

"Some of the exhibitors and visitors have been attending for over 25 years since the craft fair was started," said Fr David. "The Craft Fair weekend is a special time in Clare Priory's year. As a retreat house and a parish, we have visitors all the time but never in such numbers. The Craft Fair is always a tremendous draw because of the range and quality of exhibits, and the friendly family atmosphere and the fun. It is such a happy weekend."

The money raised from the Craft Fair goes to a number of local charities, including St Nicholas Hospice, East Anglian Children's Hospice, Clare Playing Fields, East Anglian Air Ambulance and Clare Seekers.



Pictured from the left: Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Sr Berchmans, Muhammad Nafees Zakaria, Adrian O'Neill and two former pupils of Sr Berchmans.

Suffolk nun's medal for life of teaching

Suffolk nun, Sr Berchmans Conway, has been awarded the prestigious Benedict Medal by St Mary's University, London in recognition of a lifetime of teaching and promoting interfaith relations in Pakistan at a ceremony in Westminster Cathedral.

■ The medal, which is the University's highest honour, was presented to Sr Berchmans by the Chancellor of St Mary's University, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, during a St Mary's Summer Graduation Ceremony on July 16.

Sr Berchmans was brought forward to receive the Medal by High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United Kingdom HE Muhammad Nafees Zakaria and Irish Ambassador to the United King-

dom HE Adrian O'Neill.

Sr Berchmans was born in County Clare, Ireland, in 1930 and joined the Convent of Jesus and Mary in 1951 in Willesden, London. She now lives in the order's convent in Felixstowe.

The award is in recognition of almost 70 years of teaching, most of which was spent in Pakistan, where she taught Muslim, Christian, Parsi and Hindu children at the Convents of Jesus and Mary in Lahore, Murree and Karachi.

In 2012, whilst she was Principal of the Convent of Jesus and Mary in Karachi, Sr Berchmans was awarded the Sitara-i-Quaid-i-Azam, one of the highest civil awards given by the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The award citation celebrated her "constant adherence to the call of duty over a span of 59 years, which has made Sr Berchmans a living example to emulate."

During her teaching career, Sr

Berchmans taught and inspired thousands of students, amongst whom are the late Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto, and renowned MIT Astrophysicist Nergis Mavalvala.

Sr Berchmans is the fifth recipient, and the first woman, to be presented with the Benedict Medal.

Speaking of the award, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, said: "Sr Berchmans' dedication and commitment to the thousands of students she has taught is an inspiration to anyone committed to the vocation of teaching."

President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, sent his congratulations, noting: "Through her words and actions, Sr Berchmans has not only inspired her students but also encouraged those she met to make positive and lasting contributions to society."

"May I congratulate her for the legacy she has created."

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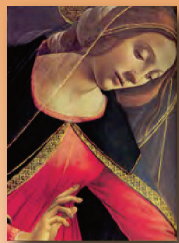
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Ministers of Religion

Five priests are

■ Story continued from front page.

Michael Brookes, from Dereham, was raised in an Anglican family and, after university, followed a career in psychiatric nursing.

He was received into the Catholic Church in 1991 and later spent several years with a religious order before discerning that his future did not lie there.

“After leaving I felt a strong sense that God was guiding me towards the discernment of diocesan priesthood, a vocation which I had not previously considered,” said Michael.

For the last four years, Michael’s time has been split between St Mark’s Ipswich and the Beda College, in Rome and he has now been appointed as Assistant Priest of St Edmunds, Bury.

Paul Spellman, from Sheringham, said: “My time at the Pontifical Beda College has been one of immense personal growth. One that has required me to listen more closely, like Elijah was asked to do, to the whisper of God’s voice and to bend my ear to hear what it is God is asking of me.

“Living in community has helped me to see the richness and value that it offers both to the individual as well as the group as a whole. My experience on pastoral placement in Palestine last summer further challenged that sense of community, especially in light of the daily experience the Palestinian people I was with have,” he said.

Paul has been appointed as Assistant Priest of Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Cambridge.

Alfonso-Jude Belnas is from the Philippines, with strong links now to St Philip Howard, Cambridge.

He trained at St Mary’s Seminary, Oscott (Birmingham).

“My vocation has always been an experience of trusting and accepting the will of God and viewing him as a Good Shepherd,” said Jude. “I came from a humble family with an extended family that gave me security, good moral guidance and the faith that I have now.

“Events, including my father’s death in June 2016, tested my trust and became the foundation of my discernment to the priesthood. I was able to identify my failings and I was able to measure how trusting I was in God.”

Jude has been appointed as Assistant Priest of St Luke, Peterborough.

Simon Davies was born in Cyprus, where his father was stationed in the RAF, moving to St Neots in the 1990s. He served at Mass as a teenager and studied History and Politics at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, and served at both the student chaplaincy and St John’s Cathedral.

On completing university in 2009, he went to Oscott seminary for three years, where he studied for the priesthood and gained a Theology degree

He then took a break from study and went to do pastoral work in Haverhill, working at St Felix’s Primary School as a teaching assistant and also in the Chaplaincy at Highpoint Prison.

While working, he contemplated his vocation and explored several religious communities including the Norbertine community in Chelmsford and the Oratorian community in Oxford where he studied for 18 months.

In September 2017, Simon recommencing his studies at Wonersh Seminary in Surrey after being accepted by the



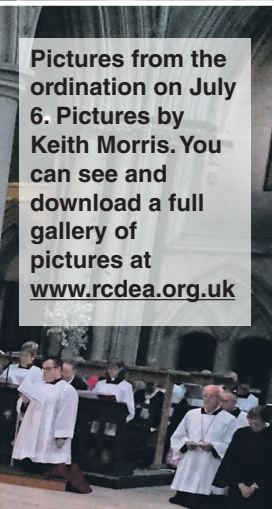
Diocese to train as a priest.

Simon has been appointed as Assistant Priest of St John the Baptist Cathedral,

Norwich.

■ There is a full picture gallery at: www.rcdea.org.uk

ordained



Pictures from the ordination on July 6. Pictures by Keith Morris. You can see and download a full gallery of pictures at www.rcdea.org.uk



reflection

A time rich with opportunity

Autumn is rich with opportunity and is the time of new beginnings says Dcn Peter Coates from Woodbridge, in his monthly reflection.

■ I was sitting musing with an elderly priest as the leaves fell from the plum tree. It was an idyllic scene and I began to quote Keats's Ode to Autumn when my friend interrupted and said that he always dreaded autumn because it was the time when everything died off and so might he.

He is still going strong and I could not have disagreed with him more. This is, for me, the best time of year. It is time for second chances. Eight months ago, I may have made resolutions and forgotten them, built dreams which became nightmares but now I have had the time to reflect and look more rationally at what is necessary and find ways to fulfil the dreams.

For me autumn is rich with opportunity and is the time of new beginnings. New educational terms, new parish projects, new TV schedules (even for day-time!) all arrive in a rush and in the natural world everything is reaching fruition. The colours and the smells are just fantastic and the fruit is so fresh.

It is no wonder that all down the cen-

turies, people have made it a time of festivity. The founding fathers of the American colony were so happy they created their "Thanksgiving" from their first harvest from the new land.

There is no "Harvest Festival" in the Liturgical calendar and, as it is natural for us to thank God for all His goodness to us, some people ask "why?" The simple answer might be that we have no need of an annual event to offer thanksgiving. Particular support for this view can be found in the words of the Offertory at Holy Mass:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, For through your goodness we have received The bread we offer you: Fruit of the earth and work of human hands, It will become for us the bread of life.

Words that are repeated over the wine, reinforcing the offering of the natural world back to its Creator in the great act of Eucharist (thanksgiving). These are words for meditation. They can be used in our preparation for attending Holy Mass and in our private thanksgiving after Holy Communion. They can be used quietly whenever we turn to adore the Creator.

Our harvest is truly not of this world but the transformed fruit of the earth which is our assurance of eternal life in the company of heaven.

Tributes paid to Rosie Hope founder of Open Christmas

Personal tributes have been paid to the strong Christian faith of Rosie Hope who, with husband Michael, founded Open Christmas in Norwich 25 years ago.

■ Paying tribute to his wife of 55 years, who died on June 5, aged 80, Michael said: "Rosie's strong Christian faith was the most important thing in her life."

The Catholic couple, who worship at St Benet's in Beccles, launched the well-known Open Christmas venture 25 years ago at St Andrew's Hall in Norwich and it is still going strong, alongside a sister project in Great Yarmouth.

It aims to provide free food, company and entertainment for the homeless and those alone at Christmas. Launched in 1992, the couple led it personally for 20 years.

"My dear mum had such a kind heart," says older daughter Hettie. "She was terribly unhappy that some people had nowhere to go at Christmas. I think she felt everybody should have somewhere to go."

It would be 2012 before the couple had another traditional Christmas Day at home, after they took a step back.

Born in India in 1938, Rosie was the daughter of a colonel in the British Indian Army and lived in the country until independence in 1947.

Rosie and her sister came to England to go to school and her first job was as a photographer working for the British police in

Cyprus where her father was working.

She met Michael while working in London and they married in 1964 and lived in Cambridge, having three children, Hettie, Louisa and James.

The couple moved to Suffolk to plant a vineyard and then to Norwich with Michael's work with IBM, living in Thurton in South Norfolk.

Rosie did voluntary work at Ferry Cross drugs project in Norwich from where the Open Christmas idea came and developed.

Great Yarmouth Open Christmas followed five years later.

Rosie had a strong Catholic faith. She cherished pilgrimages and regularly went to the shrine in Little Walsingham.

She and Michael travelled in Europe in the '90s; and visited shrines at Medjugorje, Lourdes and Santiago de Compostela.

Rosie had a heart attack about five years ago,

and the couple left Thurton for Beccles in 2016 – downsizing

Hettie said: "She was very religious and I think it's that Christian belief that drove her to do Open Christmas. I think she felt she led a fortunate life and wanted to share that with other people.

"When your mother dies, people always say nice things to you, but everyone's always said what a kind-hearted person she was. She did have a real gift of being able to connect instantly with people. They could see her intentions were so good; I think that was it."



Rosie Hope in 2004.

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS



Student art show at Cathedral

■ St John the Baptist Cathedral's sunken chapel was transformed into a colourful and diverse art exhibition over the summer.

The work has been created by students aged 5-18 from schools in the St John the Baptist Catholic Multi Academy Trust. Culture and the arts hold a valued position within the Trust and play a key role in enabling students to reflect on various aspects of Catholic ethos and develop their creativity.

The exhibition is a celebration what the SJB CMAT schools have achieved in the past two years as part of the process of applying for Artsmark Status. Staff and students have been excited at the opportunity to showcase their work to the general public in such an awe inspiring setting. Visitors to the exhibition have commented on how much they have enjoyed exploring the show with 'a surprise round every corner'!



Youth choir show off their talents

■ The Youth Choir of All Souls, Peterborough recently sang at the early morning Mass at St Augustine's in Stamford, across the border in the Diocese of Nottingham, as a way of showing what opportunities might be developed for children in that parish.

The visit was the idea of the choir's Director, Jeremy Jepson, pictured left (on the left) with Fr Simon Gillespie of St Augustine's, the choir of All Souls and musical assistant Owen Winter. Afterwards, the choir enjoyed an end of term picnic and games on Stamford meadows.

Jeremy said: "It's great to share our talents and showcase our wonderfully diverse group of singers, they are a credit to All Souls, Peterborough and to the diocese, and it's great to share our message."

Schools' pilgrimage

Cambridge schools St Alban's, St Laurence and St Bede's joined other pilgrims to celebrate Mass in the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham, on the feast of St Bonaventure, Monday July 15, reports Joe McCrossan, Headteacher of St Alban's.

■ The children started their pilgrim from the station and walked along the one-mile Pilgrim Way before reaching the Shrine.

The schools were blessed with a lovely day and the children were able to picnic in the grounds before visiting the Slipper Chapel and looking at the Stations of the Cross. The shop also proved to be a big success as the children enjoyed seeing the array of medals, rosary beads etc.

The Mass was a very spiritual experience for the children as they participated with the readings and serving on



the altar.

All schools were very respectful and prayerful and this was acknowledged by other pilgrims and Sister Jane who said: "Please let the children know that we were

impressed that they behaved so well."

Afterwards all three schools went for a lovely dip in the water at Wells-next-the-Sea, and everyone enjoyed a delicious ice cream in the sun too.

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School are county netball champions



■ St Alban's Catholic Primary was delighted to receive the prestigious award of Cambridgeshire Netball School of the Year at a recent presentation.

This means St Alban's has made a clean sweep of all the primary netball awards in Cambridge, including Coach of the Year, Floria Marshall.

St Alban's Catholic Primary School have been county champions in 2015, 2017 and 2019 and Cambridge city champions in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019

The Year 5 team has also been city champions in 2017, 2018 and 2019

St Alban's is a one-form entry school with limited sports facilities. To achieve this against larger schools is a tremendous achievement.

Pictured left is the A Team with their medals and trophy.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
 PARK LANE, PETERBOROUGH PE1 5JW
 HEADTEACHER MRS MCELHINNEY
 TELEPHONE 01733 566005

YOUTH MATTERS

First Holy Communion from around the Diocese

■ No fewer than 94 children received their First Holy Communion at St John the Baptist Cathedral, Norwich, while another 47 young people were confirmed on Pentecost Sunday.

Catechist Jo Graham said: "For First Holy Communion, this represented a 44% increase in numbers for the cathedral compared to previous years. So a big thank-you to our parishioners, parents and catechists across both programmes who have supported our young people throughout the last year from putting out tables and chairs, cutting fruit for snacks, delivering the lessons and supporting them in prayer."



■ St John Fisher in Cambourne celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving for both this year's First Holy Communion and Confirmation Preparation groups on Saturday July 5, reports Mel Ward.

It included the enrolment of three more servers into the Guild of St Stephen and the presentation of certificates and a gift from our church community.

We continued with an evening of fun, fundraising and friendship with a youth-led Missio fundraising event.



■ St Mary's in Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, joyfully celebrated one of its annual high-lights as the congregation saw 21 young candidates, and Edward King from Aldeburgh, being confirmed by Bishop Alan on June 25. The candidates had undertaken preparation with devoted catechists, Winnie Annison and Angus Murray. They had taken part in CAFOD's revolutionary team challenge on May 25 as they offered their service in order to raise £585 for CAFOD.



■ A bumper 30 children from St Luke's in Peterborough celebrated their First Holy Communion this year. They were very committed, made new friends and enjoyed the preparation and classes.

On Corpus Christi, the children joined around 200 other parishioners and led the Blessed Sacrament Procession around the church and shops. Afterwards there was a great party with games and the presentation of certificates.

■ The Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Lowestoft celebrated its First Holy Communion day on June 15 at St Nicholas Church, reports Kathy Fallon.

Sixteen children made their First Communions and one made his in August in Portugal with his extended family.

All the children did the readings, the bidding prayers and participated in the offertory.



■ The children of the church of Our Lady of Good Counsel and St Peter in March received their first Holy Communion on the feast of Corpus Christi on June 23, reports Leontine Shannon.



■ St Felix Parish (Haverhill, Suffolk) has been blessed to welcome 26 young people to the Lord's Table this spring as they received their First Holy Communion reports Stacy Thornton. Working with Fr Michael, Deacon Huw and a team of lay catechists, the children had their First Reconciliation before Easter and celebrated their First Holy Communion with family, friends and parish community over three Sunday Masses in May and June. The classes ended with the children, in their Communion finery, leading the Corpus Christi procession on June 23.

Richard's vocation story

Former Anglican minister Richard Ireson was ordained as a Transitory Deacon at Our Lady of The Annunciation, Poringland on May 29, the Eve of The Solemnity of The Ascension. Here is his vocation story.

■ Richard (aged 73) is a retired Anglican minister who, after training as a teacher, entered and served in Anglican orders for 40 years.

Training at Lincoln Theological College and specialising in rural groups and teams of parishes, he served in a variety of market towns including Grantham, Boston and Alford; in his last posting being responsible for ten villages and forming an effective pastoral team.

Married to Janet, a teacher and with three daughters and three grandchildren life has been busy and full on the domestic front as well as following my vocation, says Richard.

"I have been blessed in my life by having a wonderful Christian family and raised in a community where the faith was taught by believers. I was taken by our faithful Anglo Catholic parish priest to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham at an early stage and introduced to regular disciplines such as daily Morning and Evening Prayer and confession.

Richard was educated at Nottingham



Rev Richard Ireson with Bishop Alan after his ordination to the diaconate

High School, a pre Reformation charity foundation, by committed Christian teachers and in an open Christian ethos.

In his early teens, with the support of a convent educated grandmother and regular visits to family connections in

Brussels, Richard became aware of the Worldwide Catholic Church, the Rock of Peter.

"My pilgrim path has been a long one, but I can only say that the joy and sense of arriving home at last, when I was received into the Church before the Easter Vigil at Ampleforth, Easter 2012, was a supreme moment in my life," said Richard.

"My reason for leaving the Anglican Church was chiefly the lack of true authority and a yearning to be in Communion with the Bishop of Rome. Bl John Henry Newman, Ampleforth, Belmont Abbey and Mount St Bernard's Abbey have been inspirations in the last seven years as a Catholic and together with the gracious concern and guidance of Bishop Alan, the discernment process has been positive and fulfilling.

"I emphasise however, that I offered myself to Our Lord first and foremost and if the resulting outcome had been otherwise I would have accepted it without question," said Richard.

"I now place myself entirely in His hands; His grace will be sufficient for this very weak vessel."

800th anniversary of Pope and Sultan

■ Around 100 Peterborough citizens from all faiths and none celebrated the 800th Anniversary of the famous meeting between St Francis and the Sultan Al Kamir that happened in the middle of the 5th Crusade, on Sunday July 14. The film "The Sultan and the Saint" was shown in the John Clare Theatre and a lively and helpful debate followed on how to maintain and enhance peace and harmony in Peterborough, led by Brother Sam of the Franciscans and Mr Choudhary of the Medina Mosque. The whole event was supported by Peterborough Inter Faith Council, Churches Together in Central Peterborough Medina Mosque and Near Neighbours.

A joint pilgrimage of the faiths, joined by the Mayor and Mayoress, followed the showing of the film to All Souls Catholic church then to Park Road Baptist Church for the first course of a 'safari' meal. The joint pilgrimage then continued to the Medina Mosque for dessert and drinks.

50-year scrolls

■ The highlight of the June meeting of the Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association held in the Refectory of the Great Hospital was the presentation of 50-year scrolls to Brian Lewis and Susan Baker, daughter of the late David McWeeny OBE. The presentations were made by Phil Brown, Great Britain's National President of the Association. After dinner speeches were given by Phil Brown and Phil Hoy, president of Norwich Circle plus Susan and Jacinta Goode, David's step-daughter.



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Sermon on the Mount

Dr Marian Machinek MSF

An exploration of the ideas and theologies at play in the Sermon on the Mount one of the most significant collections of Jesus's teachings in the New Testament.

10th–31st October 2019

Ignatian Spirituality

Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ

Author of "The Way of Ignatius", Dr Gemma Simmonds has led and directed retreats and course on Ignatian Spirituality for many years.

7th–28th November 2019

The courses are taught on Thursday afternoons, 2.00-5.30 pm. The teaching ends with the Holy Mass at 6 pm and is followed by supper at 7pm.

Fees: £170 each course

Places are limited so please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

For more information about the above courses or to register please email [Ela Wolbek on mbitadm@hermes.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Ela.Wolbek@mbitadm@hermes.cam.ac.uk)
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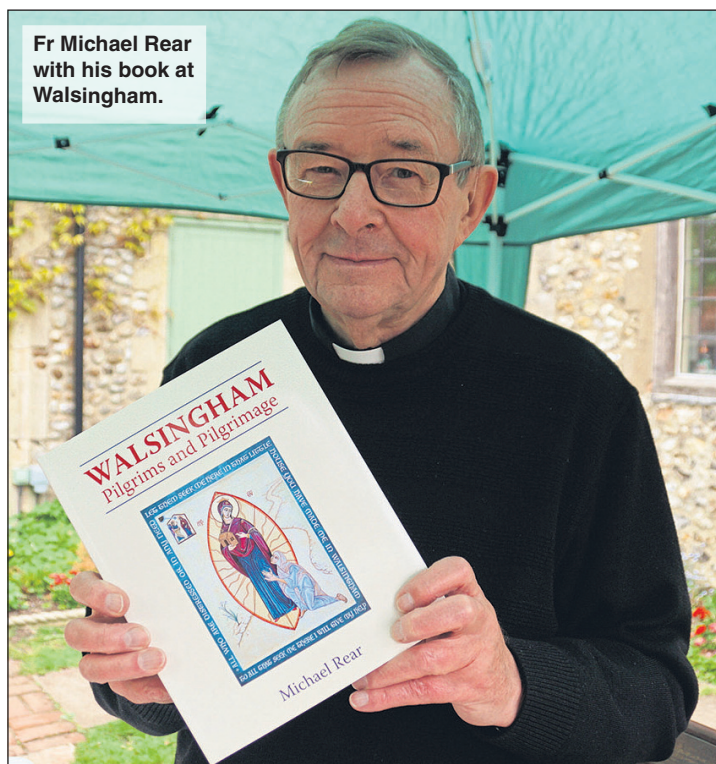
Walsingham book updated

An updated version of the standard historical work on pilgrims and pilgrimage to Walsingham, including new research on the possible discovery of the original Our Lady of Walsingham statue, has been published, written by Diocese of East Anglia priest Fr Michael Rear.

■ That Our Lady should, for her first Shrine in Europe, have chosen a remote village in Norfolk, is – for those of us who are members of this corner of the Body of Christ – a wonderful privilege and blessing. Indeed the mere fact that she should have chosen our Island, once known as Our Lady's Dowry, is miracle enough.

So a deep, thorough, complete, well-written and well-presented history and overview was not premature when Fr Michael Rear wrote *Walsingham: Pilgrims and Pilgrimage* in 2011. A second edition of what Cardinal Vincent Nichols called 'his splendid book' has now been published.

Our own Bishop Alan and the Bishop of Norwich have jointly written the preface, commending it as the 'standard work on pilgrims and pilgrimage to Walsingham,



Fr Michael Rear with his book at Walsingham.

acclaimed by Catholics, Anglicans and the general reader', especially in the light of the Ecumenical Covenant which the Catholic and Anglican Shrines made in 2018.

Not many people know that Walsingham's story began in Roman times with pilgrims coming to its Shrine of Mercury. Fr Michael records this early history, before relating how the Shrine to Our Lady was founded in the eleventh century (carefully presenting new arguments for the disputed date of 1061) and why

and how it grew to be the most famous Shrine of Our Lady in Europe. The book records the dreadful events in the reign of Henry VIII, including the Walsingham Conspiracy, which resulted in the deaths of 12 local men who tried to save the Walsingham Priory from destruction.

The recovery of devotion and pilgrimage to Our Lady of Walsingham by Anglicans and Catholics is recorded in detailed accounts of the restoration of both Shrines; as well as the spiritual mean-

ing of the place, and the purpose and value of pilgrimages to Our Lady in the modern world, especially for the New Evangelisation. This second edition brings the story up-to-date, with the developments in both Shrines since 2011.

While researching this second edition Fr Michael discovered that an early 13th century English oak Crowned Virgin Statue of Our Lady, looking very like Our Lady of Walsingham, had been found hidden in an old house near Walsingham, the only wooden statue of this type known to have survived the iconoclasm of Henry VIII. In 1925 it was sold to the Victoria and Albert Museum where it is known as the 'Langham Madonna'. Fr Michael has explored its provenance and his research is included in this new edition: his conclusion is that the old statue may indeed be the original and venerated image of Our Lady that was supposed to have been burnt at Chelsea.

The book will certainly, and for many years, be standard reading for anyone with a devotion to, love for and interest in Our Lady's Shrine in this remote but beautiful corner of Norfolk.

Review by Fr Michael Johnstone.

■ *Walsingham: Pilgrims and Pilgrimage* by Michael Rear (*Gracewing, 2019, £19.99*)

news in brief

Bishop leads SVP pilgrimage

■ In very pleasant July sunshine Bishop Alan Hopes led the SVP National Pilgrimage to Walsingham on July 7, reports Pauline McSherry.

With him were two visiting bishops from Australia and in the procession we had, once again, life-long member of the Society Fr Henry MacCarthy and our faithful altar server Andrew from Peterborough.

Pilgrims from near and far gathered in the garden and in the Basilica as voices were raised for the first hymn Love Divine. It was comforting to hear our Bishop's words of praise and encouragement for the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

The Sacrament of the Sick and Benediction brought our prayerful and memorable pilgrimage to a close.

With a smile that simply and truly radiated joy, peace and prayer, from her wheelchair Beryl from King's Lynn said: "I feel strengthened by this wonderful day with Our Lady at Walsingham". She spoke for us all.



Patricia celebrates 90

■ Parishioner Patricia Holmes who worships at St Ignatius, Caister, celebrated her 90th birthday in June along with friends at the Mass centre, which is part of St Mary's Catholic Church, Great Yarmouth. Patricia is pictured above front centre with parishioners and Fr Anthony Nwankwo.

Family Fast Day

■ Supporters across East Anglia are being asked to help CAFOD by taking part in its Family Fast Day on Friday October 4, which has a long tradition of supporting communities around the world and CAFOD East Anglia rep, Jane Crone, is inviting people to eat simply and give to help people in poverty.

"Whether you eat simply at home, have a simple meal with your family or organise a soup lunch with your parish, your donations and prayers will make a real difference to people living in poverty," said Jane.

"You can make it an event by inviting your family, friends and fellow parishioners to join you in having a simple soup lunch or supper," said Jane. "Your parish's support this Family Fast Day will help provide training, tools and resources to some of the world's poorest people.

Visit: www.cafod.org.uk/fastday

Church's best-kept secret

It's said that Catholic Social Teaching is the best kept secret of the Catholic Church. In the latest of her series of articles, Jacinta Goode begins to open up that secret.

■ If you haven't heard of Catholic Social Teaching, or you're not really sure what it means, you are not alone! We know the Church teaches on the Sacraments and we know about the Ten Commandments, but what does the Church teach about social affairs?

In my last article, I explained that 'caritas' is a Latin word meaning 'charity' and it's this charity – this 'love in action' – or how to put our faith into action - that Catholic Social Teaching is all about.

Jesus said, "you must love your neighbour as yourself" (Mt 22:39). But what does 'love your neighbour' mean? Well, Jesus answered that perfectly in his parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke's gospel (chapter 10). Simply, it is to put the needs of all others before ourselves. We may give what we feel we can from our surplus, but Jesus goes further than that. He teaches us to walk alongside the poor and the marginalised and to put them at the centre of everything we do. To give food to the hungry is good. However, Jesus demands that we go further.



Jacinta Goode.

At every turn, Jesus places the poor and the marginalised at the centre of His ministry: the widow, the leper, the Samaritan, the tax collector, Mary Magdalene, the woman at the well, come immediately to mind. All of these were rejected by the people of Jesus' time and yet they became central to His message. Furthermore, He tells us at the end of the story of the Good Samaritan, that we must 'go, and do the same yourself'. This is tough, challenging teaching, to say the least! I invite you to consider for a moment what type of person you might reject. Where would Jesus place that person?

With this in mind, popes and others

have been inspired to write about how we can put this command of Jesus into action. From Pope Leo XIII in his encyclical *Rerum Novarum* (written in 1891), through to Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* – these are the documents which show us the way. It is these and many other papal encyclicals which are the core of the teaching of the Catholic Church on social responsibilities and social care – otherwise known as Catholic Social Teaching.

There are six Principles of Catholic Social Teaching: Human Dignity; Community & Participation; Option for the Poor; Dignity of Workers; Solidarity & Peace; Care of Creation.

Over the next few months I will explore in a little more depth, each of these Principles in turn. I hope you will find this journey of discovery interesting and that it stimulates a desire within you to 'love your neighbour' in a new way.

■ Are you already involved in some kind of social outreach work? If you are, Caritas East Anglia would like to hear from you! We're planning to create a map of the diocese covering social outreach work that parishioners can get involved in. Information about your project would be really helpful. There is a short questionnaire which has a list of projects we're interested in, so if you're not sure if your project is relevant, have a look at the list and tick ones you're involved in. Go to: www.rcdea.org.uk/caritas-questionnaire

News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese

■ There was a crowded church to welcome Bishop Alan when he visited Gorleston to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Gill's Church of St Peter the Apostle on June 12, reports Bill Howell.

After a celebration Mass the festivities continued in the Parish Hall, where parishioners had provided a feast for all to share.

Around the walls of the hall were displays with colourful pictures to remind everyone of the parish history. They included past Parish Priests, First Communion, Bishops, Confirmations, as well as details of the current building's problems behind the application for Lottery funding for remedial work.

Guests included Great Yarmouth Mayor Michael Jeal and Mrs Jeal. Picture by Brian Lafferty.



■ Over 100 parishioners from across St. Wilfrid's Deanery (North West Norfolk) took part in the annual Corpus Christi Procession at Oxburgh Hall on a beautiful summer afternoon on June 23.

The Blessed Sacrament was carried from the Bedingfield family chapel around the moat of the historic hall and through the courtyard to the private lawn where benediction was given before the procession returned to the chapel. Children from Swaffham strew flowers before the Blessed Sacrament and the canopy was borne by Catenians from the West Norfolk Circle. There was much interest shown by many visitors to the National Trust property.



■ Catholics from across East Anglia were among over 12,000 campaigners on London's South Bank on June 26 calling on MPs to urgently act over climate change, reports Chris Brooks.

Over 300 MPs came out to meet campaigners who included 1,500 supporters from Catholic aid agency CAFOD. The lobby began with addresses from faith leaders, including the Catholic Bishop of Salford John Arnold and former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams. Then there was a 'Walk of Witness' from Trafalgar Square down Whitehall, then an interfaith service.

Among campaigners were eight Waveney constituents, including Mairead and myself as Catholics from Lowestoft, three ladies from Marsh Maidens WI of Carlton Colville, a couple from Rumburgh and Mary a Quaker from Pakefield.

We met up with the Norwich CAFOD group on the South Bank near Lambeth Bridge. The idea was for an outdoor lobby of MPs and we were pleased to chat to with North Norfolk MP Norman Lamb (pictured above, centre) who mingled with several Norfolk and Suffolk people.



■ Twenty parishioners aged from nine to 89 from all over the tiny parish of St Edmund Bungay and Harleston turned out on a rainy night in June to celebrate creation and express their care for our common home, reports Mary Kirk.

The house Mass, organised by the parish CAFOD team, was held in the village of Alburgh, South Norfolk, in the home of two parishioners, and was followed by a meat-free bring-and-share meal.

In his homily, Fr Charles said that people often came up to Jesus and asked "What must we do," and that clearly in terms of the environment and climate change there was a great deal that each person could do to live simply and reduce their carbon footprint.

After the Mass one of the CAFOD team, Mark Kalinauckas, spoke, urging everyone to be heedful of the environmental disaster which we have created, and to live more simply.



■ Parishioners at Sacred Heart Church, Ramsey joined in the Global Rosary Relay on June 28 by praying the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary for priests, reports Eilish Storey.