

July  
2014

FREE

# Catholic East Anglia



Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

Web edition at [www.catholic east anglia.org](http://www.catholic east anglia.org)



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together on  
pilgrimage -  
centre page**



**Fire brigade  
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of Assisi school  
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## Bishops' visit to charity

Bishop Alan joined up with Anglican Bishop Graham James to visit the Magdalene Group which has given help and advice to sex-workers and victims of human trafficking in Norwich and beyond since 1992.

The two bishops, who are both patrons of the charity, heard of developments and prayed with the staff and for those the agency seeks to help. The Magdalene Group has

won an honoured reputation for its work affording dignity and life chances to women in prostitution. It has also begun an innovative educational programme helping young girls to identify grooming.

"The girls drawn into prostitution have been getting younger in Norfolk as elsewhere so helping them has become a vital dimension of the charity's work," said one of the agency's staff.



Bishop Alan and Bishop Graham with the Magdalene group

**Bishop Alan's letter to Diocese stresses the importance of marriage**

## Family vital to our society

When God entered our world at the moment of the Incarnation, his Son was born into a human family.

He was cared for by his mother, Mary and his foster father, Joseph. The Holy Family shows us that the family is a sacred unit given to us by God himself.

It is his way of providing stability for the human race. And it has been so from the beginning of human existence.

Much of our society has very different ideas from Christian understanding of marriage and the family, an understanding which is shared by the other two monotheistic religions, Judaism and Islam.

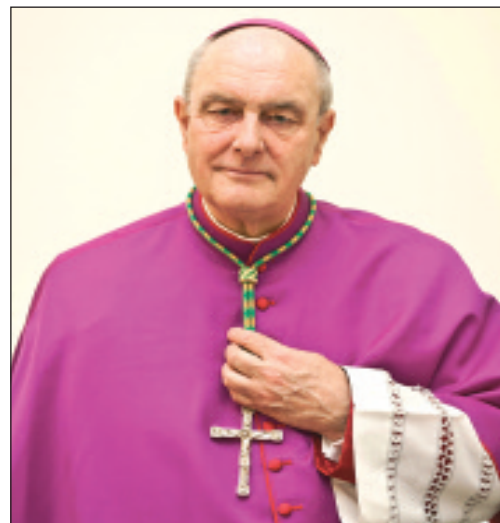
Society's ideas can never replace that understanding. Where the family unit is not supported and the family values of commitment and faithfulness break down, eventually, social order collapses. This is something we are already witnessing in our own country.

The Church must always witness to the gift and ideal of marriage. So it was wonderful to welcome so many married couples from across the Diocese to the Cathedral on 20 June, to celebrate marriage and to mark special anniversaries of marriage.

Between them, they witness to many, many years of married life and of their willingness to commit themselves to each other, come what may! They have something real and exciting to pass on to their children and grandchildren.

It was also a great joy to see that the Catholic Grandparents Association has launched itself in England and Wales. This will emphasise their vital contribution to the Church, the family and society.

Grandparents from across the country have already gathered at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham for some years, united by their common aim of doing the



Bishop Alan's joy at celebration of family

best they can for their children and grandchildren by passing on the Faith through their guidance and love.

I hope that before long we might have a branch of the association in our Diocese to support and encourage all our Catholic grandparents in the part that they play in the new evangelisation.

Let us all promote marriage and family life in the coming years, witnessing positively to what we, the Church, believe.

+ Alan

## Kerry heads commission

The diocese has a new Marriage and Family Life Coordinator.

Kerry Urdzik lives in Ipswich and is married with seven children.

She worked as a registered nurse until raising a young family became a full-time job.

She is now volunteering as a catechist, marriage preparation facilitator and baptism preparation class provider in her local parish, and working towards a Bachelor of Divinity degree at Maryvale Institute.

Kerry is working closely with Bishop Alan and the Commission to plan and implement preparation and support marriage and family life throughout the Diocese.

You can contact her by email at: [mflc@east-angliadiocese.org.uk](mailto:mflc@east-angliadiocese.org.uk)

Website: <http://www.catholic east anglia.org/marriage/>



Kerry Urdzik

## Walsingham director ordained bishop

The Director of the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, Fr Alan Williams SM, is due to be ordained the seventh Bishop of Brentwood at the town's cathedral on 1 July at 12 noon.

Born in Oldham, Lancs, in 1951 Fr Alan was ordained as a Marist priest in St Anne's at Whitechapel in 1983.

He holds degrees in theology, psychology and religious education and has served in a number of pastoral roles. He has worked as a teacher and school chaplain. He also served as Catholic Chaplain at Sheffield Hallam University and taught Christian Spirituality at postgraduate level.

He is a former superior of the Marist Fathers in England and was a parish priest in Southwark.

On his appointment Fr Alan said: "There is indeed a God of surprises and in my life I have learned to trust ever more in the grace of God for whatever task has been assigned to me."

He is pictured here at the Diocese of East Anglia Pilgrimage with Fr David Bagstaff.



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Edrich D'Souza



Alfonso-Jude Belnas

## Fr Christopher Back RIP

Retired priest Fr Christopher Back died recently and Mgr Tony Rogers paid tribute to him in this obituary.

Born in Paddington, London, on 21 December, 1946, Christopher spent much of his childhood in Norfolk.

His father, George, had been valet to Fr Alfred Hope Patten, restorer of the Anglican Shrine at Walsingham. He later moved to Enfield where he was two years junior to Bishop Alan at the Grammar School.

He gained a degree in English Language and Medieval Literature at Durham University and was a student of the subjects throughout his life. He never ceased to be scholar and researcher.

After studying theology in Oxford he was ordained an Anglican priest in 1973 within the Diocese of London and eventually became Vicar of Knowle Park.

In 1994, along with so many others, he made the courageous decision that God was calling him into Full Communion with the Catholic Church and was ordained priest by Bishop Peter Smith on 7 September, 1996.

After brief spells at Great Yarmouth and St Neots he was appointed Parish Priest of Aldeburgh where his health collapsed dramatically and he retired to Our Lady and the English Martyrs.

His last 12 months were spent in the Hope Nursing Home.

## Prayers asked for two men going to seminary

Bishop Alan has accepted two new men as students for the priesthood for our Diocese.

Peter Wygnanski from St Lawrence's in Cambridge and Anthony Asomugha from St John the Baptist's Cathedral in Norwich, will begin their formation in September.

Peter will be travelling to Rome to begin his studies at the English College and Anthony will be travelling to London to begin his studies at Allen Hall Seminary.

Bishop Alan said: "It is really good news for our Diocese as we welcome Peter and Anthony.

"Please pray for them as they begin their formation, support them and encourage them in their studies, and pray for their families and parish communities."

Peter said: "It's said that seminary can be both the best and hardest of times, so I'm looking forward to it with real excitement, but it comes with an awareness of the challenges that are to come.

"It's a sense of peace, however, that underlines the beginning of this new chapter in life for me; a young man's uncertainty becalmed by placing all in God's hands.

"With the grace of God, and the support of friends, family, our Diocese, and the seminary staff, I trust challenges can be overcome so I will be venturing forth with a guitar on my back



Peter Wygnanski with Bishop Alan and Anthony Asomugha

and a smile on my face!"

Anthony said: "In March this year, Bishop Alan accepted me for priestly formation, and I have been overflowing with joy ever since.

"I am very excited by the prospects of starting priestly formation in Allen Hall Seminary this Autumn.

"I enjoyed visiting the seminary community for my selection conference and I would enjoy being in the vibrant city of London.

"I am sure that seminary formation would make me thoroughly equipped for the task of evangelising the community of East Anglia.

"I have received an immense amount of support and encouragement from friends,

family and the local church.

"Every day, I come to realise that God knows and loves me much more than I know and love myself and so trusting in His plans is key to happiness, fulfillment and joy.

"This is the Gospel message and it should be at the heart of discerning whatever path we choose in life."

Fr John Warrington, the Diocesan Director for Vocations, said: "It's important for our Diocese, as we invite Peter and Anthony to begin their formation, to pray for them, support them and encourage them in their studies. Please keep them in your prayers.

"Please also keep in your prayers Edrich D'Souza from St Peter and All Souls Parish,

Peterborough, and Alfonso-Jude Belnas from St Philip Howard Parish, Cambridge, who began their studies at St Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham last September and have just completed their first year.

"If you pray the Rosary regularly, please pray a daily decade for all of them and that God will give our Diocese more vocations.

"If you are able to do so, please give generously towards the Vocations Fund for the Diocese which helps to pay the annual cost of educating a seminarian.

"Lastly, do be on the lookout for new vocations within your parish communities and encourage anyone who is displaying those gifts needed for today's priests."

Bishop Alan asks all in the Diocese to remember to pray for and actively encourage vocations and especially for the priesthood.

If you would like to know more about the vocations work in the diocese please look up the pages of our website at or speak to your parish priest or a member of our diocesan vocations team. Information about the team is available on the website and is also displayed at the back of your Parish Church.

**Fr John Warrington**  
Diocesan Vocations Director  
322 Woodbridge Road  
Ipswich IP4 4BD  
01473 728115

## Weekend of listening to call

A discernment weekend for people aged 18 to 30 to think more deeply about who God is calling them to be is to be held at St Mary's College in Birmingham 4-6 July.

Called **Invocation**, it is designed for reflection or for people to seek further guidance and inspiration.

Those taking part will be encouraged to reflect on themselves, their relationship with God and their neighbour.

A keynote speaker will discuss a relevant topic each day beginning with a talk on Friday by Curtis Martin, founder of FOCUS USA, on Looking at oneself: Turning away from sin and living a life of virtue.

Vatican Archbishop Rino Fisichella, will talk about Your Mission at the heart of the New Evangelisation on Saturday, followed by Sr Roseann Reddy, from the Sisters of the Gospel of



Life, who will speak on Looking towards God: Christ, the Church, the Sacraments and a plan for life.

On Sunday Dr Andrew O'Connell, from the Presentation Brothers in Dublin

will speak on a life of charity, service and witnessing Christ by our lives.

For more details including free transport see [www.callingeastanglia.org.uk/coming-events](http://www.callingeastanglia.org.uk/coming-events)

## Pope Francis gives Peter and daughter two rosaries

Peter Staples, a parishioner at St John the Baptist cathedral, recently met Pope Francis in Rome and described the event as "the most wonderful experience of my life".

Peter is a Catenian and serves on the group's local council.

He has also been a member of the Scout Association for 60 years and is a vice-president of the organisation in Norfolk.

At Mass in the cathedral he forged a friendship with a young couple from Argentina who knew the Pope before his election and counted him as a family friend.

They helped to arrange a meeting for Peter and his daughter Gabriella with Pope Francis during the General Audience in St Peter's Square.

Peter and Gabriella spoke with Pope Francis who said that strong faith, communities and friendship were of very high importance.

He asked for their prayers and then blessed rosaries for several people at the meeting.

Pope Francis gave two rosaries to Peter. Gabriella has given them to her sons.



Peter and Gabriella with Pope Francis



# NEW EVANGELISATION

*“You cannot take God into prison: God is already there”*

**In the first of a series of interviews with women whose faith finds them evangelising in different ways across our diocese, Rebecca Bretherton talks to Joanne Hornby, chaplain to *Pact* - a charity which aims to help prisoners and their families.**

**Let's start with a question about who you are.**

I am 54, the mother of four grown up children and have three grandchildren. I was born in Manchester but have spent most of my life in Suffolk and around Cambridge. I was brought up as an Anglican. My husband-to-be was a Catholic and I wasn't going to be able to change him! I became a Catholic when I was 20 on St Vincent de Paul's feast day. My faith has been a constant process throughout my life.

**So how did you become a prison chaplain?**

After spending time bringing up my family, I did an access to higher education course in humanities. The access course was fascinating, however I found the other students did not understand my faith. I thought I would like to study with other Christians: that led me to the Margaret Beaufort Institute in Cambridge where I studied theology.

Most students went on to ministry within their Churches. I loved being a mature student, though it was hard to be on a residential course while my husband managed family life. Since graduating, I have worked at three prisons within the diocese: HMP Edmunds Hill and HMP Highpoint, both in Suffolk; and HMP Whitemoor in March.

**Tell us what prison chaplains do.**

A chaplaincy team looks after prisoners and staff of all faiths and none. There's a lot of hanging about on the wings talking to prisoners. Much of the work is just being a support within the system: helping them when things go wrong at home; giving good news, giving bad news.

We plan worship and lead prayer groups, bible groups and adoration with prisoners. Prisoners are resourceful and try to make the best of their situation so we have fun organising events like carol services. I have led some memorial services for prisoners. As a woman, doing that is a real privilege and really important to me.

**How do you proclaim the Good News in a prison?**

You cannot take God into prison: God is already there. I would say my faith grew in prison. I have learnt a lot from the men. There is a rawness and honesty about faith and our relationship with God in a prison. In a Category C prison, people are preparing to leave the system.

We help them to grow their faith so that they have courage for the change that's needed. In a Category A prison, you are trying to give hope to people who aren't leaving and may be trying to get their heads around a



Joanne Hornby describes how she became a Catholic after she married and why she became a prison chaplain

phenomenal sentence. Prisoners know that they are loved by their chaplains: that is entirely appropriate, as Jesus loves them.

Love is not some kind of matey thing. It is being right there with someone in a dark place. St Paul survived in prison. I often think: how can I give *his* hope to the man I'm talking to now? How do you give hope? You listen, promise to pray, and pray with them. Listening carefully to people and not judging them brings them hope.

**So what are you doing now?**

I am the chaplain for *Pact*. We're a charity supporting people affected by imprisonment. We provide practical and emotional support to prisoners and their families. Working for *Pact* is great; they are lovely people and very committed.

Appointing a chaplain shows they want to keep their connection with their faith beginnings as the charity grows.

**Would you recommend prison chaplaincy to others?**

I think I was the only Catholic woman chaplain in the High Security estate but it doesn't mean that I'm extra special. If women feel that little urge inside to be on the frontline, so to speak, then they should explore it - as volunteers too.

## Come to Lisieux with Bishop Alan

Bishop Alan will be leading a Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lisieux in France from Monday 27 April to Friday 1 May 2015 and invites you to join him.

St Therese is one of the most popular of modern saints and this pilgrimage will visit her birthplace in Alencon, the house where she grew up in Lisieux and the Carmel she entered and where she died.

Travel will be by luxury coach with pick up points across the diocese and pilgrims will be staying in the beautiful L'Ermitage accommodation next door to the Carmel.

Fr Paul Maddison said:

“The hospitality of the nuns here is very well known and the accommodation is in comfortable, en-suite rooms.

“The pilgrimage is being organised by Pilgrimage People, an ATOL registered charity, where all surplus income goes to support the Christian community in the Holy Land. You can learn more about their work at [www.pilgrimagepeople.org](http://www.pilgrimagepeople.org)

“Daily Mass is included whilst in Lisieux and there will be a full programme of guided visits to the major landmarks along with free time for you to explore this beautiful town or to spend in prayer at one of the many places associated with the life of St Therese of the child Jesus.”

The cost is £450 per person sharing a twin/double room; single rooms are available at a supplement of £100. The price includes all transport and accommodation, all meals whilst in Lisieux, entrance fees, guiding costs and gratuities.

In order to secure a place a deposit of £200 is required with the balance and any single supplement due on or before the 27 December 2014.

A full itinerary, booking form and terms and conditions can be requested via email: [info@pilgrimagepeople.org](mailto:info@pilgrimagepeople.org) or phone: 0800 6123423.

Please quote reference ANGL02 with all enquiries.



St Therese of Lisieux

## Cross visit

Coming soon to your parish: Diocesan Youth Cross: Icon of the New Evangelisation so look out for dates of a visit to be publicised in weekly bulletins.



## Learning together about faith

Professor and Deacon John Morrill, from the Diocesan Commission for Evangelisation, is continuing the Learning Together Programme 2014.

All sessions are on Saturdays from 11am – 3pm when there will be a lively speaker and even livelier discussions in two 90 minute sessions.

**27 September:** Karen North: *YOUCAT and its use in the home and the parish*  
Parish Centre at Newmarket

**25 October:** David McLoughlin: *What does the New Testament Tell us about the Jesus and family?*

Parish Centre at Newmarket  
**1 December** John Morrill and others: *The family in modern Catholic thought* Pastoral Centre at Poringland

For more on the work of the Commission, visit the Evangelisation page on the diocesan website - the address is on the front page.





## Bishop celebrates saint's feast day

Bishop Alan visited St Augustine's near Costessey near Norwich to join in the celebrations for their patron saint's feast day.

The morning started with Mass and the day finished with St Augustine's annual football and netball tournaments.

In between Bishop Alan was treated to a play that acted out the arrival of St Augustine to British shores. He also met many of the children during a tour of the school.

Some of the children asked Bishop Alan about his role in



Bishop Alan talking to pupils in one of the classes at St Augustine's the church and diocese.

He was also surprised and impressed by the length of time educating children in and around Costessey, as the school approaches the 200th anniversary of its foundation.

## Religious attend day of reflection at school

**Sr Thomas More Prentice FDC, assistant to the Vicar for Religious, welcomed everyone to the Sacred Heart Convent in Swaffham for a second day of recollection, reflection and communal wellbeing.**

**Pictured are some of the representatives who came from congregations based across the diocese.**

**It is hoped that there will be a meeting when brother and priest religious will join with the Sisters for an event in the future.**



## Art group makes Stations of Cross

Inspired by artists Eric Gill and Antony Gormley Year 8 art students at St Bedes created the Stations of the Cross out of cardboard and plaster bandage, stop-motion animation and air-hardening clay.

The students also studied many different ways of telling the story of Christ's passion in 14 stages.

Photographs of Year 8 clay work were used in Easter

worship. Set to music, the images retold the story of Christ's Passion. The art group are continuing with the project and will be working with the RE department to produce devotional material to accompany the artwork.

Finished set of Stations will be exhibited at school and will also be available for loan to local churches during Lent 2015.

## Pupils fasting funds Taizé visit

Pupils and staff from St John Fisher in Peterborough plan to visit the monastic community of Taizé. Currently, 25 students have signed up but they need to raise funds to cover travel and expenses. They recently held a sponsored 24 hour fast spending the evening and night in school, where they played games, got to know each other and took part in night prayer before settling down. There were some tired faces the next day.

### £2,514 for charity

St Martha's in King's Lynn were awarded the Bepak prize for having the greatest number of participants in the Grand East Anglia Run Mini GEAR and 10k Challenge.

The 120 strong team, pictured right, were past and present pupils, governors, staff and parents. They ran, jogged and walked to raise funds for the Whizz Kidz charity that supplies



wheelchairs and mobility equipment to allow children to participate in sports. The school received £800 in prize money and the team raised £2,514 for the charity.

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## Families help children with reading

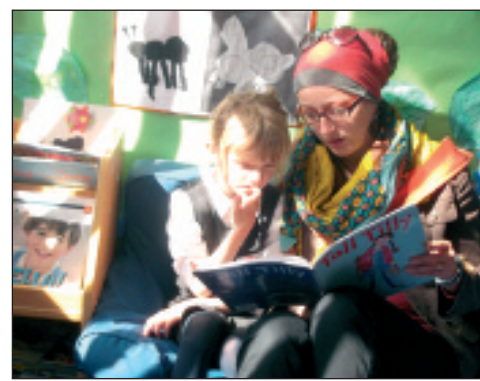
Parents and grandparents of children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 at St Felix School in Haverhill came to school to work alongside their children on Parent Partnership Day.

The theme of the day was "reading" and was introduced by literacy specialist Sarah Gallagher who then worked with the children to make "story sticks".

Other activities included a nursery rhyme hide and seek, baking bread, dough letters, painting rhyming pictures and word and sentence searches. Some comments included: "This was a very informative and worthwhile session"

"Fun, great activities, well planned and lovely to be able to work alongside our children, I've been to both sessions and will definitely come again!"

Mrs Naylor, Parent Partnership Coordinator, said "It was good to see so many of our parents from our diverse school community sharing the joy of reading in all its facets."



The children in Key Stage 2 held a similar event in June.

## Firefighters boost history study

Year Two children at St Francis of Assisi in Norwich had some very exciting visitors to help with their topic of The Great Fire of London.

Red Watch crew, pictured with the children, brought their fire engine onto the playground and told the children all about its equipment, when and how it is used. Unfortunately, they had to cut their visit short because of an emergency at Norwich Airport.

The emergency had a



happy ending, with no one hurt and they returned later.

The children had recreated Pudding Lane using boxes and one of the teachers, Ms Gilmore set fire to them.

Amidst lots of excited squeals, chatter and laughter, Red Watch crew put out the fire, ably assisted by Macey Kelly.

One child said: "It was awesome!"





People of all ages had a great time at the Celebrate weekend with activities, workshops, prayer, fun and games at St Benedict's school.

## Diary dates

For more details see [www.catholic eastanglia.org/youth](http://www.catholic eastanglia.org/youth)  
**July 4 – 6**

**Invocation - St Mary's College in Birmingham**

Discernment weekend full of opportunities to think more deeply about who God is calling you to be.  
**July 12 – 13**

**Ignite Youth Festival**

Our main event of the year. For anyone of secondary school age to young adults.

**July 26 – August 4**  
**Young Adults Pilgrimage to Taizé**

**August 4 – 9**  
**New Dawn Conference**  
 National family event in Walsingham.

**August 18 – 25**  
**Pilgrimage to Lourdes**  
 Joining the Diocesan Pilgrimage. For those aged 17+.

**August 21 – 25**  
**Youth 2000 Festival**  
 National prayer festival in Walsingham. A group from the diocese is going  
**August 25 – 28**  
**Diocesan Summer Camp at Eccles Hall**  
 Faith, food and fun in the heart of the Norfolk countryside.  
 For those aged 8 – 14.

## Contact details

The Diocesan Youth Office,  
 The White House, 21  
 Upgate, Poringland,  
 Norwich, Norfolk NR14  
 7SH Tel: (01508) 492202  
 Mobile: (0781) 2004934  
 Email: [dys@east-anglia-diocese.org.uk](mailto:dys@east-anglia-diocese.org.uk)  
 Leave a message if no answer.



## Prayer festival invitation

The Youth 2000 Prayer Festival is to be held at Walsingham between 21-25 August and all aged 16-35 are invited.  
 "Through Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, confession, scripture and devotion to Our Lady, the festival is an opportunity for young people to experience the love of God, to receive the grace of conversion and to begin living anew the Christian life," diocesan youth director Hamish MacQueen said.

"This is the first time we have gone as a group but others who have gone as individuals said it was awesome!" he said.



**STOP PRESS: MPFREE (HIP-HOP MC AND DJ) NOW CONFIRMED FOR IGNITE.**

If you are secondary school age upwards, come to Our Diocesan Youth Festival! For information and booking go to: [www.ignitefestival.co.uk](http://www.ignitefestival.co.uk)

## Celebrate - family event

Over 300 people gathered at St Benedict's School in Bury St Edmunds for the Celebrate East Anglia conference in May.

Families, individuals, couples, priests, religious, young and old came from across the diocese and beyond, to pray and deepen their faith in a joyful atmosphere.

Approximately a third of those attending were under 18.

"It was really exciting that so many young people came," Hamish MacQueen, one of the organisers, said.

The theme of the weekend was 'Jesus, the hope of all the world' (Matthew 12:21). Jenny Baker, regional coordinator for Celebrate, welcomed everyone on Saturday morning and spoke of the joy and hope that God offers us.

Participants were invited to explore and experience that Christian hope over two days of prayer, worship and teaching. Music accompanied daily Mass and there were opportunities for praise, adoration and to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Children and young people were very well catered for, with five separate age streams for babies up to teens.

Experienced leaders ran each stream

and laid on age-appropriate activities and Christian teaching, giving Mums and Dads the chance to listen to guest speakers and to attend workshops.

One parent said: "My children were apprehensive before we came but have had a brilliant time and are nagging us already to come back next year!"

"It was great for them to spend time with other young people for whom faith is a central part of their lives."

A choice of five different workshops was on offer each day, covering a range of topics, from Fr Sean Connolly exploring CS Lewis and heaven, to Fiona Hendy talking about her work with orphans in Tanzania.

Participants said the workshops were a highlight, delivered by inspiring and knowledgeable speakers.

The event closed with a packed Mass on Sunday afternoon, the feast of the Ascension, celebrated by Bishop Alan. He emphasised the great need to evangelise in our diocese and beyond.

One organiser, Phil Walters said: "There was a real sense of joy. People have told us that Celebrate gave them a boost, renewed them. The Holy Spirit moved and inspired people."

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The group from St Philip Howard included altar servers for the day, left. Bishop Alan addresses the pilgrims before crowning the statue of Our Lady, above. Seamus O'Connell arriving at the shrine, right above and below.

# Mary, Mother of Evangelisation, our



Walking to the shrine and the Chapel of Reconciliation in silence



Mary, the Mother of Evangelisation was the theme for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham this year.

People from a large number of parishes gathered in the village on the early May Bank Holiday Monday for the crowning of the statue of Our Lady before setting out on a walk to the shrine in silence.

Led by members of the King's Lynn parish the pilgrims meditated on the theme of Mary as a Woman of Faith and as a model for holiness as they walked.

The prayer during the crowning of the statue emphasised the gospel message that those who excel in love and service are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

As the pilgrims made their way along the road they were encouraged to recite the Rosary following the Mysteries of Light - the Baptism of Jesus, the Wedding at Cana, the Proclamation of the Kingdom, the Transfiguration and the Institution of the Eucharist.

The altar servers and parish of St Philip Howard at Cherry Hinton near Cambridge also played a prominent part in the day.

They accompanied the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham which was carried at the head of the procession to be placed before the altar at the Chapel of Reconciliation on arrival at the shrine.

As the pilgrims assembled at the shrine an act of entrustment of the diocese to Mary was made.

Bishop Alan read the text which included the words: "The church of East Anglia, through the voice of the successor of St Felix, in union with the priests, deacons, religious and laity assembled here, seeks refuge in your motherly protection and trustingly begs your intercession as we face the challenges which lie hidden in the future."

The prayer closed with a plea: "To you, Dawn of Salvation, we once more commend our diocese, so that with you as guide all people of East Anglia may know Christ, the light of the world and its only Saviour."

In his homily at the Mass, the bishop said how blessed the Diocese was to have Our Lady of Walsingham as our main patron and to have Our Lady's national shrine at the heart of the Diocese.

He continued by reflecting on the story of the Annunciation to Mary. Through her response to God's request, she becomes the vessel through which he himself entered our world and became man.

"He assumed our human life in order that we might one day share in his eternal life.

"Mary is the first fruits of this sacred exchange- she shares her humanity with Jesus Christ at the moment of the Incarnation and at the end of her life she is given a share in his

divine life

He emphasised that the Church was a place of worship - these things are greater than anything coming from us.

"As we live our lives, so and how we live. Prayer helps us to her Son."

"Mary is the Church - the other us that we can be a part of the new world entrusted to us."

"Only we understand that we can be a part of the new world entrusted to us."

"Strengthened by the show the through Jesus. With this departed

## Fishers of men at soggy diocesan

A large gathering from around the diocese met in Friday Market Place on the Tuesday of half term week at the end of May and were very warmly welcomed by Bishop Alan on a not-so-warm, damp and soggy day.

It was the bishop's first experience of the Diocesan Children's Pilgrimage to Walsingham.

He offered a prayer and a hymn to Our Lady outside the parish church in the village and then, with the help of Fr Pat Cleary, led the very brave, happy and joyful children, parents, grandparents and all down the mile to the shrine following the old railway path, in heavy rain.

**Words by Christine Storman  
Pictures by Michelle Byrne**

The children carried a large statue of Our Lady of Walsingham, read prayers and sang hymns along the way.

One was "Walk with me .... through the darkest night and BRIGHTEST DAY!!!"

They arrived at the Chapel of Reconciliation VERY wet but still smiling ready for 12 noon Mass when each child was given a fish (of a colourful decorated cardboard variety) to hold!

Children from different parishes led the reading and psalm, prayers of intercession and brought up the offertory gifts.

Bishop Alan involved the children in a homily which covered the themes of evangelisation,

vocation and St Augustine whose feast day was being celebrated.

He had planted the letters of VOCATION in the congregation and those who found them were invited to the altar to spell out the message.

The bishop then spoke of Mary accepting her vocation from God to be the mother of his son.

St Augustine also accepted his vocation as priest and teacher, agreeing to sail to England to bring the faith. He became the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

To underline the gospel message all had just heard, Bishop Alan pointed out that St Augustine was a Fisher of Men.

We had heard about Jesus calling Peter and Andrew, James and John to put down their nets and follow him as he would make them fishers of men for God.

The bishop then invited all the children to throw their fish into a large net which was spread across the front of the altar as a sign they intended to become fishers of other boys and girls by talking to them about Jesus their friend.

Bishop Alan's blessing and an enthusiastic "Our God Reigns" concluded the Mass with Diocesan Youth Service director Hamish MacQueen and head teacher Gerry Batty providing the music.

Due to the exceptional conditions, the picnic lunch was held in the Chapel of Reconciliation with the Blessed Sacrament reserved elsewhere.



The children persevered on their walk to the Chapel of Reconciliation







Bishop Alan  
getting out and



# model

“e in heaven,” the bishop said. He emphasised that Mary provides the with a pattern for her life of prayer and – Mary treasured and pondered all things in her heart. God is calling us to a holiness of life said the bishop, by becoming more like Jesus Christ in our lives. “reflect on the mysteries of Christ and so we open our lives to these mysteries they should be reflected in our own praying the rosary helps us to do this for us to experience Mary drawing us closer in,” he said. “prays within the communion of the she prays with the apostles and with women followers of Jesus. She reminds e cannot go it alone as Christians – our union with Jesus Christ means being in union with other believers – with the

when we grow in holiness and in our understanding of and our love for Jesus Christ witness to others – to share in the work of evangelisation and to help transform the mission with which we have been entrusted. “strengthened by the model of Mary we can offer the world a new way of loving and living in Jesus Christ,” Bishop Alan concluded. “in their minds and hearts the pilgrims return home after Mass.



The diocesan choir at practice, above, before the Pilgrim Mass begins. Deacon Paul Hirons, below with Bishop Alan, Fr Padraig Hawkins and bishop-elect of Brentwood at the time Fr Alan Williams, the shrine director



# an children's pilgrimage

Bishop Alan mixed and mingled with the children and their families and posed for many pictures with them during lunch. The bishop, clergy, shrine staff, musicians and Irish group organisers had all worked together to provide a very happy day despite the weather

which Fr Cormac McNamara from the shrine summed up beautifully at the end of Mass when he said: “If you are going to bring this many fish to a place then God has to provide enough water!!!” And he did but it may be SUNSHINE next year.



Bishop Alan with the children who became fishers of men at their pilgrimage to Walsingham



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## News from communities and parishes around the Diocese

**Resort celebrates feast of Our Lady of Fatima**

Hundreds of people came out to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima in the seaside resort of Great Yarmouth on her feast day.

A procession through the town was arranged by the large Portuguese community and the celebrations began with a Mass in Portuguese at St Mary's.

A statue of Our Lady of Fatima was blessed and crowned and the people walked in procession from the church to the pier via the shopping centre.

People in the procession prayed the rosary in English and Portuguese as well as singing hymns.

Parishioner Joe Kelf said: "The congregation of almost 500 consisted of Portuguese people, English, and other nationalities, united together in a joyful expression of their faith and love for Our Lady.

"Crowds watched in respectful silence as the procession passed by, and customers and waitresses came out of the restaurants to see it.

"Windows in flats over the shops were seen to open on the warm evening, and

many people were noticed making the sign of the cross as the statue went by.

"The statue was provided for the occasion and brought from London by the World Apostolate of Our Lady of Fatima.

"It is one of 18 statues blessed by Pope John Paul II and distributed around the world."

"After returning to the church many of the people lit candles, and made vows and promises to Our Lady, while hymn singing went on until the late evening," Joe said.



Fr Martin Rear crowns the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in the church, left, and later crowds in procession celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Fatima on the streets of Great Yarmouth, right.



## Foodbanks show poverty growing

Following the article in the last edition about the importance of foodbanks amid growing poverty in the eastern counties the issue has become more desperate and more pressing for many people.

It has been publicised in the local press that 1,420 people received three days' emergency food from Wisbech foodbank in 2013-14.

Foodbank figures are the "tip of the iceberg" of food poverty claims the Trussell Trust, the UK's largest foodbank network.

Wisbech foodbank said it was seeing growing numbers asking for help.

"This shouldn't be happening in the seventh richest country in the world," a spokesman said.

"We don't think anyone should have to go hungry, which is why we're so grateful for the incredible generosity of local people in donating food, funds and time to stop local hunger."

Last year local people donated 12,472 tonnes of food to Wisbech foodbank, and over 30 volunteered. Local schools, businesses and faith groups have provided vital support to the foodbank.

## Pope given police helmet by officer



A Norfolk police officer celebrating the centenary of the Catholic Police Guild presented Pope Francis with a Metropolitan Police helmet at the General Audience in St Peter's Square. Chairman Andrew Natrass was one of 30 members of the Guild who were on pilgrimage in Rome in May. He is pictured handing the helmet to Pope Francis. The guild's chaplain Fr Barry Lomax presented to the Pope a copy of the guild's prayer illustrated by Sr Elizabeth (OSB) and Sister Bede (OSB) of St Cecilia's Abbey on the Isle of Wight.

## Healing Mass becoming tradition

**A Mass of Healing with anointing of the sick celebrated at St George's in Norwich during Holy Week by Fr Sean Connolly was followed by a gathering in the hall for tea and coffee. The celebration has become a "tradition" for Holy Week in the parish.**



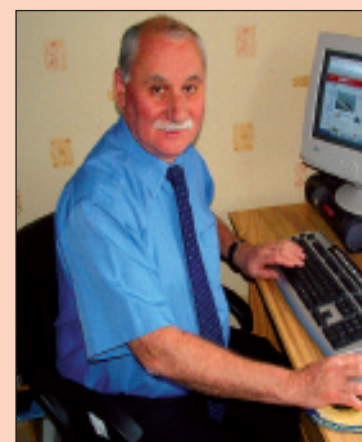
Thanks to everyone who sends in material. As with all change and new developments we are still making minor alterations to improve the look and content of your newspaper so please bear with us.

I ask contributors again to send pictures as files on their own and not included inside documents.

Please give documents a descriptive name rather than just labelled diocesan article or news.

Send material to:  
Patrick Byrne  
The Editor,  
Catholic East Anglia,  
The White House, 21 Upgate, Poringland, Norfolk NR14 7SH.  
Tel: 01603 627409 and email: [patrick.byrne5@virginmedia.com](mailto:patrick.byrne5@virginmedia.com)  
**Deadlines: Catholic East Anglia is bi-monthly and printed early in the month.**

**Material must arrive by 18 JULY for the SEPTEMBER 2014 issue.**







## Biking for child charity

A 77-year-old grandfather from Poringland parish has cycled hundreds of miles from Le Puy in France to the shrine of Santiago de Compostella in Spain to raise money for East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH).

As we went to press Ray Sykes and his wife's cousin Derek Reeh have raised £3,000 in the Pilgrimage Cycling Challenge.

They had no back up car so everything they needed was carried in panniers on the very hilly trail.

It was touch and go from the first day whether they would complete the journey as Ray set out with a severe pain in his thigh which slowed him up considerable and meant he might not have been able to continue!

With the help of a chemist

who strapped it up with plaster dressing and a support bandage, and prescribed pain killers to be taken every 4-5 hours, he was able to continue.

The pair aimed to cycle 40-50 miles a day to complete the pilgrimage in 24 days.

They were due home on 11 June after we went to press but Ray's wife Judith said: "There have been some very hard days and various problems along the way.

"But the donations are making Ray more and more determined to complete this enormous challenge.

"I think the fact that Ray is 77 years old and is determined to prove age is no barrier to fundraising has been of great interest to a lot of people which is why the press did a feature on him



Ray Sykes and Derek Reeh setting out on their biking pilgrimage with all they need stowed in panniers

and why he was interviewed on local TV.

"Ray and Derek are doing this pilgrimage properly by staying in the pilgrims' accommodation, attending Mass whenever possible and saying morning prayer

together every day before they set off cycling.

"They have very many intentions and people on their prayer lists," she said.

Ray's donation website is [www.justgiving.com/Judith-Sykes](http://www.justgiving.com/Judith-Sykes)

## Grandparents group plea for statue of St Anne

The newly founded Catholic Grandparents Association is looking for a statue of St Anne and Our Lady together to grace their meetings and other events.

A school, religious order, church or other organisation may have one which is stored away.

St Anne and St Joachim are the grandparents of Jesus and so are the patron saints for the association.

The grandparent's feast day, 26 July, is the day of the National Grandparents Pilgrimage, in England & Wales celebrated in Walsingham.

If anyone can help please contact

Sona McCullough on 01328 560333.

In June there was the first CGA branch meeting in Walsingham, the first branch in the East Anglia diocese.

Sona said she has never heard of a statue of St Joachim, only icons but someone knows different and she would like to hear from them.

## Ethiopian priests say 'thank you'

Two Ethiopian priests visited Peterborough parishioners who have been supporting their community through international charity CAFOD.

St Luke's Roman Catholic Church in Orton Malborne has been involved in CAFOD's Connect2 fundraising scheme for a year and has raised more than £1,500 to help the people of Sebeja.

They plan to raise £5,000 over three years and Sebeja parish priest Abba Solomon Beyene Tesfayohannes visited to thank St Luke's for their support in tackling extreme poverty.

People in the area cannot produce enough food due to the severe drought.

Along with Abba Teum Berhe Dane, who is diocesan director of CAFOD's charity partner in the country, they explained how St Luke's support was making a tangible difference.

Abba Solomon said: "St Luke's support gives us strength and helps with many problems in our community."

UK supporters have enabled Sebeja villagers to build an irrigation facility,

help people living with HIV/AIDS and support and empower women suffering from domestic violence and abuse. They have also given vital training to unskilled people and given set-up grants to start small businesses.

St Luke's parish priest Fr John Minh said: "I jumped at the chance of supporting a place through CAFOD where we could get to have proper contact with the people we were actually raising money for. I want the parish to learn from them too. It is a spiritual connection as well."

CAFOD diocesan manager Stephen Matthews said: "We have become a global family through CAFOD's Connect2 and it is wonderful for parishioners to meet face to face with the community they helped.

The priests received a statue of Our Lady of Walsingham and said it would be on display back in Sebeja where there was great devotion to Our Lady.

Parishioners from St George's Church in Norwich, who have also been fundraising for Sebeja, were also there.



Parishioners at St Luke's church in Peterborough welcomed two priests from Ethiopia who thanked them for their financial support



At Mass before setting off again

## Hospitality for Holy Week walkers

Parishioners in Harleston once again welcomed students on the Essex Leg of the cross pilgrimage to Walsingham.

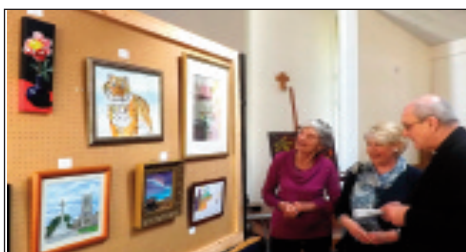
Twenty pilgrims with their support team arrived weary at the Chapel of St Thomas More in Harleston (part of the Bungay parish), after a 20-mile walk from Framlingham, on the Tuesday of Holy Week.

Parishioners from Harleston, Fressingfield, Starston, Weybread and Hempsall took them home, offered them a shower and cooked them a hearty pilgrim supper, before returning them to the chapel building for a night's sleep on the floor of the hall.

"Next morning parishioner Peter Williams was there at 6.30am to cook them bacon butties, before one of the two accompanying Franciscan priests said Mass for both students and parishioners," Mary Kirk from Bungay parish said.

## Art show for parish funds

An exhibition to display the work of local artists at the Church of the Annunciation in Poringland has raised £1,421 for the parish. Bishop Alan is pictured opening the exhibition to fund proposed works in the church which hosts a growing community from the surrounding villages.



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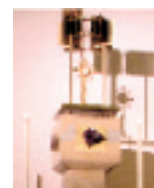
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# NEWS

from

THE  
CATHEDRAL  
OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

## Second art show



The Cathedral is joining a summer extravaganza of art across the city of Norwich with its second exhibition in the Narthex. The week long exhibition will begin on Tuesday 15 July and will be called JOINED UP ART: Art in all media 2014

It will be the second time the Narthex has hosted a summer art exhibition after the success of the 2013 event.

The show includes both well-established and emerging artists from around the region.

The exhibition will be open from 10.30am to 4pm and is open to all and will include all art forms. Entrance to the exhibition is free of charge for visitors.

## New sound system now on

Trials are underway for a new sound system at St John the Baptist Cathedral.

The existing system is 24-years-old and in need of modernising as the cathedral has changed and technology has leaped ahead.

Three sets of trials using different speakers in a variety of positions have been held since Christmas and each one has shown a marked improvement.

Deacon Patrick Limacher said more than 200 people wrote in to say the first trial had resulted in a significant improvement to their hearing.

The next two drew positive results but not on the scale of the first.

The number of new modern speakers is to be reduced from 24 to 12. New cables will be fed through the existing ducting and much of the wire hidden from view.

"The large case containing the sound

equipment now kept in one of the confessionals will become a small control unit, the size of a DVD player, which will be hidden away on a shelf.

"We hope to have the new system installed and running by the autumn and certainly by next Christmas," he said.

Output from individual microphones on the altar and attached to vestments can be controlled by remote by the MC at a service.

The loop system will still work for those with hearing difficulties.

The system will be a vast improvement on the previous one which had come to the end of its working life.

Certain parts, such as cable ducting, will be retained to keep costs down as the new system is likely to cost in the region of £50,000, Patrick said.



One of the new speakers near the statue of St John the Baptist in the Nave



At the display mounted by the Secular Franciscans are Jo Anderton, Anne Murrin, Francis Walsh and Hamish MacQueen

### Secular Franciscans explain life

Secular Franciscans put on a display at the Chrism Mass to explain their way of life.

A booklet was given out to those who were interested which described the greatest benefit from belonging to the

order: "to be heir to its time-tested and well balanced spirituality which is rooted firmly in the gospels".

More information can be obtained from Robert Hardie on 01603 897609.

### Treasures of cathedral



A selection of some of the artifacts that have graced the cathedral and been used in its services earlier in its history are on display



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# BUILDING BRIDGES in The Holy Land

*Pope Francis prefers to dine with the poor and downtrodden to hear about their plight*



Pope Francis spoke with power and humility

Who is coming to lunch with the Pope was the question posed to people in the Holy Land when he made his historic visit recently.

After Mass in Manger Square the Pope enjoyed lunch with local families.

When planning for the visit Bishop William Shomali, auxiliary Bishop of Jerusalem said: “Pope Francis wants to spend a little time with the poor families in Bethlehem and their children to listen to them, permitting them to feel his closeness and tenderness.

“He did not want to have lunch with the cardinals, bishops and politicians, but with poor families. It took time to understand the reasons for this gesture. It really makes the Pope admired: how Jesus wants to stay close to the poor.”

The Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land, which oversaw the organization of the entire trip of the Holy Father appointed a committee for the task of choosing which families would join the Pope for lunch.

The Committee established criteria for identifying “categories” of poverty. Each family was then selected to represent a certain category of need.

Bishop Shomali again: “Our poor are those who suffer for humanitarian reasons, political and social. We contacted the parishes and consulted many people. Many lay people offered us names.

“We discussed together and finally arrived at a final list. Many would have liked to be selected, but it was not possible to please everyone. It was a tough choice!”

So who has been chosen? A family from Ikrit, a village in northern Galilee that was evacuated and razed in 1948 by the Israeli Army. Only the church was

spared. Although there have been court decisions, Christian Arab inhabitants were never able to return to their village.

Another family from the group of 58 families who have land in Cremisan area of Beit Jala, next to Bethlehem. According to the planned route of the separation wall built by Israel, their land will be on the other side of the wall and therefore inaccessible for the owners.

There are ongoing negotiations with the legal authorities that we hope will have a positive outcome.

Another family chosen was one that represents those who struggle for a family reunion. One spouse lives in Jerusalem, the other in the Occupied Territories. Under Israeli law, it is difficult for the Palestinian spouse to obtain a permit for permanent residence in Jerusalem.

Another family chosen has a son sentenced to life imprisonment, another a son exiled to Gaza for political reasons. Another one comes from the Gaza Strip, which is a big prison. These are the families selected for this occasion.

It was a diverse group: parents with children, young and middle aged families and some of the families will have elderly relatives with them. There will be 20 people in total, just according to the number requested in order that the Pope will have the opportunity to talk with them and listen to them.

After Mass, they will meet at the Casanova pilgrim hostel, managed by the Franciscan friars. Lunch will



Meeting young people was a priority

last about an hour. Having taken their place at table with the Pope Francis, they will discuss with him their situation and receive from him words of comfort. Some families speak Italian and some Spanish.

There will be an Argentine friar who speaks Arabic to help with translation.

In conclusion Bishop Shomali said: “This is a lesson for us bishops and priests. We need to get closer to the suffering people of God, and not live isolated in our homes.

“The Pope says we are always to go out, to go to the others, to go in search of the sheep and not wait until the sheep seeks the shepherd. This is a great example for us.

“The Pope will not see all the misery of the Holy Land, but he is meeting a number of families, hearing their cares and concerns. It gives us a good boost, it inspires us to continue our mission.”



Pope Francis was greeted by members of all communities

## CAN YOU HELP?

Our two ‘Building Bridges’ projects this year are renovating the Taybeh Old People’s Centre in the Holy Land and a new formation centre for children, youth groups and adults at Battambang in Cambodia.

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Bishop Alan with members of several faiths at the meeting in Peterborough where he gave the keynote address

## Bishop gives keynote interfaith talk

Bishop Alan gave the keynote address at the annual general meeting of the Peterborough Interfaith Group when the theme of the day was Love thy Neighbour.

He had been invited to address faith representatives by the group chairman Dr Jaspal Singh.

The invitation was prompted by Brian Keegan from St Peter’s and All Souls’ parish, who was very keen for Bishop Alan to meet members of Peterborough’s non-Christian faith groups.

The city is host to the largest number of different faith groups in

the diocese. Brian is the chair of the diocesan committee on Inter Religious Dialogue.

He said the bishop drew extensively on the writings of Pope Francis in his speech.

“Bishop Alan demonstrated that this precept of love for neighbour is common to all the major religions.

“Echoing the Holy Father’s words he urged his listeners to continue the great work which they are undertaking.

“Community is enhanced and built up by people seeing what they

have in common and working together for the common good. This is the message of Jesus,” the Bishop said.

Bishop Alan was followed by speakers from all the other main faith groups and, Gillian Beasley, chief executive of Peterborough City Council, who reminded the audience just how many services for the poor and vulnerable are provided by local authorities.”

“Following the addresses the Bishop mingled with the audience as everybody enjoyed delicious vegetarian food,” Brian said.



