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The Epiphany Candlelit Youth Mass in Poringland, right, and bonfire and fireworks display, below. Pictures by Keith Morris.



Light and fire start year at youth Mass

‘Christ our light’ was the theme of a special youth Mass celebrated at Poringland near Norwich on Sunday January 5, the Feast of the Epiphany. Eldred Willey reports.

■ Some 150 people joined the celebration: children and teenagers with their families, young staff and volunteers from the Ignite youth team, as well as priests and religious from across the Diocese involved in youth work.

Candles artistically arranged around the church of Our Lady of the Annunciation reflected the theme and created a peaceful ambience as families arrived: flames on wreaths and an Advent ring balancing the multi-coloured sparkle of Christmas tree lights.

A phalanx of light grew on each side of the altar as participants each brought a night light to symbolise their renewed commitment to Christ.

The preacher, Fr Alan Hodgson from St Mary's Ipswich, spoke of the Wise Men whose direction in life was changed by their encounter with the child Jesus.

“The Wise Men,” he said, “had a conversion of their own and ‘went home by a different route.’ They would have spoken of all they had seen... and so, in a small way, became the first missionaries of the Christmas message. So too, when we see the face of Christ and touch him, our lives can never be the same again.

“Instead of offering Christ a gift this Epiphany, let us rather commit ourselves to the light that is Christ – a light that breaks all darkness; that of sin

and the darkness of the heavens too. Let us spend time getting to know Christ better, through prayer, Scripture, spending quiet time with him and discerning our vocation.”

Bishop Alan was the Chief Celebrant of the Mass, which was also concelebrated by the Chaplain of the University of East Anglia, Fr Andrew Eburne. The Rev Peter Wygnanski, a long-term member of the diocesan youth team and who is due to be ordained priest in July, was the Deacon at the Mass. The preacher Fr Alan was himself ordained as priest last July.

Daniel Justin, Director of Music at St John's Cathedral, led the music of the Mass complemented by the music group from St George's Sprowston, who sang ‘Christ by our Light’ accompanied by guitar, flute and clarinet.

The light theme continued after Mass as floodlights and fairy lights guided the families, who filed into the Bishop's House garden, where volunteers served them with hot dogs (including vegetarian) and a delicious citrus-mix punch.

A bonfire and hot chocolate rounded off the evening, with an impressive firework display scattering sparks of yellow and white, red and mauve. It was especially bountiful this year, thanks to a generous donation of fireworks from a supporter of the event.



Bishop welcomes new Bishop-elect of Northampton

■ The appointment of Canon David Oakley (pictured above) as the thirteenth Bishop of Northampton by Pope Francis has been welcomed by Bishop Alan Hopes.

Bishop-elect Oakley has served as Rector of St Mary's College Oscott, a seminary in Birmingham for training priests for ministry in England and Wales, since February 2013.

He succeeds the Rt Rev Peter Doyle whom he described as “a wonderful spiritual father and great pastor in Northampton”.

Bishop Doyle has worked closely with Bishop-elect Oakley during his seven years as rector of the seminary at Oscott, and knows him to be a man of faith and prayer, and a pastoral priest and wise teacher.

Bishop Peter ‘rejoiced’ in the news and joined the priests and deacons, and the religious and people of the Diocese of Northampton in giving thanks to God and welcoming Bishop-elect Oakley and praying for him as he prepares for his ordination as Bishop.

■ Story continued on page two

**A reminder that
Lent begins on
Ash Wednesday
– which is on
February 26.**

news in brief

Welcome for Northampton's new Bishop-elect

■ Story continued from page one

Speaking at a welcome ceremony in Northampton Cathedral on January 8, Bishop-elect Oakley said: "I'm asking Our Lady and St Joseph to give me the courage and inspiration I need as a new bishop. I look forward to working closely with the priests of the diocese – some of whom were my school friends!"

"On this particular day lots of names and faces come to mind – my family, friends, parishioners and bishops. They have given me courage... It's not easy to be a person of faith today but we need to concentrate on God's grace and I'm going to rely on this now."

Speaking on behalf of the Diocese of East Anglia, Bishop Alan said: "We welcome the appointment of Canon David Oakley as the new Bishop of Northampton, our neighbouring Diocese."

"The Bishop-elect brings many gifts to his new apostolate, especially a deep faith and spirituality and the experience of a pastoral ministry, together with that of the formation of men for the priesthood in his position as the Rector of St Mary's Oscott seminary in Birmingham. We keep him in our prayers as he prepares for his Episcopal ordination."

"We also wish Bishop Peter Doyle – a good friend to our Diocese – a long and fulfilling retirement."

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, who will celebrate the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-elect Oakley in Northampton Cathedral, said: "I assure Bishop-elect David Oakley of my most sincere prayers and total support as he prepares to take up his appointment as Bishop of Northampton, in succession to Bishop Peter Doyle."

"Bishop Peter will be much missed; Bishop David will be warmly welcomed," said Cardinal Nichols.

The Episcopal Ordination will take place in Northampton Cathedral at 11am on the Solemnity of St Joseph, March 19.

Catholic East Anglia

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

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Young revolutionaries swim against tide

■ Twelve young people from Clare Priory Parish responded to the call to care for the poor as they prepare for confirmation next year. **Jane Crone** reports.

Inspired by Pope Francis's 2013 call, 'Be revolutionaries, swim against the tide,' they used their enthusiasm, creativity and joy to raise money for others after Mass on Sunday November 17, World Day of the Poor.

Their stall was full of homemade gifts, including Christmas cards, decorations and delicious biscuits and cakes.

Frances Massey, parish catechist, said, "It is heartening to see these young people so engaged in their faith, and so keen to support and help others."

The stall raised a total of £150 and the youngsters chose to split the money between two organisations each well known in the parish.

One is the Priory's twinned Augustinian parish of Babadogo in Kenya. A letter from a young girl in the community in



Babadogo was recently read out during Sunday Masses. She expressed her thanks for the financial support she had received from Clare Priory parish, which enabled her to go to school.

The other organisation is CAFOD. The

young people had been moved by the Harvest Fast Day appeal in October, focusing on a boy of their own age, Fabiano from Uganda. Two of them delighted the parish by reading the Harvest Appeal during Mass.

Ministry of Acolyte for Bienn Carlo

Bienn Carlo Manuntag, a seminarian from the Diocese of East Anglia, has taken one more step in his journey towards priesthood. He received the Ministry of Acolyte on November 22, the Feast of Saint Cecilia.

■ Pope Paul VI, in his important 1972 document *Ministeria Quaedam*, revised the system of progression towards priesthood, retaining just two of the original four minor orders: reader and acolyte.

Those becoming acolytes are encouraged to deepen their appreciation of the Holy Sacrament of Our Lord's Body and Blood, whilst growing in love for the Mystical Body of Christ – the people of God – especially the poor and the weak.

The principal celebrant for the Mass for the Institution of Acolytes was Bishop Philip Egan of Portsmouth.



Bienn Carlo receiving the bread from Bishop Philip Egan during the Ministry of Acolyte Mass.

At the institution the Bishop hands the candidate a paten and says: "Take this vessel with bread for the celebration of the Eucharist. Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and His Church."

The next step for Bienn Carlo, who is studying at St Mary's College in Oscott, will be ordination to the Diaconate.

Present at the Mass were Canon Eugene Harkness (Chancellor of the Diocese), Dr Bruce Burbidge (Dean of Philosophy), Dr Francis John Selman (Resident Teaching Staff), Dom Ambrose Tivi, OSB and parishioners from Cambridge. Drs Burbidge and Selman are both priests of the Diocese of East Anglia teaching at the Oscott seminary.

Pictured is Bishop Alan making a point at the safeguarding seminar in Newmarket and, below, trainer Liam Ring.



Diocese leads way in safeguarding training

The Diocese of East Anglia has reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding by organising a mandatory day of training for all priests, religious and deacons. Eldred Willey reports.

■ Liam Ring from the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission facilitated seminars in Poringland near Norwich and in Newmarket on January 9 and 10. Liam spent 31 years in the police and then served as Safeguarding Officer in the Catholic Diocese of Clifton before taking up his present post.

The two days were attended by nearly 120 delegates and a third day will be held for those who were unable to attend.

Speaking at the Newmarket event, Bishop Alan said: "I hope that today will help priests and religious of the Diocese to be more aware that we are all responsible for making our parishes places where children and vulnerable adults are safe."

Liam commented that: "the Diocese of East Anglia has been bold to get me early" and said that he expected other dioceses to be contacting him when they heard about these seminars.

He started each day with a question which accentuated the positive: what makes a good priest? As participants began to list the relevant qualities – someone who was discreet, forgiving, gentle, patient, able to fix things – they began to understand that behind each of these good features lay a potential safeguarding hazard.

"If you're doing it on your own, you're probably doing it wrong," explained Liam. He guided the trainees to understand the shift needed from being potentially lone fixers to being people who instinctively sought to gather a team which could bring a variety of insights.

As a life-long practising Catholic, Liam had an astute insight into parish culture, and the training was based on real scenarios which rang true to those present. He warned his listeners not to be put off by the common responses to investigation of "how dare you..." or "what you don't realise is..."



For those who were worried by something they saw, he had a variety of mottoes: "Don't dismiss your suspicions, share information appropriately, don't think things are better left, and don't delay: the longer you ignore things, the worse they get."

Participants broke up into small groups to problem-solve, and then reported back their ideas in plenary sessions. One example was of an non-communicative ethnic-minority couple sitting at the back of Mass, with a young son whose face showed signs of bruising. Part of the solution here was to encourage the family to share more openly with their natural support structures – including their own ethnic community – so that more people were aware of a problem and could rally around to offer help.

Liam emphasised the extreme vulnerability of babies under 12 months, and encouraged participants to report any suspicion of physical abuse towards the youngest children without hesitation.

Pre-nursery children, he added, were also at greater risk because they lack the safeguard which a nursery or school pro-

vides in supplying extra pairs of eyes and ears which can pick up signs of abuse.

"Follow the ABC of safeguarding," he advised. "Assume nothing, believe no-one, check everything."

At the other end of the age spectrum, Liam spoke of the need to create dementia-friendly churches. "Let's speak of people 'living with' not 'suffering from' dementia," he said. His practical suggestions included services with familiar hymns, memory cafes where people living with dementia could talk about the past, and signage which pointed to way out of (not just into) toilets and meeting rooms for people who could too easily lose their bearings.

In the next six months, the Diocese intends to follow up this training with a Mass for victim-survivors of abuse.

"Any victim-survivor of abuse from the Diocese of East Anglia is welcome to come and tell their story to me," said Bishop Alan.

"It is a privilege to listen, and people have told me how much it means to them to be able to tell their story to someone in authority."

news in brief

Readers to be re-commissioned

■ Hundreds of parishioners who regularly read out Scripture during Masses across East Anglia will be formally re-commissioned on Sunday January 26 in churches across the diocese.

The celebration ties in with the Year of The God Who Speaks, which is encouraging us to engage more deeply with the Scriptures and puts a special emphasis on the role of the Bible. Pope Francis has now made the third Ordinary Sunday in each year a Sunday of the Word of God.

In response to the Pope's initiative, Bishop Alan has announced: "I am asking every parish to recommission all their readers on January 26 at each of the Masses. This will also tie in with the Year of the 'God who Speaks' which is being celebrated throughout England and Wales. I will be recommissioning Readers at the Cathedral on that day."

New Vicar for Finance

■ Bishop Alan has appointed Rev James Hurst as the Vicar for Finance for the Diocese. He was ordained as a permanent deacon in June last year and recently retired after a career in manufacturing business.

Deacon James writes: "A permanent deacon is sometimes likened to a bridge, and that is what I shall try to be between the parishes' finance committees and the diocese. To this end we are reintroducing a regular update to keep Parish Priests, Chairs of Finance Committees, Treasurers and Gift Aid Coordinators aware of the financial picture in the whole diocese."

Charity donations

■ Tony Baker, immediate past president of Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association has presented a cheque for £900 to Sandra Starkings (pictured) of the



Great Yarmouth Conference of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, which was the charity chosen by Tony during his year of office. Tony also presented another cheque, at a separate venue, for £400 to the North Norfolk Conference of the SVP.

Christmas market

■ The CAFOD stall at Fressingfield Christmas Produce Market made £201.36, including money for the sale of cot quilts at Fressingfield WI Market on November 30, reports Mary Kirk from St Edmund's Parish in Bungay. This means the 2019 total raised is a record £1205.46.

Dowry of Mary

■ The Bishops' Conference has announced the Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary, to be offered by every Catholic on March 29, 2020. The Rededication will take place in every Cathedral and parish church on that date as a commitment to a renewed evangelisation. It can also be made by individual Catholics in their homes. There will be more information in the next edition.

NEW EVANGELISATION



Beginning of a journey with the scriptures

As part of our series on the year of The God Who Speaks, Cambridge Dominican, Sr Tamsin Geach, writes about how an experience at the age of ten began a journey with the scriptures which has been transformative over the years.

■ I remember when I was ten years old we read the story of the sacrifice of Isaac (Gen. 22.1-18). Sr M Luke, who was teaching us, was good at making scripture come alive - she had an amazing reading voice.

When she had done so, she told us how the story pointed forward to Jesus - how the wood Isaac carried was like the Cross of Christ, how Abraham, like God, did not spare His only son, how the ram was

another symbol of Christ. At least I think that is what she said.

At any rate, I came away with an understanding, which deepened as the years went by, that the Old Testament stories were not simply to be understood on their own, but that each of them had something to say about Christ.

I think also that Sr Luke introduced the word 'type' into my vocabulary. Isaac was a 'type' of Christ, a figure in the Old Testament who foreshadows Jesus, and helps us to know Who He is, and what His message and mission is, and to where it leads.

This was the beginning of a journey with the scriptures that has deepened over the years - later I read the whole Bible with that understanding. Later still, I was deeply excited to learn about the commentaries of the Early Church Fathers, for whom this level of interpretation was natural, and later

interpreters who unpack the mystery in other ways.

So I learned, for example, that Christ was the innocent slain in Abel, Whose Blood cries out for mercy, not vengeance (cf. Gen 4.11); Moses on the mountain receiving the Law (Ex. 24ff) prefigures Christ on the mountain of the Beatitudes, but Christ teaches as God, not for God; David's name means 'beloved' so what God said at the Baptism of Our Lord was 'this is my son, David'; the two names 'Lord' and 'God' in the Old Testament, El and YHWH (always pronounced Adonai by the Jews because they do not say the Divine name), are rendered in Greek as Kyrios and Theos, so what Thomas said to Jesus after the Resurrection was probably 'you are my Adonai and my El'.

This search for echoes and types in the Old Testament and the New has been trans-

formative in my understanding of scripture, especially the Old Testament.

So I am grateful for that far-off day when I first learned that this is how to read and understand, to grow in faith and the knowledge of Christ.

■ **Sr Tamsin Geach OP, is part of the diocesan team of the Year of The God Who Speaks.**

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Cambs: Sr Tamsin Geach OP, tamsingeachop@gmail.com
www.godwhospeaks.uk

Scripture sounds

■ As part of this year's The God Who Speaks programme, Fleur Dorrell from the Bible Society will join scripture to sound at a concert in Ipswich on Saturday March 7. Christopher Borrell, Director of Music at the St Mary Le Tower church in Ipswich, will lead the musical content.

The event is entitled 'Enjoy the Bible: Sensing the Sacred through Art and Music', and will take place from 9.30am to 1pm at the St Nicholas Centre, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ. You can get tickets at enjoy-the-bible.eventbrite.co.uk or by ringing 07780 613734.

New Evangelisation takes shape in Rome

Fr Karol Porczak reports from the International Meeting organized by the Holy See Council for the New Evangelisation, which took place in Rome from November 28-30.

■ New Evangelisation is taking its shape again from the HQ of it in the Vatican. There were representatives from over 70 countries and nationalities present and the main topic was the Evangelii Gaudium: Apostolic Exhortation by Pope Francis on the Proclamation of the Gospel in Today's World (November 24, 2013). That document is considered as a programme instruction of Pope Bergoglio's pontificate.

The days were organized in similar pattern: first the example of somebody who represented a particular action of the evangelisation and witnessed the practical steps undertaken in their zeal of the spreading the Good News of salvation. Then, after a lunch break, there were various talks delivered by some members of the Vatican hierarchy, such as bishops and cardinals. The final talks were given by a founder of representatives of particular movements such as Matthew Kelly of Dynamic Catholics.

Each speaker gave the audience a reflection on different paragraphs of the aforementioned document. And the sessions were presided over by Archbishop Rino Fisicella, who is the prefect of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation. This is a general view of that meeting.

The Diocese of East Anglia was represented by Rebecca Bretherton, Elizabeth Barker and myself.

The most interesting thing for me as a priest came from the address delivered by Rev Timothy Radcliffe OP who was underlining the courage to take the risk



Elizabeth Barker, Fr Karol Porczak and Rebecca Bretherton from East Anglia at the New Evangelisation International Meeting in Rome.

in evangelism. He mentioned the missionaries of the 16th century who, after being appointed to go to India or China, were considering already the dangers even before setting themselves on the trip to the nearest harbour in order to board the ship. They might not even get to the ship because they were killed by the brigands in the forest but still maintained the title: Missionaries of the Foreign Mission.

As a catechist, Elizabeth was impressed by Matthew Kelly who stressed that there must be evangelisation before catechesis.

The summing up of the conference was

given by Pope Francis in his final address delivered in the Aula delle Benedizioni (Hall of the Blessings) which is the place where the newly elected pope is prepared traditionally for his first appearance to the public on the adjoining balcony of St Peter's Basilica.

What was striking, but not heard for the first time, was that Pope Francis prefers a poor Church, even one in debt, which is better associated with the poorest of the world.

We hope that this meeting will bring new inspiration and a broader interest in the text of Evangelii Gaudium for the near future and beyond.

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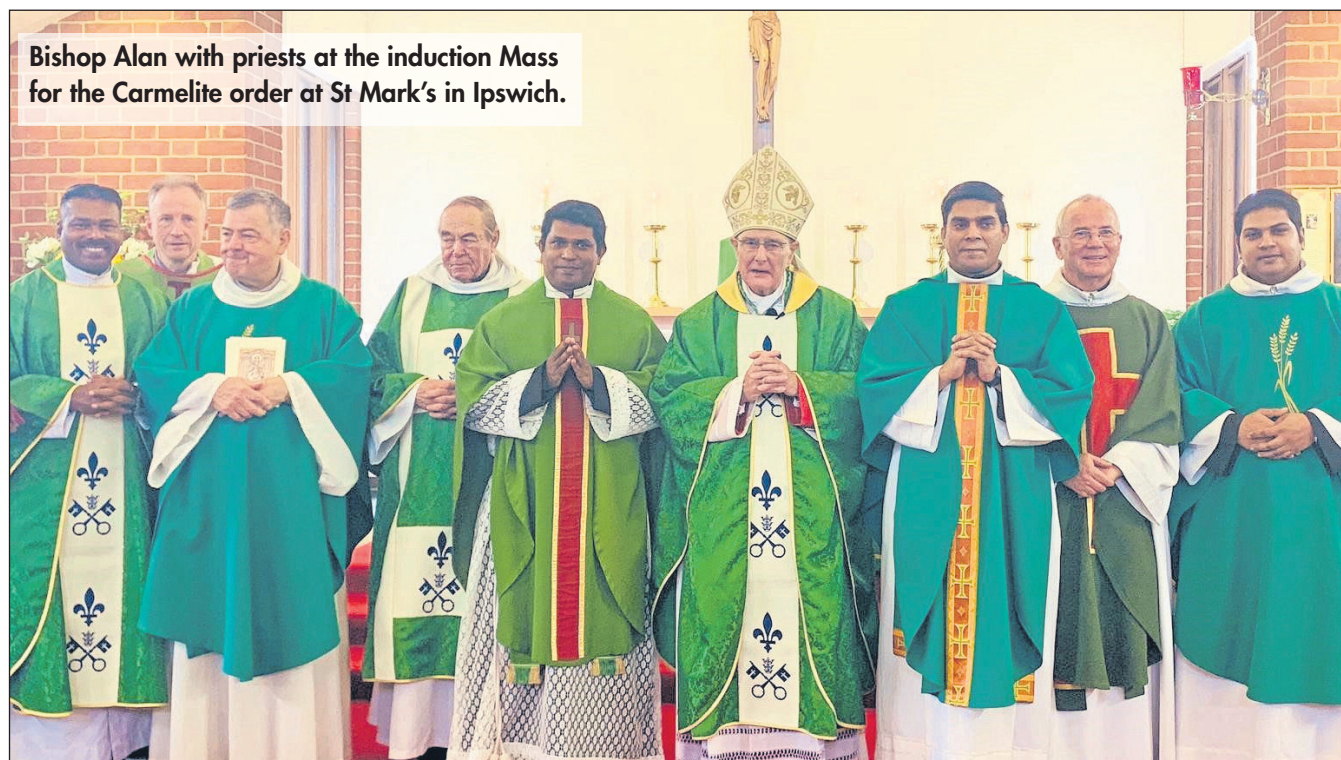
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Bishop Alan with priests at the induction Mass for the Carmelite order at St Mark's in Ipswich.

Start of new Carmelite community in Ipswich

A new religious congregation of the Order of Discalced Carmelites has been established in East Anglia in the parish of St Mark's, Ipswich.

■ The arrival of the Carmelites was marked on October 6 when parishioners welcomed Carmelite brothers Fr Paul Vincent and Fr

Bineesh to the parish.

During the Mass Bishop Alan installed Fr Paul as the new Parish priests and blessed Fr Bineesh for his future pastoral ministry.

In attendance were priests from the three existing Carmelite communities of England, at Kensington, Oxford and Gerrard's Cross. Parish priest, Fr Paul Vincent OCD, said: "October 6 was a remarkable day for the parishioners of St Mark's church.

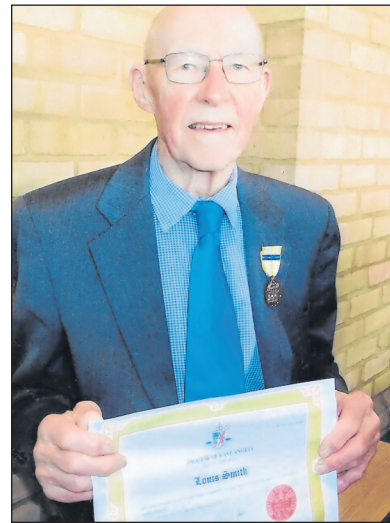
The Ipswich community is the fourth one established by the Carmelites and the order is looking forward to working with the people of East Anglia.

"This is the first Discalced Carmelite community in East Anglia (reformed Carmelites by St Teresa of Avila and St John of the Cross). At present we have two priests in Ipswich and we plan to form a bigger community later."

Medal honour for organist David

■ The parishioners of Our Lady's in King's Lynn have offered their heartfelt congratulations to organist Louis Smith who has been awarded a Diocesan Medal for his devoted and accomplished contribution to the music of the liturgy for over 40 years.

Now in his eighties, Lou feels the time has come to listen rather than to lead. Pauline McSherry said: "Thank you and again thank you to Louis Smith, our organist and our friend, God bless you - now you have more time to crack the weekend crossword."



Louis was given his Medal on December 9, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a day especially celebrated at Holy Family by members of the SVP Society.

Holocaust memorial

■ All Souls Catholic Church in Peterborough has joined with the Liberal Jewish Community to organise a concert for Holocaust Memorial Day on Monday January 27.

The event begins at 7.30pm at St John the Baptist Church, Cathedral Square, Peterborough. Students from St John Fisher Catholic High School will bring poetry readings, and candle lighting will led by Rabbi Danny Rich, Senior Rabbi for Liberal Judaism.



Nativity play at Cathedral

■ The Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich was packed for the Vigil Mass of Christmas on December 24. The Family Mass was celebrated by Canon David Paul.

Children performed a short nativity play in front of the altar and then were led by Fr Paul to gather around the crib in the sunken chapel adjacent to the nave. Fr David spoke to them and led the singing of Away in a Manager.

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

Picture by Keith Morris.

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Fr John Lavers, Director of Chaplaincy, on 07720 093156 or john.lavers@stellamarismail.org.

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reflection

Be still and know that I am God

If you want to hear God speaking to you, there is one sure-fire way, says Deacon Peter Coates from Woodbridge, in his monthly reflection – “be still and know that I am God”.

■ “Catholics worship this!” so bawled Ian Paisley holding up unconsecrated altar bread. It worried me when I heard about it and then it became another step on my way back to faith.



Of course we do not worship a piece of bread whatever shape it is but when the consecrated host, the Body of Christ, is displayed we fall to our knees in adoration. This is the sign of our salvation. This is my Lord, Emmanuel, God with us, present with us as He promised and I love Him.

So for the Catholic, Adoration is a time of deep devotion when we can pray with our whole being. But that does not mean it is only for the especially holy people or the old-fashioned or just old.

At no age is it easy to keep still and it is not always the other person who fidgets. “Be still and know that I am God.” Even when we achieve physical stillness, interior silence can still elude us. Interior silence needs to be cultivated and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is an excellent way to do this.

Just look. Say nothing, even silently. Let the silence roll over you. Remember the story of Elijah in the Old Testament (1Kings19). He was hiding in a cave from Jezebel, the queen he had offended, and while he hid there were gales, earthquakes and fires. After all that there was “the sound of silence” (there is no accurate translation of the Hebrew text). After the silence, God spoke to Elijah and sent him back to anoint new rulers. It can't have been easy to do God's will, but Elijah did as he was told.

After the silence, God will speak to you. You may not hear a voice. It may be through scripture or something else you have read or heard. It may be something you have tried to forget – like God's call. It may be through something totally secular, but you will know when God is speaking to you. And when He does, He will provide what is necessary for you to do what He asks. Do not be afraid of failure. Do not be afraid of success. It is often difficult for us to tell the difference.

Remember - How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given! Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

Helping bring f

By any measure, Alive in Faith has lived up to its name with parishioners across the Diocese of East Anglia committing themselves to the vision of providing for both seminarians and priests who step down after many years of faithful service to parishes, and for outreach projects. Peter Ledger reports.

■ Central to the success of the campaign was that parishes would themselves directly benefit. Participating parishes are now seeing the rewards of their commitment, a wide range of projects coming to fruition. These range from important outreach programmes within their parishes to essential building repairs and improvements which would not have been possible without Alive in Faith funds.

A marvellous example is a project supported by Aldeburgh and Leiston parishes. Aldeburgh is blessed in having excellent ecumenical relations and in January 2012, the three local churches, Anglican, Baptist and Roman Catholic, began a venture to help fund the work of a parish nurse for the town.

Facilitated by Parish Nursing Ministries UK, a Christian charity which helps local churches appoint nurses, Ali Cherry, a Christian nurse, was appointed to work in Aldeburgh in 2013. At the time she was largely funded by the Baptist Church, the smallest of the church communities in the town. Very quickly she proved herself as being accessible, available, and greatly appreciated by the local people – many of whom are elderly and housebound.

Being aware of the heavy burden on the Baptist Church, the Anglican and Catholic communities in Aldeburgh began to support Ali's work through second collections. The social outreach dimension of Alive in Faith seemed a marvellous opportunity to apply for a grant which would ease the problem of helping to fund her. An application for £5,000 from Alive in Faith was successful. Ali is still employed by the local churches, and her ministry and witness is valued on a day to day basis.

A project with a very different community focus has been implemented at St Edmunds, Bungay. The parish were already determined to become “eco-friendly” and submitted a project focussed on helping to reduce global warming. A second priority was educational – to do something ‘green’ so that the children at their school, St Edmund's Catholic Primary, could see green policies in action, learn about them and reflect them in their own lives. 20 advanced technology solar panels were installed with benefits to the environment in many forms. Over the expected 20-year lifespan of the system, it should save 56 tonnes of CO2 emissions, simultaneously saving



Bishop Kike celebrated the blessing of Kimheang's family new house in the village of Tuol, in Thmorkol, Cambodia, part of the Costessey Parish's Ta Hen project, using Alive in Faith funds.

over £8,000 worth of electricity. The parish benefits from the so-called “Feed-in Tariff” and the school will use less electricity from the national grid through the traditional electricity meter.

Costessey parish decided that their share of Alive in Faith funds raised would go in two directions – to fund improvements needed to the church building, and to assist with the building of new houses in their twin parish of St Joseph's, Ta Hen, Cambodia. Alive in Faith has made possible three projects in the church: re-pad and re-cover the kneelers, re-carpeting the nave and the sanctuary and finally the purchase of a new presidential chair. The cost for one supplied by church furnishing companies was around £1,000. In the event, a suitable chair was purchased on the internet for £68. Parish frugality in action!

To date the parish Cambodia project has funded three houses in Ta Hen at a cost of about \$4,000 each. Part of this money came from regular parish fundraising, but much of it has been made possible by Alive in Faith.

Several urgent projects to repair parish buildings have been made possible by Alive in Faith. Our Lady Immaculate & St Etheldreda Church, Newmarket, had a

pressing need to reline the high-level gutters. These were Finlock concrete gutters which, over time, are prone to leaking. In this case, the gutters were leaking badly. Worse still, the gutters were at high level. A shortfall in parish finances was made good by Alive in Faith and essential repairs successfully carried out.

At Thetford, Quinquennial Reports had identified subsidence at both the east and west ends of the presbytery. This caused extensive movement in the corner walls which needed underpinning and bracing. In addition, all rain water goods had to be replaced and internal walls and ceilings of the Presbytery had to be repaired. In addition, repairs and reinstatement of load bearing walls in the ground floor were needed. Clearly this was a major project. The parish decided that these significant repairs should be the focus of their parish project. Other work was undertaken at the same time funded directly by the parish but the main project, now successfully completed, was facilitated by the parish share of Alive in Faith Funds.

These are just a few examples of the many parish projects made possible by the generosity of parishioners committing to Alive in Faith.

faith to life



Shirley Kalinauckas, Fr Charles and head teacher Samantha Barlow with the PV panels in the background on the hall in at St Edmunds in Bungay.



Pictured is Bishop Patrick with the panel of speakers from different faith groups.

East Anglia duo take part in inter-religious dialogue

Brian Keegan and Priscilla Barlow, from the Diocese of East Anglia, joined other diocesan inter religious co-ordinators at a meeting held in Leicester on November 12 and 13, as Priscilla reports.

■ Hosted and chaired by Bishop Patrick McKinney of Nottingham, who is the Bishops' Conference lead on inter religious dialogue, this event brought diocesan co-ordinators together to share stories, discuss ideas for future activities and engage with speakers from other faith groups – on this occasion, mostly from Islam.

We heard about peace walks, prayer walks and faith pilgrimages; events around environmental issues; work supporting the more vulnerable in our communities; study days about dialogue; and even a play, *Pierre et Mohamed*, about Bl. Pierre Claverie and his Muslim driver and friend Mohamed Bouchikhi who were assassinated in Algeria in 1996.

We heard too about the Church's teaching on dialogue, for example Vatican II's *Nostra Aetate*, the document *Dialogue and Proclamation* (1991), our own Bishops' Meeting *God in Friend and Stranger* and most recently the joint declaration on Human Fraternity made by Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar in February this year.

External speakers told us about projects centred on housing, education and health issues in Leicester, about the development of Leicester Citizens which, as part of the Citizens UK movement, is bringing people of all faiths and none together to address concerns and challenges facing the city and about

the Church Mosque twinning project, a national body which helps churches and mosques in the same neighbourhood to work together on their own local issues.

A panel event chaired by Bishop Patrick on the Tuesday evening formed part of Inter Faith Week in Leicester and brought together Christian, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh speakers to address the theme 'Will Faith(s) save the world?' in front of an audience of delegates and the general public.

The panellists and audience shared their own stories and all stressed that it is their religious faith that supports their actions. They spoke movingly about the confidence faith has given them to challenge and engage with a variety of troubling issues, about the need to listen to those who are 'other', about the relationship between love of God and love of neighbour, how faith can help us find friendship in difference and use this to work for a better world.

In our own diocese, as in others, there are many Catholics working in partnership with other people of faith; listening to their stories and telling them ours, learning about their teachings and customs and explaining ours, becoming friends as well as neighbours. Bishop Patrick said: 'If I neglect the other I neglect Christ – that is our driver': words to reflect on as we approach Advent and the feast of Christmas.

■ Brian Keegan and Priscilla Barlow are members of the Inter Religious subgroup of East Anglia's Commission for Dialogue and Unity.

To find out more about this work in the diocese please contact Brian Keegan at brian@briankeegan.demon.co.uk or Priscilla Barlow at priscilla.barlow@keme.co.uk.

SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

Pat is school's birthday girl

■ St Albans Catholic High School in Ipswich made a huge fuss of its receptionist, Pat Swann, as she celebrated her 70th birthday.

"It is just a lovely school with a lovely feel," she said as pupils broke into a chorus of 'happy birthday'.

"It's a really caring school and we do our very best for the kids every day. Everyone will do anything to help each other. Why wouldn't you want to stay? It's more like fun every day."

"The kids can tell you anything and they do. They're all great. I treat them like my own."

Mrs Swann believes she has earned the respect of the youngsters "just by giving them the same respect as I would an adult and not talking down to them".

Each of her eight children attended St Albans Catholic High, as well as many of her 20 grandchildren.

And in September, one of her five great-grandchildren will start attending the school.

Of the students, she said: "They have all said 'happy birthday' to me and we had a special Mass at the chapel, which was full."

"I got a card from every form at school and they've all signed it."

"The Catholic ethos is still really important in schools - it's just about caring for each other and doing what you can for humanity."



St Benedict's High School in Bury St Edmunds has been promoting what they see as an under-rated value – kindness – during the season of Advent.

■ The Catholic school has been focussing on bringing kindness to the fore in the provision for students and making explicit why this is so important.

During Advent, students at St Benedict's ran a Reverse Advent Calendar. The focus on the reverse calendar is that students choose to donate something to those less fortunate than themselves and see Advent as a time of giving rather than just receiving.

The results have been overwhelming with students and families bringing in boxes of food to donate to Gatehouse for the Christmas period as well as raising over £600 through a non-uniform day.

Two Year 9 students who have been driving the initiative, Maria Anjo and Sophie Crane, explained why they were so keen to be involved: "This Advent calendar is about doing things in reverse and giving food to people in the community who need it. Usually Advent calendars are about receiving, this is about giving and raising awareness of



St Benedict's students taking part in the Advent sleep out for homelessness charity DePaul.

ways in which we can support other people in a practical way. We feel that Christmas is a time to spread joy and think about the needs of others instead of thinking only of ourselves."

Students have also been keen to raise awareness and show solidarity with those affected by homelessness. Lucy Heffron, one of the Sixth Form students, organised a 'Sleep Out' in the school grounds on December 13 in aid of homelessness charity DePaul. She felt that this was important because it was a good way to raise awareness of the issues that young homeless people face.

"We were all very grateful the next morning that we could go home and did not have to face the same experience the next night," she said. "We became very aware of the stability in our lives, knowing where we are going to sleep each

night and not having to worry about that all day. The sleep-out was also a good way to raise money for the important work of DePaul including their services such as Night Stop which is a programme where volunteers offer a night's accommodation to a young homeless person. So far we think that we have raised over £1,000 to support this work and that is something we are very proud of."

Headteacher, Imogen Senior, said: "Kindness may not be on the timetable as a subject, but that doesn't mean that it isn't an important part of education. We believe that being kind is a fundamental part of being human and key to living up to the Gospel values we share as a Catholic community. I am very proud of our students and how they have responded to the needs of others - that is about as Christmassy as it gets!"

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HEADTEACHER
MRS McELHINNEY
TELEPHONE 01733 566005

First place for diverse dancing pupils

■ Children from St Laurence Catholic Primary School in Cambridge (pictured right) have come first in the Diverse Dance Mix for Schools Festival judged by none other than well-known dancer Darcey Bussell. The competition took place at The Stephen Perse Foundation on Friday November 29. "It was wonderful to see how the hard work and dedication of the children won the day," said their dance teacher Claire Taylor.



SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

Bishop blesses re-opened chapel

The historic chapel at the heart of St Joseph's College in Ipswich has reopened after a £750k repair and refurbishment.

■ The principal of St Joseph's College, Danielle Clarke, said: "Three years' evaluation, repair and upgrading, together with tireless fundraising and wonderful generosity from the St Joseph's College community and beyond, have given us back 'the heart of St Joseph's', even more beautiful than we remembered. We are immensely grateful to all who have helped make this happen."

After giving a keynote address, Bishop Alan blessed the refurbished chapel in a special ceremony.

"The closure of our Chapel came as a blow," said Danielle. "We created a new meeting space, The ARC – reflecting the College's key words of Aspiration, Respect and Confidence – and it has seen us through very well. Indeed, it will be an additional asset going forward. But the excitement around the reopening is palpable."

With its clean internal lines, Mondrian-inspired stained glass and dramatic Verdigris roof, the handsome chapel has been a much-loved feature of the College since it was built on land between the Senior and Prep Schools, opening in 1967.

It became the gathering point for the whole school for assemblies, prize-giving ceremonies, concerts and worship; the



Students singing in the chapel at St Joseph's during the re-opening ceremony. Picture by Eleanor Piggott

calm yet inspiring space families came to on first looking for a school for their children and the nostalgic setting for final goodbyes for Sixth Formers.

Sadly, a flaw in the dramatic 1960s design allowed rain damage to accumulate and back in February 2017 the building was closed. A subsequent inspection established the extent of the

damage and consultations began on how to restore 'the heart of St Joseph's'.

The internal upgrade has been a revelation, enhancing what was already a majestic space. St Joseph's has crowned the refurbishment by bringing in a magnificent Model D Steinway grand piano, formerly in use by the Royal Conservatoire, Glasgow.

Although the Chapel remains as dear to St Joseph's College community now as it was on first opening, much has changed at the school in the past half century. What was once a Catholic school for boys has long been a co-educational school guided by Christian values but welcoming children of all faiths and none.



Children at St Felix listening to a story out in the cold.

Pupils not snug as a bug

■ Pupils at St Felix Catholic Primary School in Haverhill have been experiencing Not So Snug Storytime. On Friday November 22, the children had a class story read to them outside. They could bring in extra layers but they couldn't move around to keep warm. Then on returning inside the teacher asked them to record how it felt to be outside and how it felt to come back inside.

The 'Snug As A Bug' project means reflecting on that moment when you get into bed at night and feel safe and warm and confident that you will wake up in the morning with all of your belongings around you. Then you realise that many people in Suffolk and across the world don't experience

this sense of well-being and security.

Afterwards, Katrina (Year 3), said: "It makes me feel lonely to think there would be nobody to give me food if I was out there for a long time."

Aaliyah (Year 3), said: "If I was outside all night every day, I know some people will ignore me."

St Felix Catholic Primary School has chosen the motto 'Snug as a Bug' as its Whole School Project and a way of celebrating 'The God who Speaks' Bible programme.

'Snug As A Bug' is one of many activities the school will be undertaking this year in its mission to live out the Gospel. The children are encouraged to see themselves as tomorrow's thinkers and leaders.

Celebration of Our Lady of Lourdes

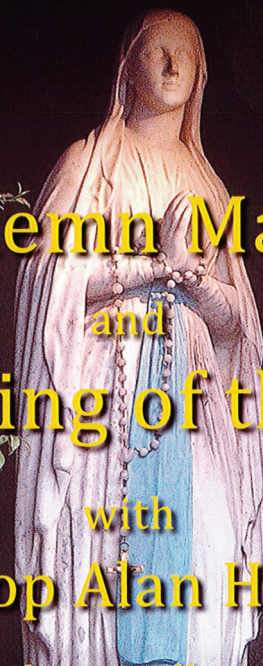
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news in brief

Cambridge concert promotes peace and reconciliation

■ Gila Margolin, co-founder of the Little Sisters of Joy, will be giving a concert in Cambridge in March to promote peace and reconciliation.

Having been brought up in an Orthodox Jewish home, Gila came to Cambridge in 1982. A series of mystical experiences during her Hebrew degree in 1989 led her into the Catholic Church.

After receiving an inspiration during a time of prayer in Provence, Gila travelled to Europe, the Middle East and Canada, peace-making through music, friendship and encounter. Her concerts, in which she sings her beloved Jewish music, began in Clare College Chapel in 2004.

This year's concert will take place at 1pm on Friday March 6 at St Giles Church, Castle Street, Cambridge. This will be the 21st anniversary of the beginning of the Little Sisters of Joy, an ecumenical foundation whose aims are Prayer, Peace and Reconciliation. The concert is free, with a retiring collection for the work of the Little Sisters.

Friends of The Little Sisters of Joy who receive the annual newsletter number over 700 and come from 34 countries.

Honour for 50 years' service

■ A parishioner and altar-server at St Mark's, Ipswich has been honoured for completing 50 years in the role by being given a Diocesan medal and certificate to mark the occasion. John Stubbs was presented with the certificate by Parish Priest Fr Paul Vincent OCD in a ceremony during Mass on the Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 22).



A Zimbabwean woman building her own home.

Preparing for the World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer takes place at the start of March. Eilish Storey, from Ramsay, reports from a preparation day held recently in Cambridge.

■ The origins of World Day of Prayer (WDP) date back to the 19th century when Christian women in the USA and Canada initiated a variety of co-operative activities in support of women's involvement in mission, at home and abroad. It is from such roots as these that WDP has taken its present shape – a worldwide ecumenical movement of Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action.

The annual service is prepared by Christian women from a different country each year and through it we learn of their particular con-

cerns, joys, sorrows and hopes for the future.

World Day of Prayer is special on many counts, not just because the voice of women is central to the service, but also because it is a universal act of worship, uniting women, and men, of diverse Christian denominations across the globe.

I attended a 2020 preparation day in Cambridge on November 8. It was a chance to go through the service and look at interesting ways of presenting the resources. Here are a few points which came out of the meeting which may be of interest to parishes across the diocese:

■ Does your church have representative on the local WDP committee?

■ Are the 2020 service details correct on the WDP website?

■ What time is the service held at? Is this the best time? Would another time of day reach more people? A church in Milton has started holding the service at 6pm so that people can go on their way home

from work.

■ Could 2020 be an opportunity to reach out to members of all the Christian groups in our area, not just the churches where the services are usually held? In my area there are many Christians who go to other towns to worship. They may not hear about the local service unless it is advertised in public places eg library or local shops.

■ WDP can supply a shortened version of the service to be used when the longer version is not appropriate eg in a care home

■ WDP is a prayer movement that goes on 365 days of the year and supports local, women-led initiatives in many countries

World Day of Prayer is always on the first Friday in March, so why not put that date in your 2020 calendar now and take part in the service prepared by the Christian women of Zimbabwe on the theme: "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk." Details can be found at www.wwdp.org.uk

Ecumenical celebration

■ Advent was celebrated in Dove Court care home in Wisbech thanks to an ecumenical team and children from St Peter's Church of England Junior School.

Diocese of Ely church schools worker, Olivia O'Neill, collaborated with the Wisbech Churches Together team to help create us a wonderful Advent Celebration.

In the care team ministry are three members of the local catholic parish - Brian Prosser, Therese Chadwick and Sean Finlay.

Sean (seanfinlay@aol.co.uk) would be pleased to hear from other parishes who are

doing similar things as the local Churches Together is beginning to undertake a review of the ministry to care homes in our area.

Pictured above is Olivia with care home residents and pupils from St Peter's.



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Diocese gives Nazareth Trust an early Christmas present

The Cambridge Nazareth Trust (CNT) received an early Christmas present when it was given £5,527.34, from the Diocese of East Anglia's 2019 Lenten collection, reports its chairman, Margaret Waddingham.

■ An enormous thank you or, in Arabic, Shukran, to the parishes in the Diocese. Your generous donations will enable CNT to continue its work in 'helping young people in the Holy Land to have a brighter future'. CNT works alongside the 44 schools the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem (LPJ) to educate the next generation of Christians in the Holy Land. The schools also provide a vital source of income to all those they employ. The schools are wholly dependent on charitable donations.

CNT has, in recent years, focused its work on training teachers as the trustees believe this would have the greatest impact in improving the education and life chances of the young pupils.

In November 2019, CNT funded teacher training in Amman in Jordan – this was the third group of teachers that CNT has trained there. The team has been following their progress on a WhatsApp forum. Our three loyal and inspirational tutors, Richenda, Jackie and Jonny, led workshops and travelled across Jordan visiting teachers in 13 schools.

They were very pleased with the progress they observed. Drama workshops, led by David Pearce, were held in three schools. These workshops encouraged confidence in the use of expressive and clearly pronounced English. David was thrilled to see some of his methods being successfully implemented. The team believes that the 25 LPJ schools in



Grade 2 pupils at Houson, Jordan who have benefitted from the work of CNT.

Jordan are well on the way to self-sufficiency.

Not all is so heartening. Whilst in Amman, CNT Trustees visited two Iraqi Refugee Schools held in the afternoon in the LPJ schools at Marka and Hashemi. 12,000 Iraqi Christians fled from Isis to nearby Jordan in 2014 – they are being sheltered in Jordanian parishes. As refugees, they are excluded from state education, health care and their parents are not allowed to work. Their situation is desperate and they receive little international aid.

At Hashemi, CNT is providing teacher training to a former nurse with fluent English who is teaching the refugees. She says it is not only education these children need but help with overcoming

the trauma they have witnessed. Fluency in English also helps with visa applications.

The numbers of Christians living in the Holy Land has reduced significantly following decades of political turmoil. Yet this small Christian presence, 2% of the population, contributes to a sense of justice and peace in this troubled land. Christians are highly respected in their communities with their schools providing education to all, whether Christian or Muslim. The Christian community in Jordan is to be commended for its amazing humanitarian care of Syrian and Iraqi refugees.

Please remember these beleaguered Christian communities in your prayers. www.cambridgenazarethtrust.co.uk



New English saint Newman speaks from heart to heart

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

■ John Henry Newman was created a Cardinal by Pope Leo XII in 1879.

At that time, this required him to be consecrated a bishop and to reside in Rome.

Newman asked to be dispensed from these requirements, and to be allowed to carry on living at the Oratory in Birmingham.

Every Cardinal is assigned a titular church in Rome, and Newman was made Cardinal Deacon of San Giorgio in Velabro.

His "biglietto speech" upon receiving his red hat from the Pope is famous for its criticism of liberalism in religion, and relativism.

The speech included these words: "In a long course of years I have made many mistakes. I have nothing of that high perfection which belongs to the writings of Saints, namely, that error cannot be found in them; but what I trust I may claim throughout all that I have written is this—an honest intention, an absence of private ends, a temper of obedience, a willingness to be corrected, a dread of error and a desire to serve the Holy Church."

Cardinal Newman's coat of arms comprises a shield with three red hearts on a gold background, separated by a red chevron.

His motto was "cor ad cor loquitur", heart speaks to heart.

Newman was known for his intellect, but his heart was fully given to God. Here we might remember the Prophet Ezekiel: "And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." That is the "new man" God creates.

Newman, having published much in his lifetime, published nothing after becoming a Cardinal.

Cardinal Newman said: "To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often." That is the true meaning of conversion. Being open to becoming, each day, a "new man". Heart speaks to heart: God's heart speaks to our heart. We may pray with Cardinal Newman with the psalmist: My heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready" (Ps 108).

www.newmancanonisation.com

Caritas makes the headlines

The Caritas East Anglia launch made front page news in the last edition of

Catholic East Anglia. The story also made the headlines in some national Catholic papers.

Development worker Jacinta Goode reflects on the launch.



good to feed homeless people. We fed a few people, for one meal, on one day. Now we need to do so much more.

One guest commented appreciatively about how good the food was. Another said how good it was to be able to 'be normal for a couple of hours.' Again, this is all very good – but we can't pat ourselves on the back and think we're done. Now we need to do more. When Jesus fed the 5,000 He wasn't just feeding their bodies for one meal. He was doing that, but He was also showing us how we can do likewise, in His name.

Many people are doing amazing work across the diocese supporting people in need, which is a fantastic witness of our faith. How much more could we achieve? Could we work, perhaps, with other Christian churches, or charities, or other organisations? Pope Francis en-

courages us to do this. Whilst we have theological or doctrinal differences, he says, one way in which we can 'all be one' (as Jesus prayed), is by working together for the common good.

You may have made New Year's resolutions. You may, or may not, have kept them! As we move into this new decade, I wonder if God is asking us to make another resolution? Perhaps He is asking each of us to listen a little more closely to how the Holy Spirit is guiding us? How can we as individuals – and as a diocese – deepen our relationship with God by serving the poor and the marginalised for Him?

We will be celebrating our sharing of God's love with our neighbours at the Caritas Festival as it travels around the diocese this year. The host parish for Norfolk is St George's, Norwich, to be held on Saturday March 28. It will be a true celebration of all that we're doing together to support the poor and marginalised, so we want every parish to be represented. Let's celebrate what we're doing – and listen to the Holy Spirit to hear what God wants us to do next.

■ For more details contact Jacinta Goode: caritas@rcdea.org.uk

■ Setting up a Caritas office is a big deal for our diocese. Caritas – showing God's love through our actions – is important. Pope Benedict XVI told us that our commitment to the poor and marginalised is as important as going to Mass every Sunday. That's big! So, what are we to do?

At the launch, Bishop Alan blessed the Caritas Commission and we offered our work to the Lord. We celebrated by sharing a meal with representatives from parishes across the diocese and guests from St Martin's Housing Trust. It felt

News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese



■ A wonderful Nativity (pictured above) was performed by children at Our Lady of Good Counsel and St Peter's in March, on Sunday December 22 reports Jason Moore.



■ For the past three months a massive renewal of the lighting system has been taking place at Our Lady of The Assumption and The English Martyrs, Cambridge.

■ The parish of Our Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury in Wymondham has given a warm welcome to its new Assistant Priest, Fr Denis Gallagher.

Fr Denis comes from Achill in County Mayo and was ordained in 1993.

At the invitation of Bishop Alan, Fr Denis will initially be spending one year in the Diocese of East Anglia.



Alongside this there has been an updating of the sound system, the restoration of the organ and the cleaning and restoration of a painting entitled "Christ in Glory" by Nathaniel Hubert John Westlake (1833-1925) which, because of poor lighting and age-old grime has been virtually hidden from sight until now.

It has brought a real sense of wonder and awe to this already magnificent building says Mgr Eugène Canon Harkness.



■ The Norwich Council of the Knights of St Columba elevated Brothers Jerome Albano, Pablito Candaza, Laurence Mitchell and Renato Paner to Full Knighthood in a ceremony at the 11am Mass at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich on Sunday October 20.

The ceremony was conducted by Norwich Chaplain Deacon Patrick Limacher, Provincial Grand Knight, Bro Jason Wickard, Provincial Membership officer, Bro Dennis Moore and Provincial Treasurer, Bro Chris Brooks. This was witnessed by their families, fellow Knights and the congregation of the Cathedral.

If you are interested in joining the Knights of St Columba, please contact Bro Dennis Moore by email dennis2dmoore@aol.com or phone 01508 578056. Pictured above, left to right, are: Bros Jerome, Renato, Pablito and Laurence.



■ John Borda and Kasia Ilasz were presented with silver medals from the Archconfraternity of St Stephen for altar serving for over ten years at Our Lady Immaculate and St Etheldreda, Newmarket on Sunday December 15. Both are also involved in training new altar servers.