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Hundreds of Readers are honoured
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New Catholic primary school given approval
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New Rector of Catholic National Shrine in Walsingham is named

■ The appointment of the Rt Rev Mgr Canon Philip Moger as the next Rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham has been welcomed in East Anglia.

Mgr Moger will take up his new responsibilities in September, following the end of the five-year term of office of the current Rector, the Rt Rev Mgr John Armitage.

Mgr Moger is a priest of the Diocese of Leeds and is currently the parish priest of St John Mary Vianney in Leeds.

Speaking about the appointment, Mgr Armitage said: "I am delighted to hear the news of the appointment of Mgr Philip Moger as the new Rector. He is a wonderful priest of great experience and until recently he was Dean of Leeds Cathedral.



Canon Philip Moger.

We worked closely together as Vocation Directors in the past and know him well. I believe that he will bring many gifts to Walsingham and build upon all the work done to development the message and

facilities of Walsingham in recent years."

Bishop Alan Hopes said he is delighted with the nomination: "I am very much looking forward to welcoming Mgr Moger to the Diocese and appointing him as Rector of the National Shrine for the next five years.

"He brings a wealth of experience with him to this new important national ministry, not least in his working among and love for the people he has served over many years as a parish priest. He also brings with him the experience of overseeing the refurbishment and restoration of Leeds Cathedral and of organising the Liturgies of the Visit to England and Wales of Pope Benedict XVI in 2010. He will also work ecumenically with the Administrator of the Anglican Shrine and further the good relations that

have existed for a good number of years.

"I ask that we keep Mgr Moger in our prayers and thoughts as he prepares to come to Walsingham next September," said Bishop Alan.

"Mgr John Armitage will return to his Diocese at the end of his term of office in the summer and be given a new appointment. He has carried out a tremendous ministry and work at the National Shrine and, with his enthusiasm, has made Walsingham and its message more widely known and appreciated across the Church in England and Wales. We owe him a great debt of gratitude for the fruits that have been, and will continue to be produced, by his immense capacity for hard work and his indomitable spirit."

Papal blessing as England to be rededicated as Dowry of Mary

England will be rededicated as the Dowry of Mary at the end of March with the opportunity for every Catholic and parish church to take part. Keith Morris reports.

■ According to the official website, www.behold2020.com, the rededication itself on March 29 is both a personal promise of the people of England, and a renewal of the entrustment vows made by King Richard II in 1381.

The first dedication was made by King Richard II in Westminster Abbey as he sought the protection of Our Lady in the face of great political turmoil. At this point, England received the title 'Mary's Dowry'; meaning that England was 'set aside' as a gift, a dowry, for Our Lady under her guidance and protection.

The rededication will take place throughout the country on Sunday March 29 at 12 noon. This will happen at Walsingham, in Westminster, in every Catholic Cathedral (including in Norwich), in every parish, and in as many homes as possible.

Timeline

■ **Wednesday March 25** (the Feast of the Annunciation): All who are following the consecration will consecrate themselves to Jesus through Mary on this day.

■ **Thursday March 26 - Saturday March 28**: A three-day triduum of prayer in which all will be invited to recite the litany of Saints and Martyrs of England, pray the Rosary and go to Confession in preparation for the rededication.

■ **Sunday March 29**: a personal rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary. It is a



The Dowry Painting by Amanda de Pulford (centre), is blessed by Pope Francis in Rome on February 12, watched by Walsingham Rector Mgr John Armitage, who issues a call to prepare for the rededication – see page two. Picture by EWTN/Vatican.

personal rededication following the guidelines in the book 'The Angelus Promise' which can be obtained from the Catholic National Shrine.

Parishes can sign up to show they will be participating in the rededication of England at the www.behold2020.com website.

The rededication may be celebrated at Mass, or a para-liturgical in church, or wherever you may be on that day. Ideally, this would be 12noon, the time of the Angelus, but may take place at any convenient time

during the day. Schools are invited to take part in the rededication on Monday March 30.

A Plenary Indulgence will be granted by Bishop Alan Hopes for all who make the rededication, subject to the normal conditions.

Walsingham Mass will be celebrated at the Catholic National Shrine followed by a procession with the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham and the new Dowry Painting, to the site of the original Holy House in the Priory Grounds at Walsingham, where the

rededication will take place.

It will be joined there by Anglican brothers and sisters who will process from the Anglican Shrine to meet the procession in the Priory Grounds. The Dowry Painting by Amanda de Pulford, will be present in Walsingham on March 29, after its Papal blessing in Rome on February 12.

After the rededication, the Dowry Painting will begin a journey to every Catholic parish in the country, never to return to Walsingham.

Call to prepare for rededication of England

■ Mgr John Armitage Rector of The Catholic National Shrine in Walsingham, issues a call to prepare for the rededication of England as Mary's Dowry.

■ After visiting every Catholic Cathedral in England over the last two years with a replica of the Holy House of the Annunciation, and the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham from the Slipper Chapel at the National Shrine, we stand on the threshold of the rededication of England as Mary's Dowry on March 29.

Thousands of people from all over the country have responded in their home cathedrals, in preparation for the rededication. Responding to the call to celebrate the ancient tradition of England as Mary's Dowry, and deepening their understanding of the message of Our Lady to the people of England in Walsingham to "Share my Joy at the Annunciation" and taking to heart the comforting words that "all who come to this place will find help in their need".

In the challenging times in which we live, these simple but profound messages of Our Lady give hope and courage for all who would take them to heart. As Mary said her Yes at the Annunciation, so we are invited to say our Yes, on March 29 as we make our own personal dedication, based on the words of Mary as given to us in the Angelus Promise, a newly framed version of the Angelus.

In this time, let us prepare well, by making a good confession, re-committing ourselves to a daily commitment to prayer, spending time reflecting on the Word of God, at the very least reading the following Sunday's readings, and reciting the rosary the "Compendium of the Gospel", as we contemplate on the great mysteries of the life of Jesus which is the rosary "a way of contemplating the face of Christ seeing him – we may say – with the eyes of Mary."

As Her Yes brought Jesus into our world, let our Yes take him into our hearts so that we may bring him into our world by the witness of our lives today.

Catholic East Anglia

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

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Moving commemoration of Holocaust

■ Holocaust Memorial Day was commemorated in Peterborough by a moving inter-faith lunchtime service in the Parish Church of St John's, attended by over 400 people including local dignitaries led by the Deputy Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire. Brian Keegan reports.

The head boy from St John Fisher Catholic High School, Armandas Sapockinas (born in Lithuania) and head girl Erin O'Shea (born in Ireland), introduced a number of local people from the Orthodox and Liberal Judaism, Timorese, Rwandan, Syrian and Roma communities who gave personal perspectives about Holocaust experiences by their communities.

The lunchtime service on Monday January 27 ended with a laying of a wreath on the Holocaust Memorial Stone by the Mayor, whilst Chuck Salomon from the local Orthodox Jewish Community read the Memorial Prayer for the victims of Holocaust and the Mourners Kaddish in Hebrew and English.

The same evening in St John's Church there was a well-attended concert organised by Brian Keegan, the East Anglian Diocesan Lead for Inter Religious Dialogue on behalf of St Peter and All Souls Catholic Church and Vivienne Fleet from the local Liberal Jewish Community.

In preparation for the concert, Brian had arranged for John Hucklesby, a local U3A Poetry group leader, to run a workshop using the poetry of Lotte Kramer, a local Kindertransport child who escaped to



England in 1939 for a group of St John Fisher Catholic High sixth formers to explore the human impact of Holocaust.

The main part of the concert featured Kol Echad, a Jewish Choir from Cambridge.

Catherine Cox, Head of History at St

John Fisher, introduced Sabina Strug (born in Poland), who showed a painting of a candle she had painted and read a moving piece inspired by the Lotte Kramer workshop. This was followed by seven other sixth formers who recited their poems inspired by Lotte's work.

150 Christians form a chain of prayer

Well over 150 people gathered in the Anglican Cathedral in Norwich during the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity to form a 'Chain of Prayer' reports Laurette Burton.

■ All Christian denominations in Norfolk & Waveney Churches Together, as well as independent churches in the city, were represented on January 23.

Participants came from as far afield as King's Lynn, Gorleston, Woodbridge and even San Francisco, taking or sharing 15-minute slots to pray for Christian unity.

New to this year were groups from the Catholic Chaplaincy of UEA and pupils from Notre Dame High School. The Salvation Army joined with the UEA and St George's shared their slot with Acle Churches Together.

The people of Malta produced the material for the 2020 Service with the title "Unusual kindness", words used by St Paul in the Acts of the Apostles to describe the hospitality he received after being shipwrecked on the island. Whilst



there he converted many of its people to Christianity.

The Rev Julian Pursehouse, Ecumenical Canon, and Chair of the Methodist District, opened the first prayer session at 10am and St John's Cathedral closed the day with the Joyous Mysteries of the Holy Rosary. As always, there were many different approaches to the prayer sessions which included chanting, singing,

meditative reflections, set readings and psalms and silent contemplation.

The Norwich Chain of Prayer is organised by the County Ecumenical Officer, Catherine Howe, assisted by the Denominational Ecumenical Officers of Norfolk & Waveney Churches Together. The 2021 Chain of Prayer, also in Norwich Cathedral, will be held on Thursday, January 21.

Bishop anoints the sick at special Mass

Bishop Alan Hopes celebrated a Votive Mass for the Anointing of the Sick at St John's Cathedral in Norwich on Saturday February 8. Eldred Willey reports.

■ Bishop Alan welcomed people who were sick, and their families, to the special Mass on the closest Saturday to the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. It was also the World Day of Prayer for the Sick.

In his homily, he recalled the words which Saint John Paul II spoke during his last pilgrimage to Lourdes: "With you I share a time of life marked by physical suffering, yet not for that reason any less fruitful in God's wondrous plans for us."

"When our lives are marked by suffering," continued the Bishop, "we are in a state of living solidarity with Our Lord in His own Passion. So...we are brought to the very heart of the mystery of suffering."

"We unite ourselves with His offering... and it is in this sense that we make our own the prayer of Jesus to the Father: 'Your will be done, not mine.'"

And yet, added Bishop Alan, "We must continue to ask that His healing hand may rest on us, and restore us to full health."



Bishop Alan at the Anointing of the Sick Mass at St John's Cathedral.

He affirmed the value of a life which had been quietened by sickness: "We don't have to be busy to be an offering to God. Stillness and prayer are both essential... Those of us who are sick or suffering in any way are already close to the Lord."

After the service, those who came enjoyed soup and rolls in the Narthex. It was an opportunity to speak with the Bishop and a number of priests who had

come to support him.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains this Sacrament by saying: "By the sacred anointing of the sick and the prayer of the priests the whole Church commends those who are ill to the suffering and glorified Lord, that He may raise them up and save them." And she exhorts them to contribute to the good of the People of God by freely uniting themselves to the Passion and death of Christ."

news in brief

Lenten Station Masses to be held across Diocese

■ Lenten Station Masses will be held in the seven Deaneries across the Diocese of East Anglia celebrated by Bishop Alan from the beginning of March.

Each Mass will begin with an exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession at 6pm, followed by the Station Mass at 7pm and light refreshments at 8pm.

The dates are:

Peterborough Deanery - St Peter & All Souls - March 3

Cambridge Deanery - Our Lady and the English Martyrs - March 5

Kings Lynn Deanery - Our Lady & St Charles Borromeo, Wisbech - March 10

Ipswich Deanery - St Mary - March 12

Bury St Edmunds - St Edmunds - March 18

Coastal Deanery - Our Lady Star of the Sea, Lowestoft - March 24

Norwich Deanery - St George, Norwich - March 26

The "Station Mass" originated in Rome under the auspices of Pope Gregory the Great. They were conceived as a daily pilgrimage in the footsteps of the martyrs and saints. Pilgrims and penitents visited 40 churches in Rome on foot and performed penitential exercises and celebrated Mass in each "stopping place" or "station".

In doing so, they were also following the example of Jesus who went out into the desert and fasted for 40 days and forty nights in preparation for his mission.



Bishop Alan invites you to attend Chrism Mass

■ Priests and people from across the Diocese of East Anglia are warmly invited to gather with Bishop Alan Hopes for the annual Chrism Mass in Norwich on April 7 and renew their commitment to serve.

The Mass will take place at St John's Cathedral in Norwich, on the Tuesday of Holy Week, at 7pm and all are very welcome to attend.

At the Chrism Mass, three urns of oil are offered by the faithful and blessed by the Bishop: the Oil of the Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick, and finally the Oil for the Holy Chrism. Anointing with these

sacred oils is integral to the Sacraments of Baptism, of Confirmation, of the Sick and of Ordination. Following the Chrism Mass, the sacred oils are distributed to every parish in the diocese.

At the Chrism Mass, too, the priests of the diocese are asked by the Bishop to renew their ordination promises.

Not only the priests, however, but all the baptized are called to renewal. For as the Bishop prays at the beginning of Mass, we are all 'made sharers in Christ's consecration,' so that we may all 'witness to His Redemption in the world'.

CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development



Use your free time to inspire young people to build a fairer world

CAFOD is looking for volunteers who have a passion for, and experience of, working with young people. We need people who have a commitment to CAFOD's aims and values and an interest in sharing our work in secondary schools through delivering assemblies or workshops. CAFOD will provide training and support, and expenses will be paid.

If you are interested please email youth@cafod.org.uk and we will connect you with your local CAFOD team.

Volunteering assignments will be in schools in your local diocese, and you can either work on your own or as part of a team. None of our work is possible without you, so join us and put your faith into action.

no one beyond reach

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NEW EVANGELISATION



Leaflets helping to put parish on the map

Parishioners at of Our Lady of the Annunciation in Poringland are putting the parish on the map by delivering a welcome leaflet to thousands of homes in the fast-growing village. Barbara Hammond, OLA Parish coordinator for evangelisation, reports.

■ We are here to share God's love with you - this was the message sent out to all new homes, built within the boundary of the Parish, in the form of a welcoming leaflet, produced by the Missionary Parish of Our Lady of the Annunciation.

An evangelisation team, newly formed in 2019, who invoke inspiration from the Holy Spirit, undertook the project to produce a Parish leaflet that would put our Parish church firmly on the map.

It was in response to the prompt in an article in Catholic East Anglia in June 2019, entitled 'Can you help welcome the stranger to your church' written by Rebecca Brether-



Leaflets are handed over to parishioners who volunteered to deliver them.

ton, EA Evangelisation Coordinator.

The article highlighted the fact that Catholic churches are not very well advertised; and as our beautiful church is tucked away behind houses in Poringland, off the beaten track, it was felt appropriate that we set about informing newcomers to the area,

visitors and established residents, that we are here with a warm welcome for them.

Our parish Priest, Fr Padraig Hawkins, was in agreement with the project and Rebecca Bretherton provided advice on how to apply for funding via the Home Mission Development Office and with God's

blessing we were granted a generous £500 funding from the St Faustina Fund, which paid for professional printing of the leaflets.

The then Parish Priest of Sheringham and Cromer, Fr Denys Lloyd, kindly posted a copy of their Parish leaflet to us, having already ventured out in distributing Parish leaflets to new housing estates in their area; and we adapted their leaflet design to suit our needs, to advertise our Parish.

The next phase of the project is to deliver the leaflets to all homes within our Parish boundary and also to various sites, such as notice boards, guest houses etc. where visitors to the area may enquire about a local Catholic church.

This project has helped to bond our evangelisation team. We are also blessed with a Parish community which offered intercession prayers and volunteers to deliver the leaflets, making it a whole Parish event.

With God's blessing, the leaflets will inspire, newcomers, visitors, lapsed Catholics and potential converts to our fold, to share God's love with us. Evangelisation enquiries: evangelisation@rcdea.org.uk

JOE WALSH TOURS
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How to share God's word

A joint New Evangelisation and Ignite Youth team from the Diocese of East Anglia visited the Genesis Mission House in Plymouth in January to learn more about sharing God's Word. Rebecca Bretherton reports.

■ Sharing God's message is like learning to swim. Just like swimming, the only way to learn to talk to people about our faith is to plunge in and give it a try. The more opportunities you give yourself the more confident you become.

This was one of the lessons we learnt from Michele Thompson and Fr Jon Bielawski, who are the evangelisation team for the Diocese of Plymouth and they run the programme at Genesis Mission House in Plymouth.

Our diocese has been working with them for several years and the parish evangelisation teams being set up in some of our parishes are following their method of formation for evangelists.

Together we learnt some principles about speaking to people we meet in ordinary life about some of the big questions in life. Who is God? What happens when you die? We then went out to ask people in the street about their answers to these questions. We told people we were Catholics on mission. We didn't preach but gently explored some of their ideas. Despite our worries, most people were happy to talk.

We can believe that people without a religious commitment are apathetic. Our chats proved otherwise. People were trying to make sense of the world, though their ideas were often uninformed.

Just talking to us gave them a chance to reconsider some of these ideas with people who were interested in their views and could give them the answer they needed to hear.

The encounters also reminded us of the burdens many people carry every



Ciaran Losasso is commissioned by Fr Jon Bielawski of the Genesis Mission.

day. We listened to many heart-breaking stories. We were able to give some comfort. We told them that God was with them in their difficulties and offered to pray with them.

I was joined on the trip by Rob Smith of the cathedral parish and Hamish MacQueen, Ciaran Losasso and Emily Murphy from Ignite.

Reflecting on the trip, Emily said: "I was sceptical of the whole experience to begin with. I didn't think people's beliefs could be changed by a chance interaction with a stranger on the street."

"While it's true that their heads seemed unconvinced I witnessed firsthand that hearts were changed. One woman in particular was grieving for her family, left behind abroad. She found our prayer with her strengthening. After

tears, listening and a good hug she said, 'I'll never forget you'. I will never forget this experience either and I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to share God in this world."

Hamish said: "It was really good to be challenged to evangelise in a different way to what I'm used to. I was a little uneasy going up to strangers on the street, offering to pray with them, but no-one was hostile. On the contrary, I was surprised how many people shared about some of the pain in their lives and welcomed the opportunity for us to pray with them."

As part of a final prayer session before we left to return to East Anglia, we were all commissioned to be evangelisers and spread the good news of the Gospel to others by Fr Jon.

To advertise in Catholic East Anglia, ring Charlotte on 01440 730399

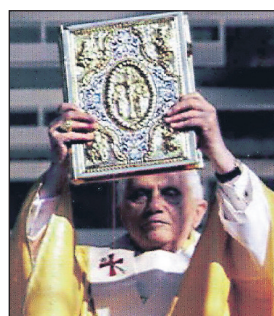
God Who Speaks booklet is a Lent resource

■ Every parish across the Diocese of East Anglia has been given a booklet *An Introduction to Verbum Domini Benedict XVI's Exhortation on the Word of God* to use as a resource for Lent, at the request of Bishop Alan Hopes.

The God Who Speaks: An introduction to Verbum Domini is a resource for small groups to help Catholics who are not familiar with the Bible begin to see how essential the Word of God is to their lives and their baptismal vocation as disciples of Jesus.

Over four sessions the booklet leads participants to read and to reflect on excerpts from Verbum Domini and from the Old and New Testaments. Participants are encouraged to discuss the texts and to pray using the method of Lectio Divina as taught by Benedict XVI in Verbum Domini.

The Year of the God Who Speaks marks the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini Benedict XVI's Exhortation on the Word of God which deals with how the Church should promote the Bible.



Mass for survivors of abuse and their families

A special Mass for victims and survivors of abuse, their families, supporters and all those affected by abuse is set to be held by the Diocese of East Anglia on Saturday April 25.

■ The Mass will be held from 12 noon onwards at Our Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Wymondham, Norfolk, and there will be refreshments available both before and afterwards.

It will be celebrated by Fr Pat Cleary from the Diocesan Safeguarding Commission.

Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator, Mick Thurley, spoke about his hopes for the Mass: "This is a very important event in our calendar and I hope and pray that for those affected by abuse, in whatever form that abuse may have



Mick Thurley.

taken, their families and friends, and others affected by abuse, will have the strength and courage to be able to attend.

"It is open to everyone, from

whichever diocese or religious persuasion they belong to or used to be part of, and it is sincerely hoped that it will go in some way towards healing and reconciliation.

"It is an opportunity for us to come together and pray and demonstrate our commitment and support towards victims and survivors of abuse. Bishop Alan will be joining us in the parish hall after the Mass and he will make himself available to speak to victims and survivors.

"I hope that other members of the clergy will be able to support the event as well. I would also like to reassure anyone who would like to attend that they will do so anonymously and that they would not be expected to talk about their own experience to anyone or identify who they are."

For more details contact Mick at: safeguarding.coordinator@rcdea.org.uk

news in brief

Virtual peace trail around Cambridge

■ Peace Sunday on January 19 was marked at St Laurence parish in Cambridge when parishioners undertook a "virtual" Peace Trail around the town, led by Pax Christi member Arn Dekker. The sites were viewed through a presentation following the 11am Mass, detailing people who had a connection with Cambridge and were active in their lives for the cause of peace and social justice.

Each year Pax Christi, the UK branch of the international Catholic peace organisation, promotes the Pope's World Peace Day message. This year, the message of Pope Francis is, 'Peace as a Journey of Hope: Dialogue, Reconciliation and Ecological Conversion'.

Holy Land trip chance

■ There will be a visit to the Holy Land from March Catholic Church from March 15-22, 2021. Price per person £1590. Deposit of £400 required by May 15, 2020. Balance due date November 15, 2020. This is organised by well-established Cambridge company Pilgrimage People. Freephone 0800 612 3423 or local contact Lesley Kennedy on 01354 680401, mob 07947 143864 or at goosey1122@gmail.com.

Ecumenical service

■ An ecumenical service to mark the Week of Christian Unity took place on January 18 at Our Lady of Good Counsel & St Peter in March reports Richard Ramsay. The theme of the service was Unusual Kindness and seven March churches took part with an inspiring address given by Pastor Danni Worley of Centenary Baptist Church.



Pictured with the defibrillator are, from the left, Br Mike Sims, Fr Paul Chanh and Br Christopher Brooks

Life-saving gift from Knights

■ A defibrillator unit has been paid for and installed outside a Lowestoft shopping centre and Catholic church thanks to brothers of the Lowestoft Order of the Knights of St Columba.

To commemorate the Knights' Centenary in October 2019, and to pay tribute to past members, brothers of the Lowestoft Knights Council (518) funded and provided the defibrillator cabinet and heart re-starter unit in the town centre.

It was installed before Christmas in the Britten Shopping Centre in Lowestoft and in January was dedicated and blessed by Fr Paul Chanh for the benefit of all in the community who use the bus station and the Centre, adjacent to the Catholic Church.

Funding the £1500 project, the Knights were assisted by friends and supporters in the Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea Lowestoft and by brothers of East Anglia Province 27.

Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

Clergy Welfare Co-ordinator

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The Diocese of East Anglia has established a new post to support the welfare of its clergy, particularly those who are retired, and ensure that the Diocese continues to meet its duty of care to its priests.
This post is funded through our **Alive in Faith** initiative.

The successful applicant will work with the clergy welfare group to provide co-ordinated and consistent support to all retired clergy within the Diocese and to help prepare other clergy as they approach retirement. You will advise on benefit entitlements and work to ensure that accommodation needs are met in an appropriate way, in line with Diocesan policies.

The role will involve travel across the Diocese and occasional travel outside.

Further details and an application form can be found at www.rcdea.org.uk/vacancies or by emailing finance@rcdea.org.uk

Closing date: Monday March 9

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted by Friday March 20
Presentation and Interviews: To be held in Cambridge on Thursday March 26



For an informal discussion, please contact Rev Canon David Bagstaff on 01284 754358 or Matthew Fernandez-Graham on 01508 492540
A DBS disclosure will be required



Alive in Faith

reflection

Be still and know that I am God

Don't be miserable – have a happy Lent instead, urges Deacon Peter Coates from Woodbridge, in his monthly reflection.

■ So often we are urged, in effect, to be miserable for Lent. Even strangers have been known to comment on the Ash Wednesday smudge and ask what is being given up for the duration!

But I regularly wish people a Happy Lent. This is a wonderful time when we can

open our hearts and come closer to God and enjoy it. So often we are like Christian in Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, carrying a great burden. It may be a burden of sin which needs to be confessed and forgiven – so go into the box and leave it there.

More likely, it is a burden of care or duty, even of love, which you cannot just drop because so many other people's lives depend on you. This burden needs to be examined with great care because if it is not treated properly it blocks the way for its own relief. You cannot take time for yourself because of all the good you are doing so you must find a way to let God in.

It is true that you see Him in those whom you serve and this is a most important understanding of the nature of Christian service. Our Lord goes before us. He is there in the needs, in the pain, in the disaster. St Teresa of Calcutta has taught us this lesson, that we should see Christ in the poor and destitute.

St Teresa of Avila teaches us how important our spiritual lives are. In the town of Alba des Tormes, where she died and is buried, I began to learn about her way of renewal of the inner life and the ascent of the soul in four stages.

First, Devotion of the Heart, consists of mental prayer and contemplation. Second, Devotion of Peace, is where human will is surrendered to God. The third, Devotion of Union, and the fourth, Devotion of Ecstasy, are seen as states of absorption in God as in ecstasy.

For most of us, we are doing well if we seek to reach even the first Devotion. Pope St John Paul II said that this renewal is the way forward for the whole of creation but St Teresa herself simplified it for us.

"Contemplative prayer, in my opinion, is nothing other than a close sharing between friends. It means frequently taking time to be alone with Him whom we know loves us."

Walk with Him for a happy Lent.



Readers are re-

Hundreds of parishioners who regularly proclaim the scripture readings at Masses across East Anglia were given the opportunity to be re-commissioned on Sunday January 26 in churches across the diocese. Eldred Willey reports.

■ The celebration ties in with the Year of the God Who Speaks year, which 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 Hopes asked every parish across East Anglia to re-commission all their readers at each of the Masses. The Bishop re-commissioning Readers at St John's Cathedral in Norwich.

Among other parishes to take part were St Felix in Felixstowe where Fr John Barnes re-commissioning readers, and Our Lady of Good Counsel and St Peter in March.

Canon Mathew George re-commissioned readers at St Mary Magdalene in Ipswich while Fr Sean Connolly did the same at St George's in Norwich.

Linda and Michael Saunders from St Mary Magdalen parish, Ipswich, said: "We found the re-commissioning in the presence of our fellow parishioners, a deep spiritual experience which will remain with us."

Jean Johnson, a Reader at St Mary's Ipswich and Kesgrave, said: "This was a good chance to reflect on the significance of what we do. The fact that it follows the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity reminds us of the fact that Scripture is of huge significance for all Christians."

Rebecca Bretherton, from the Department of the New Evangelisation, added: "Many people won't have had a formal commissioning before, since they were recruited informally. So the Sunday of the Word of God was an excellent chance for Readers to reflect on their ministry, and for parishes to express their gratitude through prayer for those who read Scripture and proclaim the Word of God at Mass."

After the Readers confirmed their willingness to continue in this ministry, priests blessed them with these words:

"Everlasting God, when He read in the synagogue at Nazareth, your Son proclaimed the good news of salvation for which He would give up His life. Bless these Readers as they proclaim your words of life, strengthen their faith that they may read with clarity, conviction and understanding, and put into practice what they read. We ask this through Christ our Lord."

■ You can find out more about The God Who Speaks programme at www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/



commissioned



Main picture: Canon Mathew George re-commissioning readers at St Mary Magdalene in Ipswich. Picture by Michael Long.
Below, readers at St George's Norwich. Picture by Eldred Willey.
Below left, readers at Our Lady of Good Counsel and St Peter March after the re-commissioning. Picture by Rebecca Bretherton.
Left, Fr John Barnes re-commissioning readers at St Felix Felixstowe. Picture by Stephen Badcock.



The Bible is highly dangerous

“The Bible is a highly dangerous book,” says Pope Francis. Fr Bruno Clifton from Cambridge, diocesan coordinator of the Year of the God who Speaks, explains why this might be so.

■ ‘The Bible is a highly dangerous book’.¹ With these words addressed to young people, Pope Francis encourages a love for the Word of God by reminding us how much people risk around the world just for owning a Bible. Such persecution certainly makes the book dangerous and prompts us to cherish the intellectual and religious freedom we enjoy and the opportunity daily to hear God speak.

Yet, beyond an unthinking aversion to Christianity, why might a Bible provoke such hatred? It extends to the ideas scripture holds and words it speaks; its power to transform — a challenge for many — but also scripture’s brutal frankness in describing the destructive ways of humanity, lost in its search for God, confused as to God’s actions, His words and deeds.

The Bible is not just uplifting narratives and faith-affirming wisdom. It is about war and suffering, lament and abandonment. The scriptures open us to the experience of what it is to be human and to need God so very much. Ultimately, its danger lies simply in the fact that it is not straightforward to understand and as such can (and does) lead to errors and excuses for humanity’s wandering ways. But as the very words of God, should we really expect the Bible to be as plain as a tablet?

‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord’ (Isaiah 55:8).

Isaiah is told that the words God speaks are His own; a message which, particularly in the Old Testament, appears ‘through a glass darkly’ (1 Cor 13:12).

This obscurity seems in contrast to the clear message of salvation in the New Testament. So, why do we still speak about the time when humanity was lost? Why look to a past when people did not really know God in his Son, Jesus? Because without the context of people’s lives and their experience of the divine in the Old Testament, we cannot understand how Christ recontextualizes this experience in the New.

Simply, without the whole revelation — without hearing all God speaks — we cannot understand what God has done for us and how much he loves us. It is thus that Isaiah looks to a future when the infinite distance between the ways of God and man will be spanned:

‘Many people shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem’ (Isaiah 2:3).

God has shared his thoughts with us and taught us his ways, despite their transcendent and unreachable glory. And he does this by speaking his word: Christ.

‘And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory’ (John 1:14).

¹ Pope Francis, ‘Prologue’, *YouCat Bible German edition* 2015.

Walsingham vacancy

■ The Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady is looking to recruit a Director of Operations who will be responsible for the delivery of a welcoming, efficient and effective operational service to pilgrims. The successful candidate will be dynamic, confident, pro-active and have a practical approach to operations planning and delivery.

More details from: hr@walsingham.org.uk
Deadline for applications: Monday March 2, at 5pm. Interviews to be held on March 9.

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CAFOD helps train young leaders

Students from secondary schools across East Anglia met at Notre Dame High School in Norwich in January for the second of three CAFOD Young Leadership training days. Jane Crone reports.

Year 12 students from St Alban's High School in Ipswich and St Benedict's High School in Bury St Edmunds joined Notre Dame for a day of activities through which they explored their motivation for taking the challenge of putting their faith into action.

School chaplains and CAFOD staff and volunteers led a series of activities through which students were able to explore their faith and Catholic Social Teaching in a lively but prayerful and thoughtful way. The St George's CAFOD group also joined in for part of the day.

Alex Savage, host chaplain at Notre Dame said: "CAFOD Young Leaders gives our students hands-on opportunities to develop their leadership skills whilst gaining a deeper understanding of complex issues. Young people no longer have to wait until their chosen career for their voice to be heard. Their opinions are changing the world today."

Working with their school chaplains the



Participants at the CAFOD Young Leaders training day.

young leaders finished the day by making plans for football fundraisers in their schools for CAFOD's Lent Fast Day on Friday March 6.

Afterwards, one student from St Alban's reflected on his own experience of being a refugee: "No permanency, no freedom, no-one to help. Everyone for themselves. Anger, lost, depression,

sometime a little happiness. This is what a refugee has to go through – so did I. The CAFOD Young Leaders programme allows me to use my God given talents to raise money so others don't have to go through what I have seen and experienced."

To find out more about Young Leadership visit: cafod.org.uk/youngleaders

School approved

A new Catholic primary school in Hamptons East was approved by Peterborough City Council at a meeting on February 12 and is believed to be the first Catholic school in the whole country to have been given the green light in a decade.

The new maintained voluntary-aided school is due to open in September 2022, initially for 90 pupils before eventually reaching 630. It will also have a 30-place nursery.

Bishop Alan Hopes said: "I am delighted that Peterborough City Council have approved our proposal and that we will soon have a new Catholic school in the city. I am very grateful for all the hard work that has gone into this from the diocesan schools team and all others who have been working on this project. I

know that the parish of St Luke's will also be very happy with the outcome and be filled with gratitude."

Helen Bates, assistant director (schools service) at the Diocese of East Anglia, said: "We are delighted that our proposed new primary school has been approved and would like to thank everyone who has shown their support for this school. We now have just over two years to get the school built and to appoint staff and governors. We will be working in partnership with Peterborough City Council to build the school and to make sure everything is ready for September 2022.

"One of the first things we will need to do is to appoint a shadow governing body with expertise in key areas like education, finance, HR and management, to lead on the setting up of the new school. There is a lot to do, but this is a very exciting time. We will keep people updated on progress via rcdea.org.uk

Jonathan Lewis, Service Director for Education, Peterborough City Council,

told BBC Radio Cambridgeshire: "We feel that the proposal that has come forward is a positive route for the council and is a new route to opening schools that the government is investing in heavily.

"We will have a fantastic new school for the local area that offers choice and diversity and will create a slightly different feel for Hampton and one that local children will attend."

Two consultations by the Diocese strongly backed the plan. The first showed 82% of respondents (941 people) 'strongly agreed' with the proposal to establish the Catholic school, compared to just 8.4% (96 people) who said that they 'strongly disagreed' with the proposal.

There were 1,911 responses to a second consultation, with 83% (1,585) in favour of the new school and 17% (326) against.

It is being 90% funded by the Government, with the council having to pay between £1.1m and £1.5m and is the first such faith school to be approved under a new voluntary-aided route.

Silver medals awarded to

Silver medals have been awarded to five young altar servers at St Philip Howard parish in Cambridge in recognition of a combined total of 50 years of service. **Deacon John Bell** reports.

Over the Christmas period, St Philip Howard parish celebrated the award of five silver medals for ten years' of service each. Jerald Birad, James De la Cruz, Tom Kirker and Paul Triunfante (pictured right) received their silver medals of the Guild of St Stephen from parish priest, Fr Philip John on St Stephen's Day. Sandra Jos (not pictured) received her medal on the Feast of the Epiphany.

Jerald Birad said: "I am an altar server to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, to help the community of St Philip Howard Church and be in the company of family and friends."

St Philip Howard has long had a large body of

servers. Senior server, Oliver Marks, first started serving over 20 years ago. He now is responsible with Zac Desruisseaux for the organisation and training of 60 servers.

He said: "For over 30 years St Philip Howard Parish has had a strong community of altar servers. Over the years, many servers have been awarded their silver medals, accounting for hundreds of years of service at the altar of God.

As well as the award of silver medals, the parish celebrated the enrolment of nine new servers and the award of six bronze medals. Apart from the serious business of serving in church, the servers also enjoy social activities together. During the Christmas holidays, a large number of them went ice skating at the new Cambridge Ice Arena. Despite bumps and falls, no one suffered any serious harm.

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IGNITE

YOUTH MATTERS



Invite to join Malta youth pilgrimage

■ The Diocesan Youth Service team are inviting young people aged 16 – 35 to join them on a pilgrimage to Malta this summer.

Hamish MacQueen, Director of the Diocesan Youth Service explains more. "In this 'Year of the Word' we will be following in the footsteps of one of the great heroes of the New Testament – St Paul.

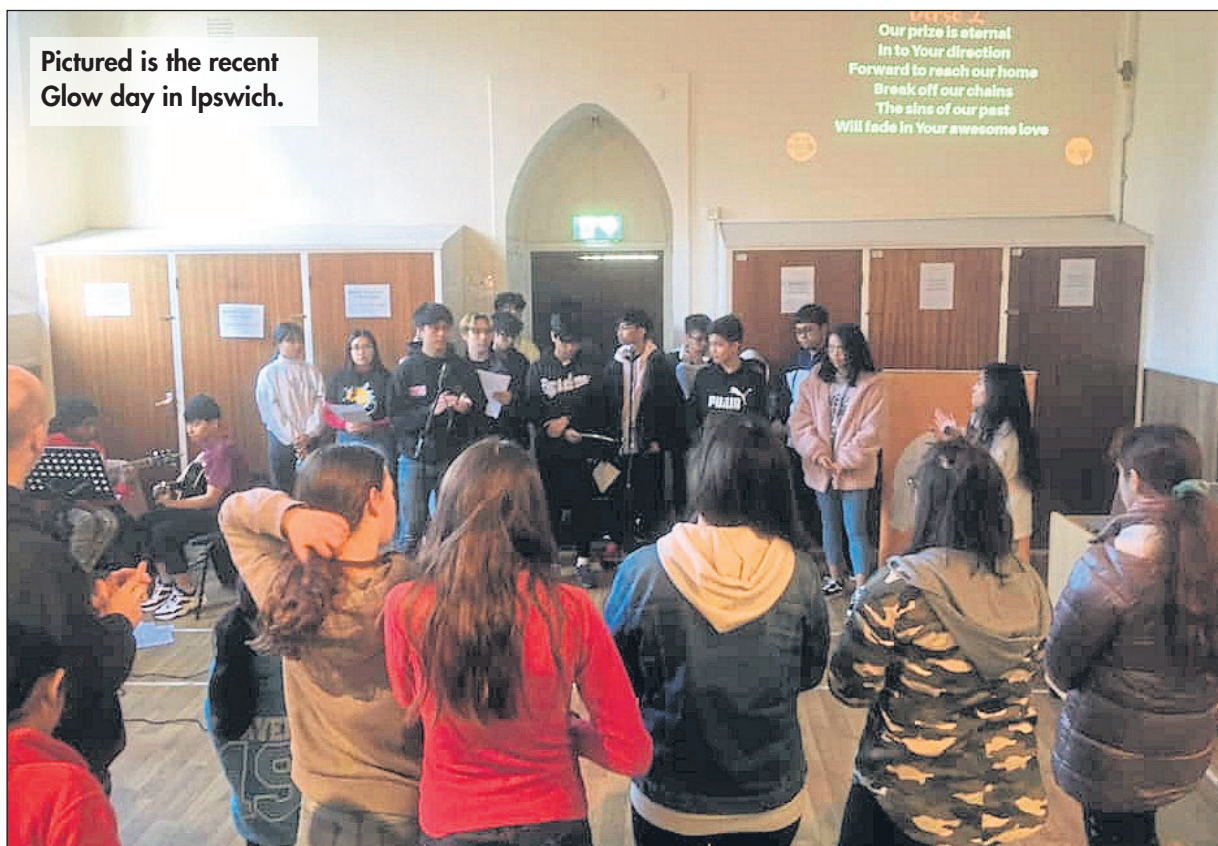
"It was in 60 AD, that St Paul was on the way to Rome to be tried, when he was shipwrecked just off the coast of Malta during a storm. The people of Malta looked after the crew and St Paul until they could continue with their journey. During this time, St Paul preached the Gospel to the locals who, at the time, were under Roman rule. Many converted to Christianity, including the governor of the island, Publius, who became Malta's first bishop," said Hamish.

"Amongst other places, we're planning to visit are Saint Paul's Bay, overlooking the sight of St Paul's shipwreck; the Church of the Shipwreck and St John's Pro Cathedral Valletta; St Paul's Catacombs where St Paul and St Luke took refuge following shipwreck; St Paul's Cathedral in Mdina; and the National Shrine of Our Lady in Mellieha next to where we will be staying."

The pilgrimage to Malta will take place from July 26 to 31.

Places are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment. More information at www.rcdea.org.uk/youth

Setting spiritual fires



Pictured is the recent Glow day in Ipswich.

The Ignite Team has set spiritual fires across the diocese with their recent Glow retreat days. Team member Emily Murphy reports.

■ Glow is designed as a day of faith for teenagers, giving them a chance to explore Christ in a deep and dynamic way at a local level. Last academic year, the Ignite Team held Glow days in Norwich and Peterborough, and this year has expanded to include Ipswich and Cambridge.

The schedule at a Glow day includes contemporary praise and worship music, inspiring talks, engaging workshops, and powerful times of prayer. Glow:Norwich was held in November - the first of this academic year. The debut of Glow:Ipswich in January was a blessing – less than a dozen teenagers were expected but 30 showed up for the event! The Ignite Team was pleased with the

turnout, especially since the event was new to Ipswich.

The worship music at both events was run by the local Youth for Christ chapter, providing a "for youth, by youth" feel to the events. Glow:Ipswich was fortunate to have a large choir alongside live musicians, and the singers at Glow:Norwich taught the attendees new songs, giving them an opportunity to pray in a way they had never done before.

The topics for workshops at a Glow day are always intriguing. The ones on offer this year have included Faith in Film, Finding God in Pop Music, the Problem of Evil, and Ask Anything, which allows youth to ask literally anything about the Catholic Church, from how it got started in the first place to its stance on homosexuality.

"I expected it to go deep, and it did," one Glow:Norwich attendee said, after a workshop that explored why evil exists if God is all powerful and all good. "I never knew..." and "Mind blown!" were

other common comments from attendees on the workshops.

Many young people had never experienced Eucharistic adoration before attending a Glow day. The schedule at both Glow:Norwich and Glow:Ipswich included this devotion, introducing attendees to its power. Confessions were an option during this time at both events. The confessional was always occupied, a sign that many of the youth were ready to make a deeper commitment to living a holy life.

Overall, young people are grateful for the Glow days, even those who are reluctant to come. "I kind of thought it might be boring," one Glow:Suffolk attendee admitted, "But it wasn't."

There is one more Glow day to be held in 2020. Glow:Cambridge is scheduled for March 15 at St Laurence primary school. Anyone aged 12-18 is welcome to attend, either individually or as part of a group. For more information or to book, please see www.rcdea.org.uk/youth/events

young altar servers







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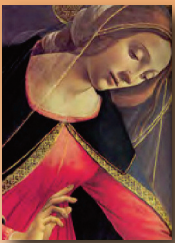
news in brief

Prayer for the sanctity of life

■ There will be a Holy Hour for Life in St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich every Tuesday during Lent, between 12-1pm, to pray for the Sanctity of Life.

There will also be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament where the Rosary will be prayed followed by a period of silent prayer. This will take place on March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31. All are welcome.

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A life well lived with God

Fr Michael Teader, parish priest at St Felix in Haverhill, died peacefully on February 7. Fr Christopher Smith, from Newmarket parish, pays tribute.

■ Fr Michael Teader was Suffolk born and bred. He spent his early years in Hundon, and apart from National Service in the RAF in Ely, he was to spend the rest of his life in Haverhill.

After National Service, Michael worked in the Trustees Saving Bank, before training as a teacher. Here he found his vocation and an outlet for his abilities. Michael influenced generations of Haverhill people, as well as Newly Qualified Teachers whom he took under his wing.

As he grew up in Hundon, the then Rector nurtured his Christian faith and made a lasting impression. The parish was in the Anglo-Catholic tradition and this would ultimately lead Michael to the Catholic Church. As an Anglican and later as a Catholic, Michael had a firm and unwavering faith in God. His Christian vision was to inform and influence his life as a teacher, deacon and priest.

Michael took early retirement from his job as Deputy Headteacher of St Felix Primary School and then worked as a lay Catholic Chaplain in HMP Highpoint. At the same time he began his formation for the diaconate. He was ordained deacon in 1996. When his elderly father died, Bishop Peter Smith, the then Bishop of East Anglia, invited Michael to begin formation for the priesthood. Fr Michael was ordained priest in 2001 and was to spend the whole of his priestly ministry in Haverhill, until he had to stand down



through ill health in November 2019.

Pope Francis has encouraged the Church to be bold and to go out to the periphery, to the edges. This is what Fr Michael was to do as teacher, deacon and priest. As a teacher he had a special concern for children whom others would deem difficult. His prison ministry bore great fruit. Seminarians were sent to him on pastoral placement and saw at first hand pastoral priesthood as it was lived.

He was responsible for the building of the new church in Haverhill. More important than the construction of a building was Fr Michael's building up of the Catholic community in Haverhill so it became what it is today: a vibrant, outward-looking, multicultural community united in worship, service and witness. In the town, Fr Michael pioneered the St Nicholas' Hospice Hub, which sought to

take hospice chaplaincy out into the community. Fr Michael once said of his prison ministry that he sought to 'open a window onto the love and mercy of God'. That characterised not only his prison work but the whole of his ministry as a deacon and priest.

Although on his own admission somewhat shy by nature, Michael had a natural capacity for friendship and he had a wide circle of friends. He was great company. Among his interests were gardening, reading, travel, music and art. His was a life well lived in friendship with God and others.

Bishop Alan said: "Fr Michael has given so much to the Church and particularly to our Diocese, both in his work in education and in his pastoral care as a permanent deacon and then as the parish priest in St Felix in Haverhill."

Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology

Catholic House of Cambridge Theological Federation

*Forthcoming Events at Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology,
12 Grange Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DU*

Lenten Quiet Day "Judged by Love"

21st March 2020 Arrivals from 9.30, Session 10.00 - 12.30pm, opportunities for 1:1 sessions and private prayer from 1.00 - 3.00pm. Bring your own lunch, tea and coffee provided. £15 pay on the day or by bank transfer in advance.

"Creation: God, the planet and us"

The next module in our popular Catholic Theology and Practice Thursday Afternoon Series, a learning space for Catholic women. Led by Dr Férdia Stone-Davis. Thursday afternoons 23rd April - 14th May 2020. Cost: £170.

A Study Day celebrating seven years of Pope Francis

Led by Dr Peter Coughlan 22nd April 2020 10.30 - 4.00pm Bring your own lunch, tea and coffee provided. 13th March 2020 is the seventh anniversary of the election of Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio as Pope Francis. That event marked the beginning of what has already been an extraordinary, and in many ways unexpected, pontificate. This study day will look at the significance of these seven years for the Church and the world. £15 by pay on the day or bank transfer in advance.

A Study Day on Children's Spirituality

Led by Sue Price. Join the CCRS students for the day, 25th April 10.30 - 3.30. Bring your own lunch, tea and coffee provided. Cost: £15 pay on the day or by bank transfer in advance.

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Fine flat for Fr Tony

■ Money raised through the Alive in Faith appeal has enabled the Diocese to buy a flat for the retired priest Fr Tony Shryane.

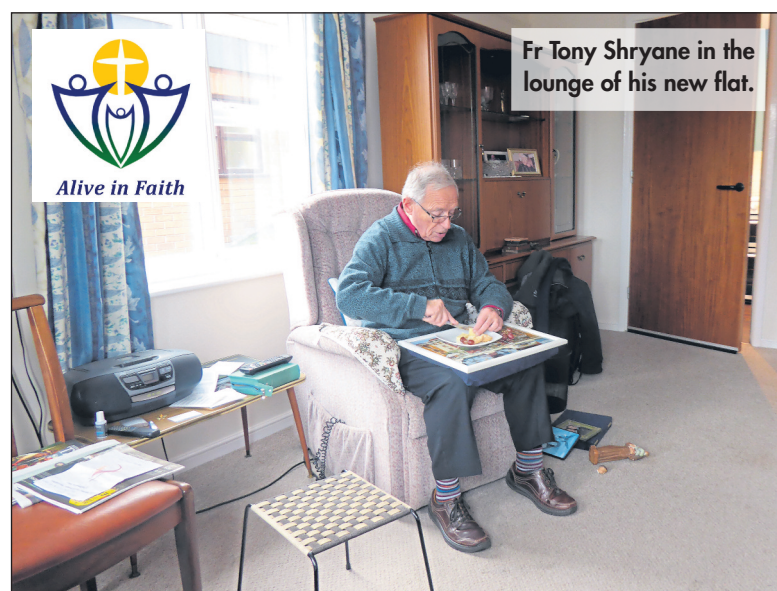
The two-bed flat in Peterborough is just 10 minutes' walk from the parish church of St Peter and All Souls, where Fr Tony now sometimes says Mass at the weekends. Fr Tony has two sisters

in Peterborough, and a brother priest in Huntingdon, Monsignor Philip Shryane.

Fr Tony was ordained in Peterborough, and was for 12 years Vocations Director for the Diocese, under Bishop Alan Clark. "When the Diocese split from Northampton in 1976," he said, "all the students from the old Diocese were based on the East Anglian side. So we started off with a bumper bundle of 10 or 11 students."

Fr Tony served in Thetford and Norwich before being appointed Parish Priest for Ely, where he was based for 21 years.

When Bishop Michael Evans decided to link the Diocese with Cambodia, Fr Tony was one of the group of 25 which went to visit their new colleagues At Siem Reap. Ely needed a parish with which to twin, and



Bishop Michael announced cryptically that "I have just the thing for you." It turned out to be a floating village.

Fr Tony has since been back six times, and Ely has supported Cambodian projects, which include a hospital, schools and a rice bank. He planned to return again in January with a parish group.

Bishop Michael also asked Fr Tony to look after retired priests. He is still active in making the rounds to visit them, and this seems to be one role he is unlikely to lay down for a while.

Bishop Alan Hopes commented, "I am very grateful for the generosity of so many parishioners to the Alive in Faith appeal which is allowing the Diocese to make this kind of provision for its retired priests."

news in brief

March retreats at Dowry House

■ Dowry House, the beautiful retreat house situated in the heart of Walsingham, has announced its retreat programme for March.

The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham is delighted to welcome visitors to one of the many scheduled retreats or to simply to come for some quiet time.

Upcoming retreats include:

'Encountering Christ in Scripture'

Friday February 28 to Sunday March 1

Learn and experience how getting to know the scriptures and praying with scripture can help deepen your relationship with Christ and bear fruit in your life.

'Walsingham Spirituality 1: Accepting God's Will in every Circumstance'

Friday March 13 to Sunday March 15

A great way to deepen your understanding of the rich spirituality of Walsingham and learn how to live it in your daily life.

'The Word Was Made Flesh and Dwells Among Us' Rededication Retreat

Thursday March 26 to Sunday March 29

A special Triduum to prepare for the rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary.

Dowry House is just opposite the 12th-century Abbey grounds.

For more details of these and other retreats, please visit our website www.dowryhouse.org.uk or call 01328 801018



The Winter Party at St George's in Norwich.

A warm welcome at winter party

Bringing the generations together, St George's Parish Proclaim team in Norwich held a Winter Party at the end of January. Monica Barnham reports.

■ The Proclaim team supports the wider parish in its efforts to become ever more welcoming and outward looking, trying hard to reach out to all.

The SVP from both St George's Parish, and St John's Cathedral Parish Norwich supported the Winter Party event on January 25 and gave out invitations to the elderly and those living on their own, as well as providing lifts to the guests.

The event began with a morning Mass followed by a light lunch. Notre Dame High School students and staff helped serve lunch as well as tea and cakes in the afternoon. A number of parish-

ioners volunteered additional support in the kitchen and serving the guests.

Parish Priest at St George's, Fr Sean Connolly, along with Anthony Asomugha, one of the diocesan seminarians who recently joined the parish on placement, chatted to the guests and participated in the preparation for the event.

After lunch there was a bingo game for those attending finishing with a raffle. Musical entertainment was also provided during the lunch.

The event was attended by people from across Norwich parishes.

St George's Proclaim Team, which organized the event, meet on the second Wednesday of every month at St George's church, to pray together and are interested in exploring together how, as a parish and as individuals, they can better respond to the call to evangelize.



"Heart speaks to heart" was Newman's motto

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

■ Cardinal John Henry Newman's motto was "cor ad cor loquitur", "heart speaks to heart".

Fundamentally this was about God's heart in dialogue with our hearts. It was also about human love and affection, and friendship. Friendship was of great importance to Newman.

Newman developed many significant friendships over the course of his life, the most prominent including John Bowden, his daughter Marianne Bowden, Frederick Rogers, Richard Hurrell Froude, John Keble, and Ambrose St John.

His life, however, included much pain and misunderstanding with many friends because of his fidelity to his faith.

We may recall that his final sermon at the University Church in Oxford was called "the parting of friends".

He wrote "the best preparation for loving the world at large, and loving it duly and wisely, is to cultivate an intimate friendship and affection towards those who are immediately about us."

In his hymn "Lead Kindly Light" he writes touchingly of his departed friends: "And in the morn those angel faces smile, which I have loved long since and lost a while."

Newman himself died in 1890. His chosen epitaph was "Ex umbris et imaginibus in veritatem" – "Out of shadows and images into the truth."

He was buried in the Oratory cemetery in Rednal, Birmingham. More than 15,000 people lined the route of his funeral.

He was buried in the same grave as his friend and fellow Oratorian, Ambrose St John.

Here is a beautiful meditation by Cardinal Newman:

May He support us all the day long, till the shades lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in His mercy may He give us safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last.

www.newmancanonisation.com

Caritas Festival set for first date

Following the very successful launch of Caritas East Anglia in November, we are now looking forward to the Festival, which will visit three venues in various parts of the diocese. Jacinta Goode reports.



Christ's love. We're not simply doing a good deed: we're giving God's love to our neighbour. And that's something to celebrate!

'Caritas' means 'love in action', so the Caritas Festival is an opportunity for us to celebrate and share with each other, how we put our faith into action. On this day of celebration, we will gather first in the church, where we will be joined by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Norwich. Bishop Alan will celebrate Mass at 10am with priests of the diocese.

The Festival will then be opened by Bishop Alan and the Lord Mayor. Groups from parishes who are involved in social outreach work – sharing God's love – will be in the hall from 10.30am. CAFOD, SVP, Prison Fellowship, Justice & Peace, Secular Franciscan Order, Norfolk Knitters & Stitchers and others, will all be there with information about the work they do. A number of groups will also

give talks about their work, for us to learn more. With refreshments available throughout the day until 4pm, there's plenty of time to come and see what's going on in your area.

Members of the Diocesan Caritas Commission will also be at the Festival, so do come and say hello! We will be able to tell you more about the work of Caritas and will have information about Catholic Social Teaching – the underpinning of all that we do.

We would also encourage you to fill in the Caritas Questionnaire about what your group is doing, which will give us a better picture of what's happening around the diocese. You can do this online: <https://rcdea.org.uk/caritas-questionnaire/> - or if you prefer, there will be someone to help you fill it in at the Festival.

If you feel inspired, you may consider getting involved, either with a group in your parish, with Caritas, or maybe you'll know of a new project that needs setting up. Let's celebrate all that we do in God's name and ask that the Holy Spirit shows each one of us how God would like us to share His love with our neighbour.

www.stgeorgenorwich.com

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

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News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese



■ Bishop Alan expressed his gratitude for the generosity and witness of the Consecrated and Religious of the Diocese of East Anglia at a Mass on Saturday February 1.

The day, at St John's Cathedral in Norwich, was attended by around 40 Religious of the Diocese with a Mass followed by lunch in the Narthex.

The Mass was a celebration of Consecrated Life held on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

■ Children from St Mary's Great Yarmouth and St Peter's Gorleston Faith Club were taken to Swaffham Convent for their Christmas outing on December 20, reports **Chris Storman**.

Their retreat day began with Mass in the lovely convent chapel. Fr Mark Hackeson celebrated Mass with Frs Alex and Alvan from Great Yarmouth and Gorleston, with the children plus some parents, the Swaffham Sisters, members of the Diocesan Ignite team and regular Faith Club helpers. It was a joyful gathering.

There was some free time to explore the new surroundings and get to know the Sisters, Fr Mark and Ignite team members Ciaran and Joe, followed by a shared lunch.

During the afternoon the children were led and entertained by both the Ignite team and the Sisters.

The Ignite team led Getting to Know You and Advent activities and the Sisters introduced their lives and missions to the enthralled children. There were also group activities and games and a wonderful craft session which was enjoyed by us all creating hand-made items to take away.

The day finished with a Secret Santa, a goody bag of treasures for each from the sisters and lots of thanks and appreciation shown to all who gave their time and care to provide a fabulous retreat away day.



■ Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) Felixstowe ship visitor and parish contact Julian Wong has been awarded a Papal Blessing in recognition of his work with the Catholic seafarers' charity.

Julian was presented with the certificate at a Mass for Stella Maris supporters held at the Seafarers Centre, Felixstowe Port on January 28. Mass was celebrated by Fr John Barnes in the chapel above the Centre.

"The Papal Blessing was totally unexpected and I felt very blessed and humbled when I was presented with it. Seafarers should be the ones to receive this for they do all the hard work. I share this Blessing with all my brothers and sisters in Christ, who spend long periods away from their loved ones," he said.

Julian has been a Stella Maris ship visitor since November 2014 and last August reached a milestone in his ship visiting ministry, visiting his 1,000th ship, the Seucia Seaways.

"I find my visits extremely rewarding and consider myself very lucky to be able to stand next to the world's largest container ships, board them and meet the crew on board. I listen to what the seafarers say, share their ups and downs, pray with them and for them and their families," says Julian who also regularly distributes Communion to Catholic seafarers who request the Sacrament.

He added: "I am privileged to be part of Stella Maris, which this year celebrates its Centenary, having been founded in Glasgow 100 years ago. God bless all seafarers and their families!"

Pictured above is Julian Wong being presented with his Papal Blessing by Port Chaplain Pat Ezra.

■ Sacred Heart church in Southwold has successfully taken part in a pilot government scheme into the sustainability of listed places of worship and was granted funds to address urgent repairs to the roof of the Sacristy and the Baptistry.

The Department of Culture, Media & Sport commissioned an independent review, chaired by Bernard Taylor, into the sustainability of listed places of worship in England. The Report was produced in 2017 and, following this Historic England was tasked with running pilot schemes, one in Greater Manchester and the other in Suffolk.

As well as the repairs, Sacred Heart representatives took part in a number of the Historic England workshops and, as a result, proposed a joint workshop on maintenance with the churches of Southwold & Reydon Christians Together.

Accordingly, a half-day session, attended by Sacred Heart parishioners and representatives from the Anglican churches, St Edmund's and St Margaret's and the URC, was held in the Cardinal Newman Hall. The Fabric Support Officer, Dr Barbara Beckett and Laura Emmins, the Community Support Officer talked about church buildings, advised on the development of maintenance plans (or the review existing ones), and consideration of how these plans could best be delivered.

