



Bishop Alan Hopes

Bishop Alan’s letter to the people of East Anglia

On Easter Day Christians celebrate the fact that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, having been put to death on a cross, was raised to new life. This unique event has significance not only for Christians but for the whole human race.

Jesus Christ's resurrection brings us JOY. It shows us that God has an immense and unending love for us all - good and bad alike. It shows us that no one is beyond his love and divine mercy, whatever mistakes we might have made in our lives. For each one of us is precious in God's sight. Jesus Christ's resurrection brings us HOPE. It shows

us that in the face of life's challenges, suffering and even death, we can remain confident that the Risen Jesus Christ is walking with us to encourage us and strengthen us on our journey.

Christians believe that after death we shall come to share in that same resurrection life of Jesus Christ in heaven - and that is a cause of real joy and hope.

This is the message we have been called to proclaim to the world. And we do it in so many different ways, sometimes even using words (St Francis)!

As we serve God in our neighbour, in the poor, the hungry, the homeless and the neglected in the world and in our local communities, so we make it possible for others to experience the joy and hope that the Risen Christ brings into our world and our hearts.

A very happy and blessed Eastertide to you all.

+ Alan

Diocese comes together at Chrism Mass



Bishop Alan celebrating the Chrism Mass at St John the Baptist Cathedral
Below: the Deacons with the Holy Oils



Bishop Alan celebrated for the first time as a bishop, and as the bishop of East Anglia, the Chrism Mass in the Cathedral Church of St John the Baptist, Norwich on Wednesday 16 April. Joined by his brother priests, his deacons and many of the lay faithful from across the diocese, Bishop Alan blessed the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens, and then consecrated the Oil of Chrism. These three Holy Oils are used throughout the year as the Church's ministers continue the work started by Jesus Christ. The Oil of the Sick is used as prescribed by St James in the New Testament: "Are any among you sick?" They should call for the elders of the Church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord". The Oil of Catechumens is used to anoint those, both children and adults, who are to be received into the Church through the Sacrament

of Baptism and is the oil of salvation which strengthens each Christian with the power of Christ our Saviour. The Oil of Chrism is used for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation for Ordination as a priest and for the Consecration of Bishops remembering the words from the Rite of Baptism: "As Christ was anointed priest prophet and king, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life." In his homily, Bishop Alan spoke to his diocese about the vocation to be a disciple of Christ which begins at the moment of our baptism and calls each of us to "live the life of heaven here on earth". Quoting Pope Francis, he reminds us that "we are called to be God's leaven in the midst of humanity", which means that we are entrusted with the duty of "proclaiming and bringing God's salvation into our world which often goes astray and needs to be encouraged, given hope

and strengthened on the way". Speaking to his deacons bishop Alan reminded them of the third of the three responsibilities which have been laid upon them, "to be a minister of loving service to others" and how they should be both an inspiration for and a leader of the people in this area. Turning finally to his brothers, the ministerial priests, who are co-workers with him throughout the diocese, he reminded them of their unique vocation to share in the work of Jesus, the Great High Priest. A work which draws them out from within the people of God and sets them apart for a special duty – to be an Alter Christus, an other Christ, and celebrate the Sacraments always in Persona Christi, in the Person of Christ. They are not representing themselves but him "who died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for him who died and was raised for them" (2 Cor 5:15).



The Deans, together with the Deacons, carrying out the Holy Oils at the end of Mass



Some of the priests who attended



The Cathedral was packed for the Chrism Mass
Below: Bishop Alan blessing the Holy Oils



Bishop Alan delivers the Homily seated in the Chancel

Catechumens and Candidates begin journey to Easter reception at Rite of Election



Catechumens of all ages wrote their names in the Book of Life

People from parishes all over the Diocese of East Anglia came to the Cathedral on the first Sunday in Lent came for the Rite of Election as they began the last stage of their initiation into the full communion of the Catholic Church. They had been helped to grow in their faith in the parish courses, leading to Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Bishop Alan welcomed and greeted each of these Catechumens and candidates who were taking this important step in their lives. In his homily, Bishop Alan told them that Jesus spent the forty days in the desert preparing for his work for our salvation which culminated in his death and resurrection. This last part of their preparation for the sacraments at Easter was an opportunity to journey with Jesus to the Cross "for those who are called, the Cross is the power and wisdom of

God". "Today," said the bishop, "you are being elected or chosen. It is a celebration of your hope and trust in Jesus Christ to whom you turn for salvation." They were being called to a deeper commitment to the Lord and to grow in holiness, the bishop continued, to become his witnesses and to hand on the faith they were discovering and rejoicing in to the next generation. "This call to become like Jesus Christ in our lives is a big challenge and is a life-long journey. It will lead to the temptation to take the easy way and conform to the norms of society. "The gift of the Holy Spirit will fill your life with his gifts and the divine food of the Eucharist will strengthen for your journey through life." Assisting the bishop were Cathedral Dean Fr James Walsh and deacons Patrick Limacher and Andrew Eburne.



Bishop Alan speaks to each of the Catechumens and Candidates



THE SCHOOLS LISTED ON THIS PAGE ARE PLEASED TO SUPPORT CATHOLIC EAST ANGLIA

Sacred Heart School
Scholarship Award Days for Year 6 Students
10 Centenary Awards for 'All Rounders'
External Candidates, Currently in Years 7 or 8
Open Day 10th May 10.00-12.00
17 Mangate Street, Swaffham, Norfolk, PE37 7QW
t: 01760 721330 e: info@sacredheartschool.co.uk
www.sacredheartschool.co.uk Charity No. 237760

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

ST MARK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
STONELODGE LANE WEST
IPSWICH IP2 9HN
HEADTEACHER:
MRS BARKER
TELEPHONE:
01473 601748

WE DON'T DO BORED.
St Mary's School, Cambridge offers inspiring teaching to girls which engenders a spirit of high aspiration, positive thinking, purpose and compassion.
Independent day and boarding school for girls aged 4-18
www.stmaryscambridge.co.uk

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO FILL THIS SPACE CALL ALICE ON 01440 730399

NEW STAIRLIFTS
— FROM ONLY £1350 —
FULLY FITTED, 12 MONTH WARRANTY
TEL: 0800 326 5719
www.stairlifts.co.uk

Attention Catholic Schools!
Newspaper for parents of children attending Catholic Primary Schools with children's paper inside.
Quarterly Newspaper for your school's parents and children
£29.95 for 300 copies
enough for every pupil and parent
Inside: Classroom Resources and children's paper
To find out more call us on 01440 730399
email: schools@cathcomreach.com
text "myCC Reach" to 60300 and we'll call you back!