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The canonisation Mass at St Peter's Square in Rome and, right, Peter Wygnański proclaiming the Gospel. Pictures © Mazur/cbcew.org.uk

Catholics from across the Diocese of East Anglia were right at the heart of the October 13 canonisation Mass in Rome for Cardinal John Henry Newman, including our own seminarian Deacon Peter Wygnański who proclaimed the Gospel in Latin during the Mass, to a world-wide audience. Keith Morris reports.



East Anglia role in canonisation Mass

■ The Mass was attended by Bishop Alan Hopes and numerous other representatives from across East Anglia.

They included Fr Michael Rear who has written a book on Cardinal Newman and former Birmingham headteacher Jean Johnson, who was inspired by Newman and was on the Friends of Newman Committee for his cause and three gener-

ations of a Thetford family personally invited to the Mass by Pope Francis.

Deacon Peter described as the "privilege of a lifetime" the moment he sang the Gospel in front of large crowds and a world-wide TV audience at the Canonisation Mass.

During the Mass, in front of a live audience of 50,000 in St Peter's Square in the

Vatican and a world-wide TV audience, Pope Francis canonised John Henry Newman as the first English saint for around 600 years who was not a martyr.

Peter is a sixth year student at the Venerable English College in Rome and is linked to Our Lady and the English Martyrs in Cambridge.

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Jean's 30-year involvement in Newman cause

■ Jean Johnson from Ipswich was in Rome for the canonisation of Cardinal John Henry Newman – a cause with which she has been personally involved for over 30 years as part of the Friends of Newman Committee.

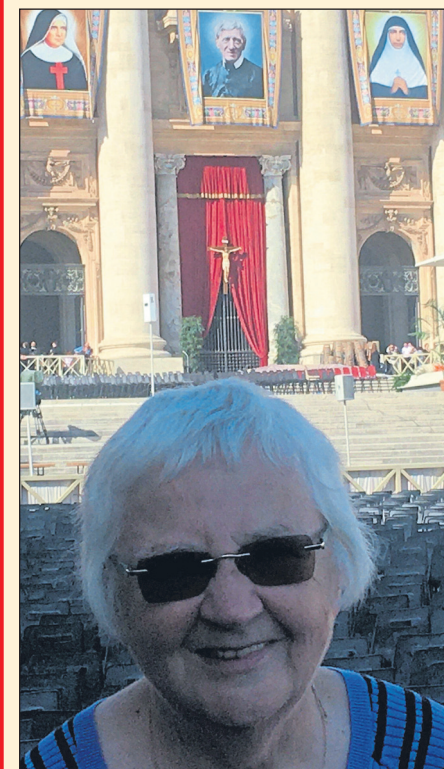
The former head of a Catholic girls school in Birmingham, Jean, who lived just over a mile from where Newman was at the Oratory, spoke to BBC Radio Suffolk live from Rome.

"We are all so excited about today. I had a reserved seat and an invitation to a reception at the British Embassy attended by Prince Charles," she said.

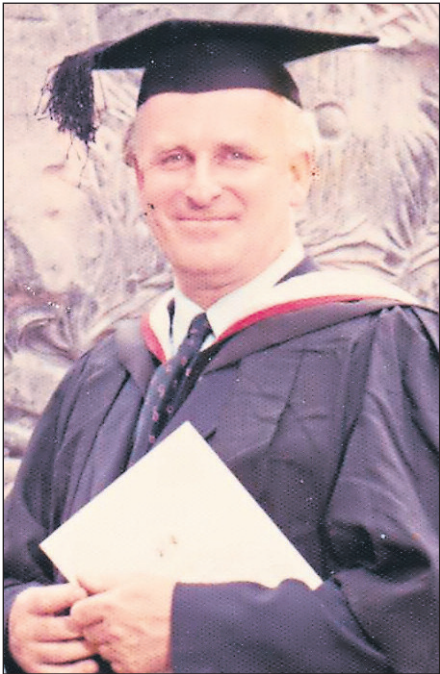
"There are lots of similarities in my own faith journey to Newman's," said Jean. "I was brought up an evangelical – both my dad and grandad were evangelical preachers – then friends took me to an Anglican church. They told me to read about Newman and the Oxford Movement. This took me back to the writings about the early church in the first few centuries and showed that the church did many of the things that the Catholic church does today. Things like having bishops, priests and deacons and asking for the prayers of Mary and the Saints," said Jean. "So, like Newman, I felt I had to make the choice and I joined the Catholic Church.

"I have a photo of Newman signed by him and the chaplain of the school where I was Head was postulator of the Cause for the Beatification," she said.

Jean also had the opportunity to meet both Deacon Jack Sullivan and Melissa Villalobos who were the recipients of the miracles obtained through the prayers of Newman which led first to his beatification and to his canonisation.



news in brief



Jack honoured by university

■ Jack Robbins, a parishioner of St Dominic's Church, Downham Market, and former Head of St Gregory's School, Bedford, has received an honorary Master of Arts Degree from Newman University.

The accolade is "in recognition of Jack's contributions to research and scholarship in the fields of ecclesiastical history and church music."

Jack, aged 92, is a holder of the Papal Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice – "for outstanding service in the church, particularly in the fields of church music and Catholic education". He also has an East Anglian Diocesan Medal, awarded "for church music and catechetics".

Jack has been choir director in various parishes, including Downham Market, since 1949, and cantor at the Walsingham Shrine from 1989 to 1997.

Jack says he wishes to encourage others to pursue courses in church music so as to provide more much-needed choristers, choir directors and organists in our parish churches.

Catholic East Anglia

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

EDITOR: Keith Morris
tel: 01508 488318 or
07712 787762

Pear Tree Farmhouse,
Wymondham Road,
Wrentham, Norwich,
NR16 1AT

email: keith.morris@rcdea.org.uk



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Fr Denys says a fond farewell

■ The parish of Our Lady and St Joseph, Cromer and Sheringham, said a fond farewell to their shared Parish Priest, Fr Denys Lloyd, at a special party following the 11am Sunday Mass at St Joseph's, Sheringham on August 25 reports Val Bowie.

A large number of parishioners enjoyed a glorious sunny afternoon held in the parish hall and gardens, with a buffet lunch provided by parishioners and a very special cake.

Fr Denys was presented with a Latin Missal which he had especially wanted, and a travelling Mass kit among other gifts.

Parishioner, Sean White, gave a brief speech touching on the legacy that Fr Denys will leave behind after his fruitful ministry.

He also spoke of the gratitude for Fr Denys' spiritual leadership over the past decade and for the continual guidance he has provided in both practical and pastoral matters.

He served the parish for 11 years, successfully presiding over the amalgamation of Our Lady of Refuge in Cromer and St Joseph's Church in Sheringham, which

are five miles apart. He gave unstinting service to both the parish and diocese.

He was particularly interested in the religious education of people and the parish in general, both scripturally and theologically, as well as historically, and the liturgy was always of vital importance to him.

He was assisted by Fr Tim Bugby (Ordinate of OLW) and Deacon

Andrew Neate.

Having recently celebrated his eightieth birthday he has retired to Norwich but will doubtless continue to serve the diocese as far as possible. We all wish him many happy years of retirement.

The parish has welcomed Fr James Fyfe, from Our Lady and St Charles Borromeo Church, Wisbech, who has succeeded Fr Denys as Parish Priest.



Young parishioners help Fr Denys unwrap his leaving gifts.

Fr Tony retires after 50 years' of service

Fr Anthony Shryane has retired after 50 years of ministry, 21 of which were in St Etheldreda's parish, Ely, reports Stella Fox.

■ The parish celebrated the occasion at a barbecue on a very hot Sunday at the end of August. It was very well attended by parishioners both present and past.

Teresa Wiseman, representing the CWL, thanked Fr Tony for the many years he had been their chaplain.

John Marshall representing the other churches in Ely, thanked him for all he had done over the years with all the other denominations.

The parish presented him with essentials to equip his new flat. He also received a cheque.

At the beginning of October, after enjoying a family holiday, he returned for

a wine and nibbles evening to see the people unable to be present at the barbecue.

Fr Tony was delighted to receive a photo book of happy memories of people

and events during his time in Ely and his visits to the twinned communities in Cambodia.

We wish him a very happy retirement.



Pictured are Michele Seidler and Stella Fox thanking Fr Tony Shryane for his work in Ely.



East Anglia role in canonisation Mass

■ Continued from page one

Deacons who are studying in Rome are encouraged to put themselves forward to take part in such liturgies and Peter did just that.

"I believe I was chosen largely because of the English connection," said Peter.

"It is the privilege of a lifetime to do something like this – and in many ways it is probably going to be one of the best things I ever do, so there is some trepidation," he said beforehand.

"To be singing the Gospel in Latin and in front of tens of thousands of people is nerve-wracking enough. But it is such a wonderful thing to do and it

will be a great joy to be with the global universal Church at such an important moment when we raise John Henry Newman to the altars.

"Newman's commitment to seeking truth in the beautiful and the good has long inspired me, and he was a significant influence as I was discerning applying for priestly formation, so on a personal level it is a honour to play a role as the Church celebrates his life and sanctity."

Peter did a one-year postgraduate course in music and before seminary even considered being a professional musician, as a jazz bass player, not as a singer though.

"Music has always been a big part of my life," he said. "I sang in choirs while at school and then was responsible for liturgical music for one year as choir-master of the seminary. So I am not new to singing but I never formally had training, nor considered myself a 'singer'. Hopefully I will do it competently enough."

Four other saints were also canonised at the same Mass: Giuseppina Vannini, Mariam Theresia Chiramel Mankidiyan, Irmã Dulce Pontes and Marguerite Bays.

God willing, Peter is due to be ordained a priest of the diocese on July 25 next year at St John's Cathedral.

Family attend Mass at Pope's invitation

Three generations of a Thetford family attended the Cardinal John Henry Newman canonisation Mass in Rome on October 13 after a personal invitation from Pope Francis.

■ And they received a wave and a blessing from the Holy Father when one of the group tried to swap skull caps with him following in an ancient tradition.

Paul Gilbert, his mum Helen Gilbert and grandparents John and Henrietta Connolly attended the Mass at the personal invitation of Pope Francis, who wrote to them in July at the same time as giving John and Henrietta an Apostolic Blessing on the occasion of their 56th wedding anniversary.

Paul said: Alongside the personal invitation from Pope Francis, we decided to go to the canonisation Mass because in 2010, I was the lead for the group that was attending the Beatification of Cardinal Newman in Birmingham which was celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI on the historic first official State Visit of the Supreme Pontiff to the UK. We have followed the process from then and it was lovely to see the whole process under both Benedict XVI and Pope Francis.

"The Papal Blessing, written on parchment, came from the Vatican along with a letter from His Holiness expressing his congratulations upon the wedding anniversary and inviting my grandparents to attend the canonisation ceremony."

The family received seats very near the front in St Peter's Square and Paul



Pictured left is Pope Francis giving a blessing to Paul Gilbert (above), who is waving his Zucchetto, and his grandmother Henrietta.

decided to use the occasion to try to swap skull caps with the Pope.

"A Papal Zucchetto is the small white skull cap that the Pope wears in everyday use," explained Paul. "There is an ancient Vatican tradition in which, if you purchase a white Zucchetto at the official papal tailor, Gammarelli, you can hold it up and the Pope, or the Swiss Guards, will swap yours for the one the

Pope is wearing. Pope Francis frequently swaps his with people attending the general audience in St Peter's Square.

"The Pope did in fact see us and waved at us but because of the time constraints and that he had to tour St Peter's Square before he met the dignitaries from various countries, as he drove passed he blessed us and smiled as he passed by. It was a great moment for us."

John Henry Newman is one of the great figures on the story of the Christian faith in England. Here is the second of a brief three-part biography of the new English saint.

■ Newman became a Catholic in 1845 and was ordained a priest in Rome in 1846, returning to England in 1847.

He joined the Oratory of St Philip Neri while in Rome and, on his return to England, established the Oratorians in Birmingham. He also assisted Fr Faber in establishing the Oratory in London (known

as the Brompton Oratory).

Newman lived at the Oratory in Birmingham for 40 years. For a brief period of four years (1854-1859), he lived in Dublin as the first Rector of the Catholic University of Ireland (now University College Dublin).

Newman also established a school for "the education of the sons of Catholic gentlemen" in 1859. It became known as the "Catholic Eton". It continues to flourish near Reading.

Newman wanted to establish an Oratory in Oxford, but he was strongly opposed by Cardinal Manning. Manning feared this would induce Catholics to attend Oxford

University rather than the newly-established Catholic universities, including his own on St Charles Square.

When Catholics did start to attend Oxford, they formed a Catholic Club which, in 1888 was named, with his agreement, the Newman Society.

John Henry Newman was always faithful, despite the personal cost. He only received recognition and honours in his old age.

One of the lines in his hymn "Lead Kindly Light" reads: "I do not ask to see the distant scene, one step enough for me". There is much wisdom in that sentiment.

www.newmancanonisation.com

news in brief

East Anglian links to Newman

■ Fr Michael Rear and his wife went to the canonisation. He said: "We went in thanksgiving for Newman's help in our journey to the Catholic Church, and for a particular answer to prayer."

It has been our privilege to walk in our small shoes in the big footsteps of this great saint, who has been responsible though his extensive writings and, as we know now, by his prayers, for bringing thousands of Anglicans like ourselves into what he called the 'one fold of the Redeemer'."

Together with Bishop Alan, the East Anglian group included a number of priests: Mgr Harkness, Mgr Armitage, Fathers Laurie Locke, Michael Johnstone, David Smith and Michael Stokes. In the vast crowd that filled St Peter's Square for the outdoor Mass in warm sunshine they also spotted a number of pilgrims from the diocese.

Fr Michael Rear said: "One highlight was to be standing in the long queue waiting to pass through security into the Square alongside Melissa Villalobos (whose miraculous recovery from a life-threatening condition was the second miracle for St John Henry's canonisation), along with her husband David and their seven children, and being privileged to talk to them."

"St John Henry, by his life and teaching, shows us that from age to age God renews the Church by raising up men and women outstanding in holiness; and by declaring his sanctity the Church invites us to pray to him for the renewal of the Church today."

■ Ignite Team member Emily Murphy was in Rome with former Ignite Team members Jess McCall and Catherine Williams.

She said: "I went to see St Peter's Square on the first night I arrived in Rome. On the whole, I wasn't impressed. The square felt empty; the Basilica seemed gaudy and over-the-top. Yet during the canonization Mass, the air shifted. The square was full of people, sounds of praise bouncing off the giant columns and rising up to God. The vastness of the Basilica highlighted the miracle of the Eucharist taking place at the hands of Pope Francis. It struck me that holy buildings, especially ornate ones like St Peter's, are not meant to be admired as a museum. They're meant to be worshipped in. Only when these spaces are full of human hearts raised in prayer can they be understood, appreciated, and alive."

■ At Mass on Sunday October 13, Harleston parishioners were shown an original letter written by St John Henry Newman.

The letter was from Newman to the great-uncle of Fr Charles Fitzgerald-Lombard, parish priest of Bungay and Harleston. John Woulfe-Flanagan was an undergraduate at Balliol College, Oxford. The letter is dated December 27, 1876. Fr Charles currently holds the original which now ranks as a second-class relic.

The letter addresses the young man's struggle with his faith. St John Henry Newman had been John's headmaster at The Oratory School, Edgbaston.

His efforts seem to have been successful as John married into the Shiel family (Newman's lawyers) and brought up a devout Catholic family before his death in 1929 after a distinguished career on the staff of The Times.

NEW EVANGELISATION



news in brief

Harvest festival in Gorleston

■ There was a double celebration at the morning mass at Gorleston, St Peter the Apostle on Sunday October 13 with the Annual Harvest Festival and the Enrolment Ceremony for 18 young people going forward to their First Communion. Mass was celebrated by Fr Alvan with Fr Alex assisting.

The sanctuary was piled high with gifts to be donated to the local Foodbank; with a decorated frontispiece created by the Sunday School pupils.

More gifts were brought up to the altar at the offertory procession and there was a symbolic centrepiece of a large breadboard with a homemade loaf, grapes and bundle of corn.

Walk of witness

■ The Norwich Secular Franciscans recently undertook a witness pilgrimage around Norwich carrying their banner; reports Anne Murrin.

We began with a picnic at St John the Baptist Cathedral's Narthex, then walked to the Julian Shrine for a time of reflection and readings. From there we continued to St Peter Mancroft in Millennium Plain talking to visitors and shoppers.

At St Peter Mancroft we were given a fascinating talk by Mo Cubitt in the ringing chamber on the history of the church's campanology and its ringers. St Peter Mancroft has one of the most historic ringing towers in the world. Then we returned to St John's for closing prayers.

Ecumenical coffee

■ An ecumenical coffee morning was held at St Edmund's Parish Hall by Acle Churches Together on Thursday September 19 to raise funds for the group.

The event was attended by the group's leaders Catholic Deacon Rev Peter Glanville, Anglican Rector Rev Martin Greenland and Methodist Minister Rev Andrew King. Over £300 was raised.

Time to start thinking of Advent

■ It's time to start preparing for your parish's Advent Posada Journey. Posters, a handy rota, prayers and other resources are now available on the Diocesan website's Evangelisation pages.

'Posada' is a Mexican tradition. A young couple dress up as Mary and Joseph and then spend the days of Advent travelling from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling their hosts about the imminent arrival of Jesus at Christmas.

Our modern day 'Posada' uses a statue of Mary and Joseph and the donkey instead of a young couple to travel from home to home. Posada provides an opportunity for hospitality, a time of prayer with others and a sharing of our Christian faith with family and friends. By hosting the statue we can join this simple but effective form of evangelisation.



Emily and Ciaran from the Ignite Youth Team with the Posada.

The God Who Speaks initiative is launched

The 'God who Speaks' initiative, a partnership between the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and the Bible Society, began on September 30 and ends in 15 months' time.

■ There will be a St Matthew's Gospel give-away, Bible Society dome events where you'll get to experience the big story of the Bible all over the country. Autism-friendly editions of the Christmas and Easter stories and grants for creative projects which engage individuals and communities with Scripture.

In the Diocese of East Anglia, Bishop Alan has appointed regional champions and activities are already planned.

Peterborough champion, Rebecca Bretherton, said: "We know many parishes and groups are planning activities based on Scripture this year. If you are running a DVD course, planning to set up a Gospel sharing group, holding a day of reflection and preparation for readers at Mass, please let us know so we can share your ideas to inspire others and help you publicise your activity."

Fleur Dorrell, the Coordinator of the God who Speaks, says we need to see God speaking in the present tense: "The Word of God is dynamic, not a historical encounter. The Bible has much to say in our present times," she said.

"Brexit is a Biblical question. It's a question about how we relate to one another, about our identity. How we understand law and govern our societies, what our place is in the world. What defines leadership for us and from whom and where. In a divided society we look



for authority and leadership, for wisdom and guidance. The Bible transcends all our societal vicissitudes and provides a perennial light. It is the source from which we draw our meaning and our purpose."

Catholics have a reputation for paying scant attention to the Bible. Fleur says: "For Catholics, the Bible is more than the collection of 73 books; it is the Word made flesh in Christ."

In a survey carried out before The God who Speaks, the 1,600 responses from the Catholic community showed:

- 84% most hear the Bible in Church
- 53% read the Bible daily
- 34% say that the Bible is extremely important to the Catholic faith
- 45% feel we don't have enough time to read the Bible
- 41% aren't sure where to begin with the Bible

The lead bishop for the God who Speaks, Bishop Peter Brignall, said: "We would be delighted if people took up the challenge and read the Gospels daily."

"2020 will be the 1,600th anniversary of

the death of St Jerome – our most important Biblical scholar who translated the Bible from the Hebrew and the Greek into Latin. It's also the tenth anniversary of Pope Benedict's Apostolic Exhortation Verbum Domini (The Word of the Lord) in which he proposes giving everyone access to Scripture as a democratic imperative; our Bishops are responding to this Papal invitation."

Nigel Langford, Head of Church Relations at the Bible Society said: "It's a privilege to partner with the Catholic Church on the God who Speaks. The Society was founded on giving everyone access to the Bible and we do this best through collaboration and partnership."

Diocese of East Anglia contacts:

Co-ordinator: Fr Bruno Clifton, bruno.clifton@english.op.org
Suffolk Champion: Jean Johnson, johnson.j.m@btinternet.com
Peterborough: Rebecca Bretherton, evangelisation@rcdea.org.uk
Cambs: Sr Tamsin Geach OP, tamsingeachop@gmail.com
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The ordination of Richard Ireson at St John's Cathedral in Norwich.

Ordination is seventh of year

Richard Ireson became the seventh priest ordained in the Diocese of East Anglia this year at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich on Sunday September 29.

■ Richard (aged 73) is a retired Anglican minister who, after training as a teacher, entered and served in Anglican orders for 40 years. He was ordained a Transitory Deacon in the Catholic Church at Poringland in May.

He was ordained by Bishop Alan Hopes at the 11am Mass at St John's with his wife Janet (a teacher), his three daughters, three grandchildren and family and friends in the large congregation.

In his homily, Bishop Alan said: "Out of the priestly people of God, God calls and chooses men to be his priests who will serve and care for his people on their journey. Richard, God has called you and chosen you for the priesthood in the Catholic Church – this is part of your journey towards the Father's House."

"At the heart of your life and work as a priest, Richard, must be love – you must be a shepherd of God's love. Status, power and security can never be at the heart of the priest. At the heart of our lives must be love – always thinking of the flock, of God's people who he asks us to look after – people in the parish, couples getting married, families coming for Baptism, the staff and patients of a local hospital, the elderly housebound and so on."

During the Mass, Fr Richard prostrated himself in prayer, before Bishop Alan laid hands on him, after which he was dressed in the priestly vestments, his hands were anointed with the sacred chrism and he received the gifts of bread and wine for the Eucharist.

After the ordination Mass, family and friends enjoyed a buffet lunch in the cathedral Narthex.

Fr Richard said: "Truly it was one of the most wonderful days of my life. Surrounded by family and Christian brothers and sisters from all stages of that life and supported by prayers from those unable to be present, the deeply moving ceremony, the Sacrament of Ordination, took place within the context of an inspirational Mass where earth touched heaven for many of us; a life-changing step and deeply moving emotional moment which we now, accompanied by the Living Presence of Our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ, take into our daily lives."

"My gratitude for all that he has done to enable me to discern my vocation over the months and years must go to Bishop Alan who has been a real father in God to me at every stage. Also to the Cathedral family for their warm welcome and patient encouragement and the superb music and liturgy on the day," said Richard.

"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."

"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."

Fr Richard has been appointed by Bishop Alan as the new Parish Priest of The Sacred Heart Southwold, following the retirement of Fr Roger de Lacy-Spencer in October.

A group from the Southwold parish were present at the ordination to support Fr Richard.



St John Henry Masses of Thanksgiving in East Anglia

■ There will be two Masses of Thanksgiving for the Canonisation of John Henry Newman in the Diocese of East Anglia, both celebrated by Bishop Alan.

The first will be on October 29 at Our Lady and the English Martyrs Cambridge at 7pm. The preacher will be Mgr Roderick Strange from St Mary's Catholic College, Twickenham.

The second will be on Saturday November 5 at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich at 7pm. The preacher will be Fr Michael Rear. All are invited and are most welcome.

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Priests move a

A number of priests have joined the Diocese of East Anglia over the summer or moved to new parishes. Here are some of them.

■ Bishop Alan celebrated Mass at **Holy Trinity Parish, Diss**, with new parish priest, **Fr Alex Anaman**, who arrived in Norfolk from **Ghana** in West Africa in August, reports Judith Tooth.

The Mass, at the town's Church of St Henry Morse, made official the welcome by the parish and diocese to Fr Alex, whose appointment follows Fr David Bagstaff's move to Bury St Edmunds.

"I expected to be going to Westminster diocese, but East Anglia got there first!" said Fr Alex. "When Bishop Alan accepted me I was sent to St John's Cathedral for a month and then I received my letter of appointment for Diss.

"I've lived in cities where life is always very fast. Norwich felt very calm and peaceful, and here... it's extraordinary! I'm enjoying it very much."

Fr Alex grew up in Elmina in Ghana's Central Region, the country's home of Christianity. He was ordained in 1992 and worked as an associate priest before being seconded to the Ghana Armed Forces. He wore the uniform and served for 22 years, becoming senior Catholic chaplain. During this time he studied hospital chaplaincy in San Diego and New York, and completed his doctorate in theology and ministry in Chicago.

For the past three years, Fr Alex has been parish priest of St Catherine's in Ghana's capital, Accra, a parish with 2000 families. He is looking forward very much to working in a small community.

"I asked my bishop for a three-year sabbatical because I wanted to have a broader experience, to be away from my country and from military life, for fresh air. My first impression of Diss? It's brilliant! The community here is a real family, and I feel very welcome.

"I want to be a member of the family, and to enhance the spiritual and physical growth of the church here."

■ On Tuesday October 1, Bishop Alan inducted **Fr Ioan Sandor** from **Romania** (pictured to Bishop Alan's right) as the new Parish Priest for **Our Lady's, Stowmarket**. The Induction Mass was a concelebration with many priests from the Diocese of East Anglia and three of Fr Ioan's fellow-priests from Romania.

■ A celebration party was held on September 28 in honour of **Fr Roger de Lacy-Spencer's** retirement in October at the age of 81. He has been a priest for 40 years and spent the last 16 in the **Parish of Southwold** and **Halesworth**.

A large number of parishioners attended the party where there was a grand buffet followed by a lovely iced

Pictured, clockwise, are Fr Alex Anaman in Diss, Fr Ioan Sandor in Stowmarket, Fr Roger de Lacy-Spencer in Southwold, Fr James Caulfield in Wisbech and Fr Russell Frost at St Pancras in Ipswich.



fruit cake.

Fr Roger was toasted with Champagne and wished a very happy retirement. He will be retiring to Beccles in the near future

■ Bishop Alan officially installed **Fr Russell Frost** as the new parish priest of **St Pancras in Ipswich** on Monday October 7. He succeeds Fr Francis Leeder who had been parish priest at St Pancras for almost 40 years.

Fr Russell said: "I am proud and protective of all that St Pancras stands for and will do my utmost to safeguard it."

Born in 1951, Fr Russell was ordained as an Anglican priest in

1975 before being received into the Catholic Church in 1989 and becoming a priest on his 40th birthday. He celebrated his silver jubilee as a priest at St Pancras in 2016 and has spent nearly 24 years in the Ipswich deanery, including nearly 14 at St Mary Magdalen in the town and eight years at Hadleigh. He has also served in Cambridge and at the shrine to Our Lady in Walsingham.

■ **Fr James Caulfield** was inducted as Parish Priest of **Our Lady and St Charles Borromeo in Wisbech** by Bishop Alan on Friday September 27. Fr James is returning to the diocese after serving as a Chaplain to the RAF for the last 22 years.



round diocese



reflection

The great company of believers

Each one of us is a member of the great company of believers says Deacon Peter Coates from Woodbridge, in his monthly reflection.

■ "One faith, One Church, One Lord." It sounds great as we sing but what does it mean? We can probably agree that there is only one Lord – Jesus of Nazareth, whom we call the Christ, the Son of God. One faith is less easy to establish as there are so many possible interpretations even within the "new" Catechism. As for one church..! But we must pause here and affirm that there is only one Body of Christ and, rather like an iceberg, only a very small portion of it is visible.



We are told by our Lord not to make hasty judgements about who is in the church and who is not, so what we can see may be fluid at the edges. What we cannot see is the Church Triumphant.

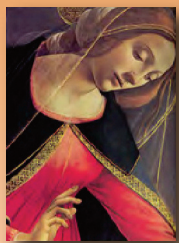
When I went to work in Azerbaijan I was lonely. There was no church where I could receive Holy Communion as the Archimandrite refused me unless I went to Orthodox Confession in Russian. My neighbour invited me once to her Bible group. The shorter breviary was my spiritual bread and butter but I was lonely for a Christian act of worship. But I was not alone. Isaac Watts' great hymn reminded me

*Give the wings of faith to rise
Within the veil, and see
The saints above, how great their joys,
How bright their glories be.*

There is one church, struggling on earth – won through in heaven. Each one of us is a member of the great company of believers. We are surrounded by faith, the faith of the church, and by the great cloud of witnesses to the promise of Jesus to be with us for ever. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews tells us of the great saints of Hebrew history and how, by their struggles and even martyrdom, they encourage and support us. We can add to them all those who have gone before us in the Way.

However lonely we may feel in our faith, we are never alone. We are supported in this when we come together as a local community of faith and we join in prayer with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven. For this, the earliest Christians came together to worship despite the threat of torture and death – now they accompany us. So we pray "look not on our sins, but on the faith of the Church". That is the one faith of the one church that loves her one Lord.

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If you have any queries please contact the school office on 01603 743317.



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SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

Schools celebrate Y

Hundreds of pupils and staff from 28 schools across the Diocese of East Anglia came together on September 20 for a special Schools Mass at St John the Baptist Cathedral to mark the start of the new academic year. Alex Savage reports.

■ The theme for the Mass was The Year of the Word, to tie in with the Bishops of England and Wales who have dedicated the next 12 months as a year of focus on the Bible and 'The God Who Speaks' culminating in the 1,600 anniversary of St Jerome's death in September 2020.

The Mass began with a colourful procession of banners and special Bibles brought by each school to symbolise that celebrating, living and sharing God's word is at the heart of their communities.

Young people of all ages from the St John the Baptist Catholic Multi Academy Trust played a very active role during the Mass as altar servers, readers, leading the music and even a Welcome Team.

The Diocesan Youth Ignite Team presented each school with a pack of resources to help them focus on scripture in the coming year including the launch of the 'Cornerstone website' of weekly themes based on each Sunday's Gospel.

At the end of the Mass the congregation, inspired by the theme raised the roof by singing 'Take the Word of God with you as you go'.

Most people then adjourned to the Narthex gardens to enjoy a picnic lunch.



Stained glass gift for Ipswich school



■ A new set of stained glass windows have been installed at the main entrance to St Alban's Catholic High School in Ipswich thanks to a student's generous parent.

Pasquale Iachetta, owner of FIS Windows, kindly donated a set of three stained glass windows and fitted these above the doors to the main entrance.

Lay Chaplain, Katherine Edwards, said: "The imagery was designed by students in RE and the ideas then chosen for the final designs. We are very grateful to our Art department and teachers who spent a great deal of time coordinating the designs. Special thanks to Mr Iachetta, Mrs Hind, Mrs Wright, Mrs O'Donoghue and Mrs Gilson."

ear of the Word



Pictured left is Bishop Alan with the banner and Bible bearers from schools across the Diocese.

Below are pupils taking a full part in the Schools Mass at St John's Cathedral in Norwich.



Diary dates 2019/20



■ November 2 and 3: Ignite Lite Discipleship Weekend – for those aged 16-35 who want to grow in their faith and for members of the Ignite Lite volunteer group.

■ Sunday November 3: Diocesan Post-Synod Event: Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment

An event reflecting on the Pope's letter to young people Christus Vivit. The event is by invitation only – delegates should be contacted with further details in due course.

■ May 8-10, 2020: Ignite Youth Festival – Sacred Heart Swaffham

■ June 20-21, 2020: Celebrate East Anglia – St Benedict's High School, Bury St Edmunds

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

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A comprehensive updated guide to the Diocese of East Anglia including details of contacts, curia, parishes, Mass times, priests, schools, hospitals, diary dates, a pictorial review of the year and the authoritative Diocesan Calendar for East Anglia 2020

Campaign brightens up day

■ Children at St Pancras Catholic Primary School Ipswich, raised over £200 for CAFOD's Brighten Up campaign by dressing in bright clothing, wearing bright hair accessories and some even wore wigs recently. Head of School, Lucille Southgate, said: "Claire Robinson from CAFOD will be visiting the school on October 11 to give us an assembly to help the children understand how their money will be used to help the campaign."



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news in brief



St Benet's backs charity appeal

■ As part of its continuing support for Mary's Meals, St Benet's in Beccles took the chance to support the charity's Back-pack Appeal, reports Terry O'Brien.

Initially, our class of First Communicants took up the challenge over the summer.

They were soon joined by all the children at our parish school and the appeal was then widened to include the whole parish.

Initially, the children had a target to fill 60 small back-packs with a range of useful, everyday items – such as personal hygiene and school sundries. It was a salutary lesson for our youngsters to realise that these simple things, which we all take for granted, are desperately needed by children in developing countries.

Our Mary's Meals co-ordinator, Helen Hemmings, reports that an amazing total of 84 fully-loaded back-packs were donated, together with several additional bags of sundries to act as replacements!

Helen was full of praise for Sydna Playford (pictured right) who willingly took on the task of ensuring that each back-pack was complete with the full range of suitable items. Sydna – pictured on her staircase with some of the back-packs – did the bulk of the sorting and checking and then stored them for us until they were sent off recently.

Picture by Helen Hemmings.

Sleep under the stars

■ Are you prepared to join Will Smith, Dame Helen Mirren, some of the world's biggest musicians and an expected 50,000 people throughout the world by sleeping out under the stars to help those who have no other choice?

By joining the Big Sleep Out on December 7 you will be helping to raise the life-saving funds needed to help a target of 1,000,000 homeless and displaced people in your area and throughout the world.

More details can be found at www.bigsleepout.com



Celebrating Onam at Our Lady of Lourdes in Sawston.

Sawston Kerala community celebrate harvest festival

The Kerala community in Sawston and the surrounding areas have gathered at Our Lady of Lourdes hall to celebrate their prestigious event of Onam, reports Maria Joseph.

■ Onam is a traditional 10-day harvest festival celebrated by Kerala communities in India and all over the world during the month of Chingam (which marks the end to the monsoon season), in accordance to Malayalam calendar). Onam, on September 3, commemorates the return of the great mythical King Mahabali and is the biggest festival in Kerala, South India, celebrated by

all religions alike including Hindus, Christians and Muslims.

In accordance to traditional mythology, the state of Kerala was once run by an Asura (demon) King Mahabali. He was considered a judicious, wise and generous king, and his reign was titled as the golden era, in which poverty, sorrow and disease did not exist.

Upon seeing Mahabali's popularity the gods became jealous and asked the help of Lord Vishnu (preserver in the Hindu trinity); who disguised himself as a dwarf (Vamana) and visited Mahabali asking for three steps of land. Due to his kindness, Mahabali agreed and upon hearing this

Vamana expanded to cosmic proportions, conquering the earth and skies with two steps and placed the third of Mahabali's head, banishing him into the Netherlands (Patala). Moved by Mahabali's kindness, Lord Vishnu granted Mahabali permission to return to Kerala once a year. This day was given the title Onam.

In order to welcome King Mahabali, beautiful arrays of flowers are laid in pretty patterns, accompanied by a traditional hearty feast: composed of rice and numerous vegetable dishes (samabar, avial, rasam) and dessert (payasam), all served on a traditional banana leaf. Families arrived in decadent coloured

traditional clothing, known as sarees and mundu, commemorating their cultural heritage. The beautiful day was filled with an array of traditional events, including dances (thiruvathirai), games (onakalikal) and songs (onam padalgal).

Onam celebrations are not only just about enjoyment and commemoration, but also about educating the younger generation on the values of kindness and humility, the trademarks of Mahabali's character. To conclude, the auspicious day was further blessed by the presence of Fr John Minh and the joint dedication of about 80 Kerala people of different faiths in Sawston areas.

Created to live in community

The Second Principle of Catholic Social Teaching is Community & Participation

writes Jacinta Goode - God created us to be together, to live in community.



hope and she is very grateful to those who work and volunteer at JRS to support her and her children.

The vast majority of asylum seekers are not allowed to work, but this lady finds ways to contribute to the society she has found herself in. She visits the Centre every week to help, to share her considerable culinary skills and to support others. JRS UK welcomes asylum seekers and offers ways for all to participate in their community.

In September, I attended a national Caritas leadership meeting. Amongst the inspiring speakers was Kevin from L'Arche, who told us the story of one woman with severe learning disabilities who, although she couldn't speak, had the use of only one limb and carried huge psychological scars from her time in uncaring institutions, was nonetheless able to get her views and wishes across.

She was just as valued a member of the community as anyone else. And her friendship had clearly been so important to Kevin. When she died, people travelled to her funeral from across the

world, such was her impact on those who knew her. L'Arche communities are beautiful examples of how people with and without learning disabilities are able to live together as friends, all participating in the life of the community.

God created us to be together, to live in community (Gen 1&2). To live as a community means to live for the good of each other, for everyone to be able to participate and contribute as equally valued members of that community. It means to share the ups and downs of the everyday, to walk alongside our neighbour as our equal.

In what ways could I welcome, include, or walk with, my neighbour? In what ways could my parish be more inclusive? In our diocese, we have had Masses for the deaf community. Other dioceses have organised Masses of inclusion for other marginalised groups. If you would like support in organising such an event, please contact me.

Contact Jacinta: caritas@rcdea.org.uk
www.jrsuk.net
www.larche.org.uk

NOW IS OUR
OPPORTUNITY TO END
THE SUFFERING CAUSED
BY LEPROSY



For thousands of years leprosy has been the scourge of poverty-stricken communities across the world. The disease frequently leads to severe, life-changing disabilities and those who suffer from it are often excluded by their community, and struggle to fend for themselves.



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Just a few decades ago, more than five million people were being diagnosed with leprosy every year, their lives destroyed physically, emotionally and socially by the disease. Today, this number has reduced significantly but remains stubbornly at over 200,000 new cases annually, worldwide. St Francis Leprosy Guild is committed to achieving a leprosy-free world and we genuinely believe it is possible.

By supporting early detection and treatment - before the disease takes hold - you can help to prevent untold suffering. **If you are able to send a donation of just £30 today**, you will help us support ongoing health initiatives, such as the hospital ship that serves patients in the Amazon region. This initiative has

already helped to train 600 local healthcare assistants, and the ship visits remote communities along the river where leprosy is



still rife, monitoring people for early symptoms and providing prompt medication.

- **1980s - some 5.2 million cases of leprosy reported annually.**
- **1995 – World Health Organisation extends free access to leprosy treatments.**

- 16 million people cured of leprosy in past 20 years.
- Today, over 200,000 new cases diagnosed annually, worldwide.
- Early diagnosis and treatment are key to total eradication.

The hospital ship is just one of around 60 inspirational partner organisations supported by St Francis Leprosy Guild, which are working with remote and marginalised communities in countries such as India and Brazil. **Please send £30 today to help this essential work continue. Together, let's seize the opportunity to create a leprosy-free world and help put an end to people's suffering at last.**

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This appeal has been made possible thanks to a supporter's kind legacy

News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese

■ Two men in the final year of their formation programme for the permanent diaconate received the ministry of Acolyte from Bishop Alan Hopes on Saturday October 5 at St John's Cathedral in Norwich at a Mass for all the deacons of the diocese and their wives.

Jacob Cheriyan (St Oswald Peterborough) and Prameel Joseph (St Luke Peterborough) both became acolytes. In addition, Bishop Alan conferred candidacy on Gianluca Savini (St Laurence Cambridge) as he begins his first year on the formation programme.

All three men were supported by their wives and children and they joined the deacons and their wives for a celebratory lunch in the Hall in the Narthex afterwards," said Rev John Morrill, assistant director of the Permanent Diaconate. "If all goes according to plan, Jacob and Prameel - both of whom are full-time prison chaplains - will be ordained next June. Please keep them, and Gianluca, in your prayers."

Pictured, front centre, from left to right with Bishop Alan are: Gianluca Savini, Jacob Cheriyan and Prameel Joseph.



■ A Macmillan coffee morning was held recently at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich, which raised £415 for the cancer charity said Cecilia McKenna: "It was a great effort by all involved."

■ St George's Parish in Norwich has decided to get 'Hands On' and link with a Colombian community to help create a brighter future for young people.

The parish - which has been involved with the charity CAFOD for many years - decided to get involved with their 'Hands On' scheme, that links UK communities with Colombian families and runs workshops to help educate young Colombians about the importance of peace.

Coming together with the 17th Norwich Explorers Scouts, the CAFOD group at St George's Parish organised events to fundraise for the 'Hands On' project and educate parishioners about the realities of life for Colombian young people.

As part of the launch, the Explorers Scouts organised a coin trail - where pennies were laid in long lines to create 'paths to peace'.

"Learning about other people's lives and finding ways to help them has inspired me to keep working for change and actively helping people in need," said young parishioner Henry.

Ellie, another young person who attended the event, said: "Working with CAFOD has not only been beneficial for young people in Colombia but for all of us too."

This event was followed by a quiz night, led by the Explorers Scouts - a great night, enjoyed by all.

On reflection, CAFOD volunteer Alex Savage, said: "It soon became apparent how little everyone knew about Colombia and how much fun could be had discovering this fascinating country together."

"The fact that the young people of the parish are the same age as the Colombians that they are supporting helped them to relate to the challenges they face and to share their motivation for building peace."

CAFOD has been working in Colombia for over 50 years, and the 'Hands On' project will run peacebuilding workshops in 34 schools, teaching young people how to avoid a life of violence, and aims to reach over 5,000 in three years.

Find out more at www.cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Hands-On



■ St Michael the Archangel parish of Huntingdon celebrated its parish feast on Sunday September 29 at both Masses that day, thinking about the role and service of the angels and God's care of us through them, reports Fr Philip Shryane.

"After Mass we had a shared international lunch in the Good Shepherd Room and in the garden. Our different communities had coordinated some food and we had several Filipino and Indian dishes and also lovely English roast dinners, Hungarian goulash, Polish desserts and some African foods.

"The food was all laid out on the tables and looked beautiful when it was blessed for us to share. Many people were able to sit at tables in the garden, even though the forecast had been terrible, in fact the rain held off for us.

"Almost 100 people enjoyed the share lunch and there was a lovely community atmosphere as everyone had a chance to meet one another and chat - a very fitting celebration of our parish feast day."

