



Flotilla of boats honours Our Lady
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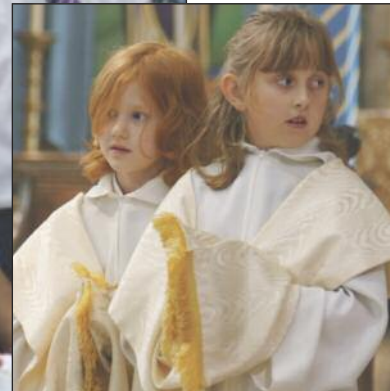


St Teresa is inspiration at Ipswich school
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700 gather at Diocese of East Anglia Schools Mass in Norwich



Scenes from the Schools Mass and picnic at the Cathedral in Norwich.



Lighting up new academic year

Over 700 students and teachers from Catholic schools right across the Diocese of East Anglia gathered at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich on September 29 at a special Schools Mass to celebrate the start of the academic year and ask for God's blessing on it. Keith Morris reports.

Organised by the Ipswich group of Catholic schools, the Mass included representatives of 26 schools from Peterborough, Cambridge, Ipswich, Norwich, Swaffham, Bungay, Beccles, Newmarket, Bury St Edmunds, Lowestoft and Gorleston.

The Mass, which was led by Bishop Alan, also celebrated the Jubilee Year of Mercy and special candles were given out to each school to take back with them, representing unity across

the Diocese.

In return, each school presented Bishop Alan with a book containing the names of all of their pupils and staff to be prayed for during the Mass.

Theresa Barker, head teacher of St Mark's Primary in Ipswich, and one of the organisers of the Mass, said: "It's wonderful that children and staff representing all of the schools in the Diocese can come together in this Year of Mercy to celebrate the beginning of a new academic year.

"Even although almost 700 people have come here today, many more in our schools are with us in spirit and are named in the books that each school brought up at the offertory. And it's fitting that, through the candles, each school has received today, we can all continue the togetherness and joy of this Mass throughout the year ahead."

During his homily, Bishop Alan explained that the candles, which were given to each school, have a

picture of Jesus Christ carrying a lost sheep over his shoulder.

"It reminds us of God's wonderful love and mercy which he shows to each one of us. Jesus goes out of His way to seek the one who has lost his way. He calls you and me to follow Him. Not because we are perfect but precisely because we are imperfect. He calls us because he knows he can change us and give us purpose in life - and make a difference to the world in which we live."

Young Cathedral choristers were joined by others from various Ipswich schools to form a special choir for the occasion, and other Ipswich pupils read the lessons and prayers.

After the Mass, everyone went outside into the sunny Cathedral Narthex gardens to enjoy a picnic lunch.

■ For a full picture gallery visit: www.flickr.com/photos/diocesofeastanglia

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news in brief

New parish hall is built on faith

■ Over 120 people squeezed into the newly refurbished hall at Our Lady's Catholic Church in March on September 12 for the formal opening and blessing by Bishop Alan.

Parishioners mingled with the architects and builders along with guests from other churches and the wider community to hear Bishop Alan remind them that unless we have faith, the future can become rather daunting.

A short ceremony opened the evening where, after a reading from the Bible, Bishop Alan spoke about the huge achievement the parish had made in providing such a beautiful resource for themselves and for the wider community.

Parish Priest, Fr Paul Maddison, thanked all who had been involved in the venture and all who had donated over £115,000 in just two years towards the overall cost of £250,000. He said he "had faith" that the remaining money would come and welcomed the addition of the new hall to the life of the parish and the town.

After a vote of thanks from two of the parishioners at Our Lady's everyone enjoyed a fantastic spread and a celebratory drink.

Christian soldier

■ The 100th anniversary of heroic Lowestoft Christian soldier, Sergeant Claud Castleton VC, was marked by a memorial service at St Nicholas Catholic Church on July 29 attended by around 60 people including civic leaders and Waveney MP Peter Aldous.

Private Claud Castleton fought as an infantryman in Gallipoli before embarking for France and joining the 5th Brigade Machine Gun company as a Sergeant. His life ended in the hellish area of no man's land on the western front at the Battle of Pozieres Ridge.

Claud's conspicuous act of bravery was in leaving the shelter of his trench position to retrieve two wounded men from shell holes. He was carrying a third when he himself became mortally wounded.

Catholic East Anglia

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

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Articles and photographs for the next edition are very welcome and should be sent to the editor, ideally via email, by the deadline of November 28.

Diocese website: www.rcdea.org.uk

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All parishes invited to join Alive in Faith

Alive in Faith is having a positive impact, in many differing ways across the Diocese. Some 24 parishes have successfully played their part, 12 more are now involved and all remaining parishes will soon get started. Mgr Philip Shryane, Chair of the Campaign Advisory Committee, shared some of the recent highlights.

■ A Catholic community goes beyond the parish. We all have a responsibility for passing on the faith and strengthening our Church for this and future generations.

Every parish in the Diocese is therefore invited to take part in *Alive in Faith*.

This special and necessary initiative is committed to: providing support to clergy in both formation and retirement, ensuring vibrant parishes and supporting those on the margins through social outreach.

Other benefits of the campaign include, clergy and volunteers getting to know parishioners better, and parishes undertaking transformational projects that wouldn't have otherwise been possible.

■ To keep updated on the latest campaign news and to watch the new *Alive in Faith* video, please visit: www.rcdea.org.uk/alive-in-faith

Wonderful legacy

"All three priorities of *Alive in Faith* are incredibly important for the People of God in our Diocese for the practice of their faith and in their vocation to hand it on to others... Individually, we can accomplish little, but collectively, and with God's grace, we can create a wonderful legacy."

Bishop Alan



Alive in Faith

Building a Sure Foundation for the Mission of Our Diocese

Cathedral comes alive with faith

■ The Cathedral of St John the Baptist took part in *Alive in Faith* at the start of the year. Raising over £380,000 and retaining £150,000 of this for their parish projects, they are now initiating a range of events, aimed at exploring and deepening the parish community's relationship with God. This has already included:

■ A three-day 'Walk with the Lord' residential retreat in Beccles for the catechists, young people and their families

■ Cathedral Chronicles Camp which saw 37 children between the ages of 4-16 taking part in various activities such as treasure hunts, art and baking classes, and movie afternoons (pictured above)

■ A talk from a guest speaker on 'Becoming Intentional Disciples'

■ A workshop on Godly Play

■ The 'Live to the Full' retreat in Buckden for the youth group

The parish is looking forward to

Potential priests

"In the last month or so, I have interviewed three new potential candidates for the priesthood in our Diocese. If all goes well and they start seminary training next September, it is reassuring to know that we can confidently support their entire training, thanks to new and ongoing support to *Alive in Faith*."

Fr Pat Cleary, parish priest at St Laurence, Cambridge and Diocesan Vocations Director

strengthening their youth ministry further in the years ahead, thanks to the ongoing support of parishioners to *Alive in Faith*.

1,800 parishioners hear about the vision



Fr James Fyfe and Roisin O'Shea talk about *Alive in Faith*.

■ Clergy and volunteers across the Diocese are making every effort to share *Alive in Faith* personally with as many people as possible in their parishes.

Through one-to-one discussions, people are able to learn in detail about the level of support needed and the importance of the campaign. They can also ask questions and discuss pastoral matters, in a personal and private way.

The number of individual meetings has now surpassed 1,800 – an incredible milestone!

Roisin O'Shea, a volunteer at Our Lady & St. Charles Borromeo, Wisbech, spoke about the benefits of learning about the campaign in this way:

"When I first met with Fr James Fyfe about *Alive in Faith*, I really appreciated learning about this initiative first-hand from him personally. Later on, when he asked me to help share the vision with others in our parish, I gladly accepted.

"We were relatively new in the area and I saw this as a great opportunity to get to know others and the parish better," said Roisin.

First Stella Maris Mass in East Anglia

■ Bishop Alan has paid tribute to the ministry of Catholic seafarers' charity Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) in the diocese.

In his homily during a Mass held in St John the Baptist Cathedral, Norwich on September 6, Bishop Alan spoke about how AoS port chaplain and ship visitors support seafarers' spiritual and welfare needs.

Bishop Alan, who visited Felixstowe port in June last year and went on board a ship to see for himself the work of AoS, added, "I have seen you at work. It is often a hidden work – but a service that has touched and continues to touch the hearts of so many seafarers."

AoS supporters, volunteers and office staff attended the inaugural Mass in East Anglia to mark the feast of Stella Maris, Our Lady Star of the Sea, and to pray for seafarers.



During Mass, AoS East Anglia port chaplain Sr Marian Davey and two ship visitors - David Offord and Julian Wong (pictured above) - were commissioned and received crosses from the Bishop. AoS' ministry covers the ports of Felixstowe, Harwich, Ipswich and King's Lynn.

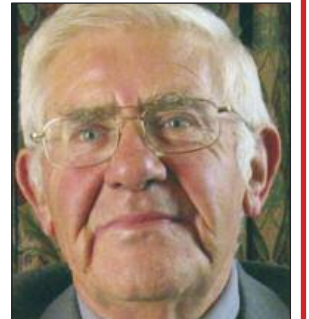
news in brief

Fr Dick inducted in Fakenham

■ For the first time in living memory, a new priest has been inducted at the Parish of Fakenham.

Fr Dick Healey was inducted by Bishop Alan on September 8 (the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady).

Priests from the King's Lynn Deanery, along with a sizeable congregation, gathered in the Church of St Anthony of Padua, to participate in the Rite of Induction of a Parish Priest.



It was an historic event, as it was something which hadn't happened in the parish within living memory of parishioners who attended.

Fr Dick was appointed to succeed Fr Tony Webb, who died at the end of May and who had been at Fakenham for eight years.

Fr Dick came to his new parish, from OLEM Cambridge, where for a member of years he served as Priest Administrator.

Following the Mass, everyone enjoyed refreshments provided by the ladies of the parish on the lawn outside the church.

Posada opportunity

■ Last Advent, parishes all across the Diocese followed the 'Posada' tradition and passed on from person to person and family to family, the beautiful statue of Joseph, Mary and the donkey, provided by the Commission for the New Evangelisation, to mark the journey of the holy couple to Bethlehem and the birth of our Saviour.

Praying together in one another's homes and offering a little hospitality to neighbours and friends as the Posada statue was handed over became a very powerful way to celebrate the season and an opportunity to talk about what Advent and Christmas means to us.

This year, again, parishes are being asked to celebrate the Posada. Ready-made sign-up forms and prayer packs have been sent to parish priests and all the resources can also be downloaded from the diocesan website.

If you didn't get the chance to host the Holy Family last year, make sure you sign up early in your parish this time. So far, we know Posada statues have visited schools and care homes as well as parishioners' homes. Where will they go this Advent?

Coming home event

■ The Catholic parish of Diss celebrated Home Mission Sunday in style with a Coming Home Weekend supper and concert. Sixty parishioners and their families and friends tucked into fish and chips in the church's community room before a dozen more joined them for the musical performance.

Fr Sandy dies at home

■ Fr Sandy Phelps died on Saturday October 22 at his home at St Philip Howard's church in Cambridge. Fr Sandy, marked his 95th birthday on September 6 and was the second oldest priest in the whole of the Diocese of East Anglia, after Mgr Augustine Hoey, who lives in Walsingham and turned 100 in mid-December 2015. There will be a full obituary in the next edition.



Flotilla of boats to honour Our Lady

A colourful flotilla of boats took part in a river procession in honour of Our Lady of Peñafrancia from Wroxham in Norfolk on September 18.

The Our Lady of Peñafrancia Feast and Fluvial Procession began at the bridge in Wroxham when up to 400 Catholic devotees from across the east of England took to three large Broads cruisers and 13 smaller ones.

The river procession was undertaken to honour the first miraculous healing attributed to Our Lady of Peñafrancia which happened in 1712 on the river at Naga City in the Bicol region of the Philippines, explained organiser Al Garchitorea.

"The occasion is also a thanksgiving to the river since it was mode of transportation and a source of water for irrigation for farms which helps to have a good harvest. The celebration is patterned and held on the same date back in the Philippines.

"The procession was organised by devotees from Norwich, headed by the Tribu Bicolandia, which aims to continue and share the devotion even they are thousands of miles away from home in the Philippines," said Al.

Groups from inside and outside the Diocese of East Anglia took part including from: King's Lynn, Gorleston, Bury St Edmunds, Cambridge, Steve-



The Our Lady of Peñafrancia feast and river procession. Pictures by Rob Wheeldon.

nage, Colchester, Fleggburgh, North Walsham, Louth, Lincoln and Boston. Around 600 devotees took part.

The procession continued from the Broads St Helen's Church, at Hoveton where Bishop Alan joined them for

Mass. It was concelebrated by Fr Chris Fajardo, S.J., a graduate student at the University of Oxford.

The procession was the sixth such annual event and next year's will take place on September 17, 2017.

NEW EVANGELISATION

Remember, remember...

Fr Sean Connolly takes a look at November, a month of remembering treason, war and those who have died.

■ “Remember, remember the fifth of November,” runs our folklore, “gunpowder treason and plot. We see no reason why gunpowder treason should ever be forgot.”

I’ve always thought it strange that Guy Fawkes’ foiled attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament should deserve more memory than any other act of conspiracy in our country’s long history.

However, November does seem to be a month for remembering things. A more poignant remembrance, perhaps, is the two minutes’ silence observed at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. I often think that the extension of this simple marking of Armistice Day to take on a much wider remembrance of our war dead itself reproaches us that in the past we have too often failed to remember - that we have tended to forget the horror of war and have slipped rather too easily again and again into conflict.

November is also, for many Christians throughout the world, a month for remembering our deceased loved ones and for praying for those poor souls who may have no one else alive to pray for them. November 2 sees the celebration of the Feast of All Souls and throughout this month books of remembrance are opened and Masses said for those who have died and gone before us.

As Catholics, we are encouraged to call into our churches at times we wouldn’t normally attend and say the odd prayer for the dead - to remember them before God and hope that they will come to see Him face-to-face. A quaint custom you might think but a strangely reassuring one if you ask me. I rather like the idea that, years after I’m dead and buried, somewhere some pious soul will kneel



down and put in a word for me with the Almighty.

Perhaps you think all this remembering is a bit negative: a dwelling on the past instead of a looking to the future. Remembrance is engrained upon the human psyche. We are historical people whether we like it or not and, although strictly speaking we are not entirely the product of what went before us, we are nevertheless shaped to some extent by our history.

Anyway, who doesn’t have fond memories from the past, or funny stories of long ago, or a certain longing for an earlier, easier, hassle-free time? We also remember, I believe, because we are fundamentally not alone. There are ties - personal, social, historical and spiritual - which bind us together as a family, as a nation, as a world and which cut across even time itself. Memory, especially collective memory, is an important part of that binding.

Finally, we remember precisely to make our way forward. What kind of future will we find if we don’t first own our past?

Bonfire night, with its fireworks and

its pennies for the Guy (does anyone still make those collections?), might have been an early example of cynical, political spin (a rallying of the authorities against a perceived Catholic threat) but it can nevertheless remind us today of the victory over terrorism and treachery of democracy and stable government.

Armistice Day might be no more than a meaningless military parade to our younger generation (to my generation even), but not if we really remember; not if we strive to learn from the misery of two world wars and endless other conflicts in which good people, men and women, needlessly lost their lives.

The month of the holy souls may be seen as nothing more than a pious practice. It can even lend itself to a rather odd concept of the mercy of God, as if He required our petition to permit some poor soul into paradise. On the other hand, it can serve to express our solidarity as human beings and drive home to us that we are never alone, not even in death.

Much of this month’s remembrance is historical coincidence. Guy Fawkes and the Armistice just happened to have landed in this part of the calendar. Some of it is possibly seasonal. There is a nostalgic air to this side of winter, a feeling of being caught between the summer sunshine and the cosiness of Christmas and this, for me at least, lends itself to a wistful remembering and a looking forward to new things.

And this closeness to Christmas has another aptness too. The feast of the Nativity, which celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, marks the entry into time of the eternal God. Advent’s call for the Saviour to come again and set us free makes so much more sense if we have spent some time remembering past treacheries and intrigue, and the stinking indignity of war, and the fact of our own mortality. Looking back into history through acts of remembrance makes us, hopefully, a little more open to the coming of history’s Lord. And this, ultimately, is why we remember.

Burying the dead is one of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Here are some ideas to help us live out this work in a practical way this November.

Pray

- Make time this November to pray for someone who has died this year.
- Ask your priest to have a Mass celebrated for a loved one who has died.
- Call into a church once a week to light a candle and say a prayer for the holy souls.

Study

- Read John 14: 1-6 and reflect on how our faith in Jesus’ words might help us in times of bereavement.
- Read Psalm 23 and think about how Jesus the Good Shepherd does not abandon any of his sheep, not even through the valley of the shadow of death.
- Read the Catechism of the Catholic Church nn. 1667-1690 and consider why a Christian funeral is so much more than simply a celebration of a deceased person’s life.

Give

- Support a charity that helps others cope with grief.
- Visit or call someone you know who is bereaved and lonely.
- Attend a Requiem Mass in your parish even if you don’t know the person who has passed away, as a sign of your solidarity with those in grief and an act of charity.

Share your faith

- Invite someone to Remembrance Sunday Mass.
- Help someone visit a family grave.
- Offer to pray for someone when you hear they have been bereaved.

John is a man with a mission

On top of the fridge, beside the phone, Missio Red Boxes have been a familiar sight in homes and parishes for over 75 years. Rebecca Bretherton met March parishioner, John Farrow, who fundraises for Missio.

■ How did you get involved?

■ When we still lived in London, my wife Mary and I went to the Mill Hill Missionaries as they ran marriage support programmes. The people there were ever so nice. They really helped us and we never looked back as we followed their advice about relationships. So their charity, Missio, was in the back of my mind and in my heart.

Years later, I returned from Lourdes thinking: God has sent me on a little mission for Missio. Other people said they didn’t think I was right about that. I accepted what they said and didn’t do anything. That same year, a priest came

to March and did a very nice spiel about the missions. After the talk he appealed for a volunteer fundraiser. I got the impression that everyone in church turned around to look at me. I still think that God said to them, “Look at John, because he’ll be doing it in a minute.” I said, “I’ll do it Father.” I’ve been doing it ever since.

■ So how does the fundraising work?

■ Around 40 parishioners have a Missio red box at home to put loose change in. We collect nearly £1,700 every year: such generous people! Some of them can’t give that much but give what they can. When I read about the work the missions do, I know it’s worthwhile. I would love to recruit more box holders.

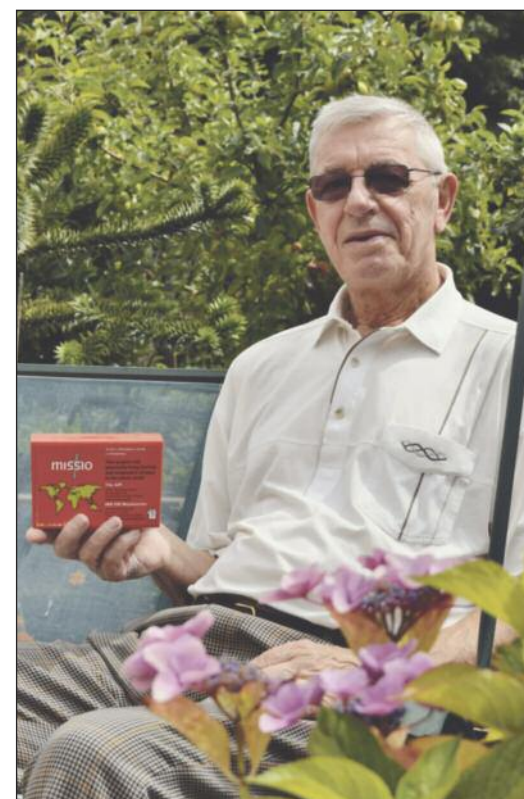
Missio make it easy by giving me everything I need. Someone once said, “You’re always on holiday. John. Now we know how you do it!” But Missio make sure all the records are there, so it keeps it straight. Sometimes it is a problem getting the full boxes back as people forget.

I write poems to remind folk and to thank them.

■ What does helping Missio mean to you?

■ I like Missio; they help priests and missionaries spread God’s love and hope to the poor people of the world. Our money goes directly to places where people earn less in a month than I can earn in a day. It may be something quite simple like a priest who needs a car service. Some of these places only get Mass twice a month if the priest can get there. We are so spoilt here.

It’s not just about the money. On the side of the Red Box it says “To be a Christian is to be a Missionary.” The box reminds people to put money in and that we are all asked to pray for missionaries and help where we can. My non Catholic friends know I fundraise for Missio and give money. The Red Box shows everyone who comes into the house that Christians help others. It’s being the Good Samaritan as God wants us to be.



John Farrow with a Missio Red Box.

Church's dream becomes reality

A 20-year old dream became a reality on September 14 when St Edmund King and Martyr Catholic church in Halesworth saw a £70,000 extension, including a new coffee and meeting room, blessed by Bishop Alan.

A congregation of around 100 people, included those with the original vision, other congregation members, priests, local church ministers and chairman of Halesworth town council Cllr Anne Fleming.

Bishop Alan told the congregation: "You have had the courage and strength to bring about the new building – a courage which speaks of faith in the future of the local Catholic community here."

"You are the living stones of the Church and you lift up the cross and our crucified Saviour every time you are seen to be a welcoming community for all those who come through these doors – serving those in need, nourishing those who seek faith and reconciliation and constantly building up yourselves in unity and love."

The church of St Edmund was consecrated in 1953 and some of those who remember those days were present at the blessing, including Simone Walker, Maureen Murphy and Peggy Brett who, 20 years ago, first had the idea of improvements and started to raise money by way of coffee mornings, jumble sales and bring and buy meetings.

Town council Chairman Anne Fleming, herself a congregation member,



Pictured above, outside the church and new extension, are from the left, Jonathan Strange, Peggy Brett, Fr Roger De Lacy-Spencer, Bishop Alan, Simone Walker, Beryl Budd, Maureen Murphy (and Tickey) and Sally Cockrell, who were all key to the project becoming a reality.

said: "In the spring of 2014 the plan took shape when Fr Roger De Lacy-Spencer gave the go-ahead to improve the church. We now have a new coffee room, a new disabled toilet, a new sacristy and a better entrance to the church. Nearly £70,000 was raised through efforts of the parishioners and charities."

Large donations were received from Viridor and the Rope Trust, through the efforts particularly of Sally Cockrell and Jonathan Strange of the finance committee."

After the blessing and sung Mass, guests enjoyed a glass of Champagne and a buffet lunch.



Mary's honour from Countess

Retired teacher and Minister of the Word at the Catholic Parish in Lowestoft, Mary Hunt, has been named National Childhood Champion Community Volunteer by the NSPCC for her 26 years of service to the charity.

The honour was announced at the Childhood Champion Awards lunch at the Banking Hall in London and Mary was presented with her award by NSPCC President, HRH the Countess of Wessex (pictured above).

All the nominees were recommended by fellow NSPCC volunteers and staff across the country.

Mary said: "At the lunch I felt overwhelmed and humbled to be chosen. I am delighted to receive this award and I hope others will volunteer too to raise vital funds to help protect our children from abuse, neglect and cruelty which is sadly still going on today."

Mary, who lives in Oulton Broad, is a children's catechist at the Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea Lowestoft.



A colourful celebration

St George's Catholic Church in Norwich celebrated its 50th anniversary with a three-day flower festival and art exhibition from September 10 to 12 in which Catholic parishes from across the Diocese were invited to contribute displays alongside other local churches and floral clubs.

Parish Priest, Fr Sean Connolly, said: "Fifty years ago our beautiful church was consecrated and made a spiritual home for the people of North Norwich and the flower festival and art exhibition are part of a year of celebrations."

"The festival has brought a lot of new people into the church and there is a real sense of community and feeling of God's presence."

All around the church itself were 44

floral arrangements from Catholic parishes including Stowmarket, Sheringham, North Walsham, St Ives, Gorleston, Norwich, Peterborough, Wymondham, Wisbech, Beccles, Downham Market, Hunstanton, Felixstowe, King's Lynn and Cherry Hinton. A couple of local Anglican churches and the Thorpe Floral Design Club also took part.

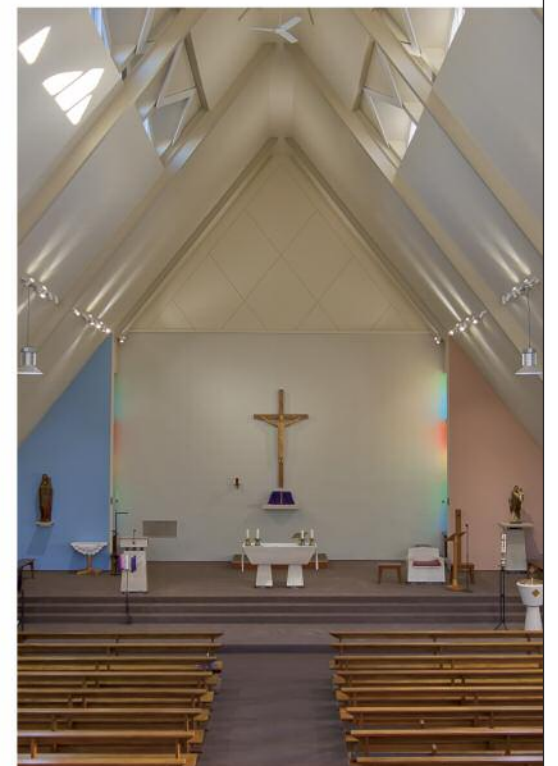
In the church hall was an art and craft exhibition, including around 120 pictures and resident artist Helen Otter, a parishioner at Our Lady in Thorpe, was also present and there was the chance for visitors to have a go.

Norwich Lord Mayor, Cllr Marion Maxwell, paid a visit on Sunday (pictured above).

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Safeguarding team training

■ A national online process for applications for Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Disclosures has been adopted by the diocese. The new e-Bulk system speeds up the DBS application process for parish volunteers.

Rebecca Bretherton, the Safeguarding Administrator, said: "To roll out e-Bulk, the Safeguarding team held seven deanery-based events this summer. We have trained 46 parish safeguarding reps to use the system. Parish safeguarding reps recruit volunteers in the parish and check the identity of all applicants.

"During an informative presentation by Nigel Sutton, we used our own documents to learn how to recognise genuine passports and driving licences. He showed us several hidden security features in every passport. Nigel reminded us that criminals can seek to work illegally and the work we do is the first line of security to prevent identity fraud in the application process.

"Everyone working in the Catholic Church in a role which includes working unsupervised with children, or vulnerable adults, needs a DBS Disclosure. For more information about Safeguarding in the diocese, please speak to your parish rep or have a look at the Safeguarding pages on the diocesan website."

Cathedral's secret places go on show

■ Hundreds of people visited the Cathedral of St John the Baptist over four Heritage Open Days from September 8 to 11, exploring its tower, cellars, Narthex and hidden gardens.

Cathedral Dean, Canon David Paul and a dedicated team of dozens of volunteers (pictured right) opened up almost every possible place with the cathedral to visitors who flocked to the free event.



Fr Erico is new chaplain for Portuguese speakers

■ In July, Fr Erico Rodridguez de Mello Falcao arrived in East Anglia from Brazil to take up an invitation from Bishop Alan to minister to the growing Portuguese-speaking Catholic community in the Diocese. Keith Morris reports.

■ The invitation was made while Fr Erico was providentially visiting the National Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham on a pilgrimage while on a visit to the UK to see a relative in London. Bishop Alan made the invitation through a religious sister in Swaffham and Fr Erico accepted.

It took him a year to sort out all the complicated paperwork in his Diocese and get an entry visa to the UK. He arrived at the end of July, just in time to attend the funeral in Cambridge of Mgr Tony Philpot who, as a Portuguese speaker, was given a specific role to work with them.

"Many Portuguese-speaking people told me about Fr Tony and his holy ministry as a priest," said Fr Erico.

With just communicative English and little knowledge of Britain, Fr Erico plunged into Peterborough as his first base to find his way around the Diocese. He estimates that there are over 1,000 Portuguese-speaking Catholics in the city from Portugal, Guinea Bissau, Daman in India and East Timor. He currently holds two Masses a month there.



Fr Erico (second left) with other pilgrims from St Dominic's (Downham Market) at the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham in September.

With the help of the Diocese, he soon got a car and some temporary accommodation at St Luke's (Peterborough), St Jude's (Whittlesey) and is now based at St Dominic's in Downham Market (West Norfolk).

Wherever he goes, he discovers more Portuguese-speaking families who have come to the UK from all over the world including also from Brazil, Mozambique and Angola.

Fr Erico has been in contact with parish priests in King's Lynn, Thetford and Great

Yarmouth to give support to the Portuguese-speaking community in these three towns and has recently taken his first Mass at Our Lady of Annunciation in King's Lynn. Others are planned in Thetford and Great Yarmouth.

"The Catholic population is small and spread around the countryside," said Fr Erico. "I have had a very warm welcome from them and I hope to help them to be alive in the faith.

"There is so much to do. First of all I am visiting parishioners to pray the

rosary with them at home, once a week in this month of the Rosary. It is an opportunity to get to know the families and they spread the good news quickly."

His connections with the Portuguese speakers increase every day and he already uses email and Facebook to spread the word – a website is planned to help with more regular communications.

Many of them told him, "Finalmente nós temos um capelão de língua Portuguesa!" (At last, we have a chaplain for Portuguese speakers).

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Joy as five new nuns join order

By Keith Morris

A Norfolk-based vice-province of Catholic nuns has received a huge boost with the addition of five new or prospective young sisters, almost doubling its previous total of seven, and the first from England in almost 40 years.

In an extremely rare public ceremony, the Daughters of Divine Charity, whose mother house is in Swaffham, welcomed a postulant, two novices and two sisters on August 28.

The two novices – Sr Mary Goncalves and Sr Anna Yeo – were admitted to the order and two sisters – Sr Renata Pivarnikova and Sr Michaela Switaj – took their first vows at a Mass presided over by Bishop Alan, at Our Lady of Pity church in Swaffham.

Such ceremonies usually take place in private inside a convent but a special exception was made this time because the two different steps of formation taking place on the same day is very rare.

Senior members of the order, which is based in Austria and has over 1,000 sisters world-wide, were present at the Mass.

In the English Sacred Heart vice-province, the sisters run the Sacred Heart school in Swaffham, a nursery in Chesterfield and a small care home in Hunstanton.

Sr Anna explained: "In the parishes where our convents are situated, many of the Sisters are Eucharistic ministers, visiting the sick, the elderly and housebound, working in youth ministry such as confirmation groups, university, parishes and youth events among other needs. All our work is to make God's love visible."

Prospective novice, postulant Judith Charmak, was welcomed into the congregation in a simple and private ceremony inside the convent before the Mass.

After two years in noviciate, sisters profess the vows of poverty, obedience and chastity for the first time, as Sr Renata and Sr Michaela did on Sunday.

The very joyful ceremony was



Above the five new Daughters of Divine Charity cut a celebration cake and, left, in prayer before the Mass.

witnessed by a packed congregation including members of the sisters' families from Poland, Slovakia, East Timor, Derbyshire and Yorkshire.

Before the current group, the order had not seen new sisters in England for decades, which is why it was such a special occasion.

Sr Anna said: "Wearing a habit, we are such a visible sign of God that people stop us and tell us that it is so nice to see us sisters because they do not see them very often. Some people are scared to take the step to religious life because it involves a lot of sacrifice."

"However, they will never discover how joyful it is to become a sister

until they try it. Not only do they miss out on gaining happiness but they miss out on giving the joy God gave them to pass it on to others.

"It is unexplainable how rewarding it is to give joy and make a difference in the world. If you think God is calling you, give it a go because it is worth trying it. God needs labourers in his vineyard," said Sr Anna.

Bishop Alan told the congregation: "It is a special joy to be here to share this special occasion with the sisters who play an important role in the Diocese of East Anglia and also in the Catholic Church in UK. This occasion is a witness to the strength and vitality of religious life."

news in brief

Story of vision as church was rebuilt

■ The remarkable story of a missionary-focused Catholic church in Cambridgeshire is the subject of a new booklet about Sacred Heart of Jesus, St Ives.

Known as Pugin's Little Gem, St Andrew's was the first Catholic church built in Cambridge after the Reformation. Opened in 1843, it was redundant from 1890 after its congregation outgrew it and moved to worship in the Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs in the city.

A congregation established in 1899 in nearby St Ives grew in number while meeting in a small wooden building. In 1902 visionary George Pauling came forward to purchase St Andrew's church and then, remarkably, to transport in stone by stone by barge along the River Cam and Great Ouse to be rebuilt in Needingworth Road in St Ives.

The development of the church, a new church hall and the 100th anniversary are also covered.

Parish priest, Fr Karol Porczak, writes: "The booklet documents the unique history of the Church of the Sacred Heart in St Ives. It is testament to the missionary people, both clergy and laity, who created 'Pugin's Little Gem' in the centre of Cambridge as well as the visionary individual responsible for moving the church to the town of St Ives."

To obtain a copy please write a cheque for £2.50 made payable to "The Parish of the Sacred Heart" and post it with your name and address to Parish Office, 19 Needingworth, St Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 5JT. www.sacredheart-stives.org.uk

Tribute to Fr Paul Mercer

■ Fr Paul Mercer who retired as a priest in Bury St Edmunds last year has died. Paul served as the permanent Deacon for 11 years following his ordination. He was then accepted by Bishop Peter Smith as a candidate for ordination to the presbyterate and ordained priest in 2001 at Bury St Edmunds as assistant priest. He served there until late 2015 when he retired and. He died on September 8.

Paul was married to Marie (who died in 1998) and had four sons, Peter, David, John and Paul all of whom were baptised and served as altar boys.

Fr Mark Hackeson said: "Paul was a 'unique' priest - he received all seven sacraments and in the two Sacraments of Commitment, as Marriage and Holy Orders are sometimes called, he found great happiness and fulfilment. His experience of married life certainly informed his ministry both as deacon and priest. His sons told me that Paul felt very blessed, humbled and privileged to have been married, have a family and be called to the priesthood. We have all benefitted from that."

A full obituary will be carried in the next edition.



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Few return untouched from Lourdes

Bishop Alan led a group of more than 100 pilgrims from the Diocese of East Anglia to Lourdes, from August 19 to 26, with time to talk, to sit and listen and to be changed, reports Deacon John Morrill.

■ Bishop Alan was accompanied by seven diocesan priests, two deacons, a doctor, seven nurses, seven assisted pilgrims who stayed in the Accueil (Hospital) and 19 assisted pilgrims who were staying in hotels. Many others came as helpers in a variety of roles, and others came as pilgrims.

All went as part of the much larger 'Catholic Association' of several hundred pilgrims from five dioceses in the southern half of England, those coming with Stonyhurst College, the Jesuit School near Lancaster, with the Carmelite Order and with the Glanfield Group, accompanying those with severe physical or mental disabilities (with a strong contingent from East Anglia). Each group has its own banner, this year strongly held aloft by one of our wheelchair pilgrims. There is plenty of time both to bond as a diocesan group and to mix with Catholics from around the country.

It is an intensive, indeed intense week. There was Mass daily in a variety of churches around the 'domain', the area between the Old Town and the Grotto where St Bernadette had her encounters with the Immaculate Mother of God.

This year, Fr Nicholas King SJ preached at all the Masses, creating a sense of continuity through the pilgrimage and offering excellent tips to guide us through the week of prayer. There are a variety of other services (for reconciliation, for anointing, for following the stations of the Cross, for going down into the waters of the miraculous spring which was one of the signs that Our Lady gave to Bernadette).

There was time to talk, to share, to relax over a drink. There was also time to sit beside the river and watch the crowds come and go to the Grotto and to hear groups of pilgrims singing close by or in the distance. There was time to be changed. It is what pilgrimage has been for 200 years (pilgrimage is a word from perigrinatio, Latin for a journey (the journey is at least as important as the destination!))

Lourdes is a cleansing place, showing us much more clearly how God wills the World to be, not what we make it. It is a place where the most disadvantaged are the most privileged, where it is so much more natural to give than to receive.

At the accueil (hospital), the Catholic Association takes over one floor and for a week makes it its own. All nursing, caring, cleaning, laundry and so on is undertaken by our volunteers.

Few return from Lourdes untouched by it. Most travel by air, but some by train (10 hours from St Pancras by Eurostar and fast TGV). There are a great variety of hotels. Most travel with Tangy Tours but others make their own arrangements.

The leader of the whole Catholic Association is from our Diocese, Canon Simon Blakesley, and the organiser of the Diocesan group is Deacon Clive Brooks.

■ **The 2017 pilgrimage takes place from August 18 to 25.**

Anyone who would like to know more should contact Clive at 76 Broom Knoll, East End, East Bergholt, Suffolk, CO7 6XN, or at clivebrooks1936@talktalk.net

Pilgrimages that

Pilgrimage People is a tour company with a difference – its raison d'être is to build relationships between people of faith in the UK and those in the Holy Land, as Keith Morris discovered when he joined a recent fact-finding trip to Palestine.

Tens of thousands of pilgrims and tourists from the UK will visit the Holy Land this year to see the land where Jesus was born, grew up, went about his ministry, was crucified and rose again. They will want to visit Biblical places such as Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee and the Mount of Olives and walk where Jesus walked.

But exploring the Holy Land on an organised tour, what most visitors will often not see is the harsh reality of living in Palestine today – a land splintered by complex religious and ethnic differences.

We often read in the news of a land split by strife between a six million-strong nation of Jews living on one side of the concrete walls and barbed wire and a six million nation of largely Muslim Palestinians living on the other.

Despite being the birthplace of Jesus Christ, today the local Christian population of the Holy Land is very small, less than two per cent in fact, but it still plays a key role, often providing a means of mediation through local priests or social support through hospitals, orphanages and schools.

The Diocese of East Anglia has a long-established relationship with the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, with which it is twinned. This has developed today into the associated charitable pilgrimage company – Pilgrimage People.

Since its formation some 16 years ago, largely through the passion and vision of March priest Fr Paul Maddison, the not-for-profit charity has enabled thousands of pilgrims, many from the Diocese of East Anglia, to visit the Holy Land and enabled direct links with some 20 East Anglian parishes. It has also contributed no less than £600,000 to development projects across the Holy Land, mostly in



Sara and her mother at the Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation hospital.



Palestine, including funds raised by pilgrims themselves.

I was invited to join a fact-finding trip by Fr Paul, along with the charity's trustees Graham Snudden and Margaret Camp, tour administrator Liz Pugh and Anglican priest, and former Dean of St George's College in Jerusalem, Rev Stephen Need.

As my first trip to Israel and Palestine, it was a bit of an eye-opener. We arrived at Tel Aviv airport after a five-hour flight from Luton on Easyjet (on which we were offered the chance to have a prayer meeting at the back of the plane – for Orthodox Jews). On the way to Bethlehem, there was an extra road-block by the Israeli military which delayed us a bit.

For Palestinians, and visitors who want to cross from Bethlehem to Jerusalem either side of the separation wall, there are daily security checkpoints which range from inconvenient to disruptive, depending upon the mood of the invariably very young Israeli soldiers on duty. But with Pilgrimage People you travel as guests of the local community which means you actually feel very secure.

We were there to visit half a dozen development projects which Pilgrimage People has been supported over the last decade.

Based at the comfortable and modern Christian family-run Angel Hotel in Bethlehem, we hopped on and off our minibus to meet dedicated Catholic parish priests in small West Bank

villages who are obviously right at the centre of the community, running schools, old people's homes and youth projects, as well as their churches.

Fr Firas Aridah, in Jifna, runs summer community evenings in an outdoor playground which attract up to 400 people a night and Fr Johnny abu Khalil, in Taybeh, is planning a new youth centre as there are simply no facilities in the village for young people – apart from his own front room which is filled by teenagers every night.

We visited an Orthodox Kindergarten in the Old City of East Jerusalem, which also runs women's empowerment projects and extra tuition for schools students – in pretty cramped conditions – with a small astro-turf playground on its roof.

We were privileged to drop in at the headquarters of the Latin Patriarchate where we had an audience with Bishop William Shomali, Patriarchal Vicar for Jerusalem. He presented Fr Paul and the trustees with an honorary medal in recognition of their donations in support of the Patriarchate's development projects.

We also met Henrique Abreu – Head of the Project Development Office – a former senior manager with the Marriott Hotels group, to hear about some Patriarchate projects that Pilgrimage People are already supporting. These include refitting a kitchen at an old people's home in Taybeh, a community playground and garden project in Jifna and funding to refurbish the project development office

at make a difference



Pictured top, Bethlehem University, left, the Pilgrimage People group at the Tunes for Peace project, above, Fr Paul with children at the Jerusalem Orthodox Kindergarten and, right, the Holy Family Orphanage in Bethlehem.

at the Patriarchate itself.

Pilgrimage People are looking to widen their tours involving Anglican and other denominational groups and to this end we visited St George's Anglican Cathedral in Jerusalem where we met an enthusiastic Rev David Longe – Bishop's Chaplain – who was keen to work more closely together to the benefit of Anglican humanitarian projects across the Holy Land.

Rev Longe made a key point: "The beauty of ecumenical partnerships is that we stand united to sustain the precious and precarious Christian presence in the Holy Land. Developing links for visiting pilgrimage groups to parishes in the Holy Land are ones of reciprocity at a deep spiritual level – both sides learning from each other – if they are just about cash

they will fail."

One of the most heart-breaking stops on our visit was to the Holy Family Orphanage in Bethlehem, run by the Sisters of St Vincent de Paul. As well as offering a refuge for abandoned babies – one was simply left on the doorstep the day before we arrived – and children, the crèche engages in early years' education and provides outreach into many of the villages for both mothers and babies. It is the only institution of its kind in the whole of the West Bank.

One of the most inspiring visits was to Bethlehem University, the first such establishment on the West Bank and the only Catholic-led one. Many Pilgrimage People groups pay a visit.

We met some delightful, eloquent, students of whom, as a whole, 75% are female and 70% Muslim. They told us of the hope their studies gave them for the future and the difficulties they sometimes faced pursuing their studies in an occupied territory with its restrictions on movement and financial constraints.

Vice Chancellor, Brother Peter Bray, told us: "Our aim is to keep hope alive. The hope that what we are going through, we are not going through alone. We welcome people visiting us because it means that they are standing in solidarity with us and our students are being listened to. When I see the young people's energy, then I can put up with all the stuff that is going on around us.

"We are an unashamedly Catholic university and, like Jesus, we are here to help provide opportunities for people to

live life in all its fullness."

Next stop was the Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation hospital in Beit Jala, a former Cheshire Home and now a thriving surgical and rehabilitation hospital with a first class reputation in Palestine. Pilgrimage People has funded a paediatric intensive care bed and we met little Sara, the first patient to use it, and her mother. Sara has been diagnosed with cerebral palsy and the hospital is providing intensive daily rehabilitation.

General Director, Edmund Shehadeh,

told us: "We are destroying walls and building bridges for the future. I open my doors to everybody. As long as God helps me, I will continue."

I managed to slip off our scheduled tour just once, while we were in the Old City in Jerusalem, to pay a visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the site of both the crucifixion of Jesus and his tomb – a captivating and intensely spiritual location and a must-see for any Christian visitor to the Holy Land.

On our last evening, we went to Vespers at the Latin Patriarchal Seminary in Bethlehem and enjoyed dinner with the seminarians, talking about faith, falafel and football.

Our final stop, on the way back to the airport, was at the Palestinian Centre for Rapprochement Between People where Pilgrimage People has been helping to fund the Tunes for Peace project. Over the last two years, 70 young people have learnt to play musical instruments here.

Director, George Rishmawi, told us: "I believe in what music can do for a person – it can give them an inner calm and, for some, the chance for a future career."

It is a great example of a point made to me by trustee Graham Snudden: "For me the key point is that the historical stones of the Holy Land provide context but it is the living stones who teach us so much more about the practical messages of the Gospel and how they can be applied today."

So ended an inspiring five days, meeting extra-ordinary Palestinians, engaged in life-changing projects and offering an alternative view of life in the country to the one we often hear in the media.

And many of the projects are made possible thanks to funds generated from pilgrims from the Diocese of East Anglia and Pilgrimage People.

I for one will definitely be back.

■ Pilgrimage People is an ATOL registered tour organiser, a trading name of ACE Cultural Tours and is based in offices near to Cambridge. They offer tailored pilgrimage tours not only to the Holy Land, but also to Turkey, Spain, Italy, France and Poland with all surplus income going to support humanitarian projects in the Holy Land which are Christian-led but benefit the wider community regardless of faith or nationality. To organise your pilgrimage and leave a lasting legacy as a result of your visit, contact Pilgrimage People on 0800 6123423, info@pilgrimagepeople.org or visit: www.pilgrimagepeople.org

Join Bishop Alan in the Holy Land in 2017

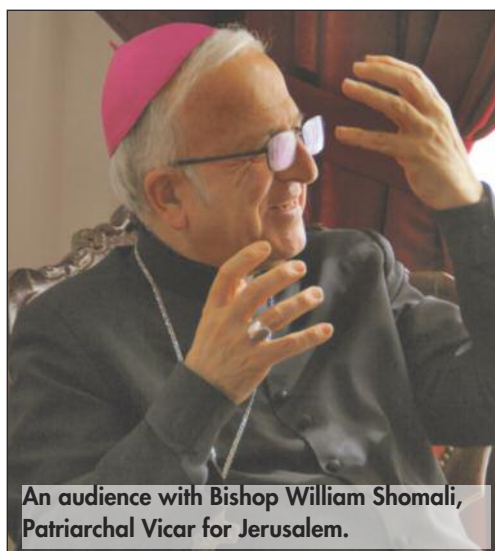
■ After the very successful Diocesan pilgrimage to Rome in June of this year, Bishop Alan is calling the priests and people of the Diocese to join him on pilgrimage next year to the Holy Land.

As a conclusion to the celebrations for our 40th anniversary as a Diocese, the bishop felt it most appropriate that we should travel to visit our twin Diocese in the Holy Land. The dates of the pilgrimage are September 11 to 18 and the programme will include visits to the Biblical sites in, amongst other places, Nazareth, Capernaum, Jericho, Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Pilgrims will also have the opportunity of daily Mass in some of the most amazing settings and on Sunday we will join with a local parish community for Mass.

"I am delighted that we will be making this pilgrimage," said Bishop Alan. "I could think of no more fitting way to conclude our anniversary celebrations and to offer our practical support and solidarity to the Christians in the Holy Land. I hope that many of the priests, religious and people of the Diocese will join me."

Flights will be from Luton airport and the cost of the pilgrimage is £1350 per person sharing a twin/double room.

■ If you would like to book a place on the pilgrimage, please ask your parish priest for a booking form. Alternatively contact Pilgrimage People, who are making the arrangements for us on 0800 6123423 or by email: info@pilgrimagepeople.org quoting reference ANGL05. To guarantee a place, completed booking forms along with a deposit of £400 should be received before November, 11, 2016.



An audience with Bishop William Shomali, Patriarchal Vicar for Jerusalem.

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

Ipswich school with Mother Teresa link is set to celebrate

As Mother Teresa was canonised at the Vatican in Rome by Pope Francis on Sunday September 4, a school in Ipswich was remembering her very special visit to the town some 46 years ago.

■ And the influence of St Teresa still remains strong at St Mark's Catholic Primary School after all those years as it prepares to celebrate its own Golden Jubilee.

St Teresa's words are regularly read by pupils, pictures of the visit on October 30, 1970, adorn the school walls and the people who welcomed her that autumn day still recall it with affection.

One of them is school governor, Maureen Kelway, who, at the time, was a parent of three young pupils – Amanda, Andrew and David.

"The visit was a huge occasion with hundreds of children and parents filling the school hall," recalled Maureen. "I remember Mother Teresa arriving with all the dignitaries and walking down the lines of children and shaking most of them by the hand. My son David shook her hand and said to

me afterwards 'she is such a tiny lady'. She was dressed in her blue sari and it was a lovely, lovely occasion and she has such a beautiful smile on her face."

Maureen has been a school governor



Above, Mother Teresa during the visit to St Mark's in Ipswich in 1970.

day," said Theresa. "It is our golden anniversary year and Bishop Alan will say an anniversary mass in June and will link the theme to Mother Teresa. We feel that the canonisation is a great start to our anniversary school year and is spiritually very powerful for us.

"I think it is wonderful that she has been made a saint, because people who actually met her can still remember her. It also reminds us that we too might meet people who become saints and that St, Teresa's example is something we can aspire to."

The school still has a display of pictures of the visit and St Teresa's signature in the visitors' book. During the speech she gave at the school, Mother Teresa said: "I want to thank you all for all you have done and the sacrifices you have made to help our children. The money you send gets bread for the children and we would not be able to feed and clothe them and send them to school if you did not walk and raise money for us."

St Mark's, which has 212 pupils, including a number of different nationalities, has lots of special activities planned for the anniversary year, including a garden of hope and a video in which children take the lead in the pursuit of world peace.

ever since and now has a longer association with the school than anyone else.

She recalled that the children had knitted squares into a blanket which was given to St Teresa, together with £800 from a sponsored walk. And the school still raises money for the Missionaries of Charity, and other charities, with sponsored events.

And this is not the only way in which St Teresa still has an influence on the school.

"We use St Teresa's quotes as the themes for some assemblies," explained head teacher Theresa Barker. "The quotes are written on small wooden fish, which is a Christian symbol, and are hidden around the school and in the grounds.

"The children then have to search for them and those who find them are invited to read the quote in assembly, which we then talk about. They get very excited about finding them and reading them out. The fish quotes are then attached to a fishing net on a pavilion in the playground for all the children to see.

"The children are very proud of the fact that St Teresa came to the school and they love finding the fish and quotes. We are consciously trying to ensure that even though St Teresa only came to visit us once, in a very real sense, she is present at St Mark's every



Theresa Barker with some of her pupils and St Teresa fish quotes.



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DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

Multi Academy Trust is launched

The newly-established St John the Baptist Catholic Multi Academy Trust has been launched at the start of the academic year with a celebration Mass at Notre Dame High School in Norwich, reports Flavio Vettese, Deputy Director of Schools' Service.

■ Staff from all of the seven Norfolk and North Suffolk schools in the

Multi Academy Trust joined together in celebrating Mass with Bishop Alan on September 1.

The Bishop warmly welcomed everybody and stated the importance and significance of the momentous day as the St John the Baptist Catholic Trust is the first Trust to be established within the Diocese of East Anglia. In the future, more schools will come together and be part of the developing Catholic MAT landscape.

After the celebratory Mass, colleagues took the opportunity to meet with one another over refreshments.

Professor Edward Acton (Former Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the University of East Anglia) Chair of

Directors for SJB Trust, spoke to the group about the priorities and ethos behind the MAT. Brian Conway, CEO of the Trust, followed by giving a presentation on the structures and operational workings of the Trust.

The day continued with professional development opportunities for staff across all schools on a range of relevant and collaborative working practices.

Lunch, kindly supplied by Notre Dame High School Norwich, proved to be an excellent opportunity for everybody to chat and reflect on this wonderful occasion.

The day proved to perfectly mirror the moto for the Trust quoting Pope Francis – "To think, to feel, to do".



Fr Sean Connolly receives some flowers from a pupil of Notre Dame.

Enthusiastic start to new year at Notre Dame

Notre Dame High School, Norwich got its academic year off to an enthusiastic start by celebrating its annual Mass at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist on Friday September 16. James McGarry, Head of RE reports.

■ The school community of over 1,600 people braved heavy rain to walk to the Cathedral to participate in what is regarded as a key event in the spiritual life of the school.

It is always a refreshing sight to see the Cathedral packed with so many young people who are eager to seize the opportunity to join together in such a vast and splendid space in order to praise God and to reflect on their own spiritual journeys. It also reaffirms the strong links between the Cathedral and the school.

The principal celebrant was the school's Chaplain Fr Sean Connolly. The Cathedral provost Canon David Paul concelebrated. The Mass gave students the opportunity to feel part of the greater Catholic community and the presence of the school choir and band added to the joy and majesty of the celebration.

Fr Sean spoke of our purpose to become glorious creations of God by allowing Christ to come to fruition in each one of us so that we might have life to the full.

At the end of Mass, the entire congregation applauded Canon Paul who was celebrating the anniversary of his ordination that day.

Before leaving the Cathedral, Headmaster Brian Conway addressed the school community and congratulated them on yet another successful year, emphasising the special ethos of the school that enabled this success to be reflected in every aspect of school life.

Flavio joins Diocesan Schools' Service team

■ The Diocese of East Anglia Schools' Service has welcomed new Deputy Director Flavio Vettese, who brings over 25 years of educational experience.

Flavio started his educational journey working in post-16 further and higher education where he held a senior position and went on to be Director for Educational Partnerships between schools and colleges.

He was a founding director of an educational engineering centre which specialised in high quality experiential learning opportunities directly linked with industry and offers training for primary age learners through to GCSE, post-16 and disadvantaged learners as well as training for industry.

He later went on to join the Local Education Authority where he worked as a Senior Adviser working to develop the LA's relationship with the full range of educational providers from 4 to 19. He helped to develop leadership and management structures across a range of schools and colleges and has been instrumental in establishing numerous partnerships, federations, academies and MATs.

He has recently led the work on Academisation in Norfolk and has established excellent links with the DfE and the Regional Schools Commissioner. Flavio was also the



The Schools Service team now comprises, from the right, Director Julie O'Connor, Assistant Director Helen Bates, Deputy Director Flavio Vettese and Secretary Administrator Jane Austin.

Norfolk lead for International Education Links, and has led numerous educational exchanges with China, France, Netherlands and Norway.

He said: "I feel both privileged and thrilled to be taking up this significant position within the Diocese. As well as achieving excellent academic results, our schools nurture and nourish our children in an open, warm and spiritual

environment.

"The educational landscape has recently seen some immense changes and challenges in the way it is structured and indeed its accountability. I am relishing the opportunity to work with our colleagues from across the Diocese to ensure we continue to deliver outstanding education for all of our children."

Faith, fun and friendship at camp

Fun, faith and friendship were key elements of the annual Diocesan Summer Youth Camp at Eccles Hall in Norfolk over the August Bank Holiday weekend. Chris Storman reports.

■ Thirty two children aged 8-14 gathered for the camp, which aims to provide a weekend of living together in friendship and caring to explore their faith and enjoy fun activities with a group of dedicated and energetic volunteers from around the diocese.

Over the weekend we explored the Year of Mercy, and visited St John's Cathedral to see,

enter through and learn more about the Holy Door and the Lampedusa Cross.

At camp the children looked at Mother Teresa's message of performing 'Small acts with great Love'

All were put into one of four teams for the weekend, with points awarded for trying hard or winning games, sports and swimming, artwork, talent show acts etc and for performing those small acts with great love when spotted (often!).

Masses, Reconciliation and other liturgies were led by Fr Peter Paul Alphonse from Buckden parish with full participation (music, readings, prayers and dramas) by the children.



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Trio of candidates for the diaconate

Following an 18-month discernment process, three men have been admitted as candidates to become deacons in the Diocese of East Anglia and four more are now starting the journey.

On August 30, Bishop Alan admitted Brett Gladden (Bury St Edmunds parish) James Hurst (Newmarket) and Martin L'Estrange (King's Lynn) as candidates for the permanent diaconate during a Mass at Poringland.

The trio were accompanied by their wives and parish priests, and were presented to Bishop Alan by Deacon John Morrill, Assistant Director for diaconal formation.

John said: "The Diocese of East Anglia currently has 37 deacons, but seven are fully retired and ten more semi-retired and six more will reach 75 by the time Brett, James and Martin have completed their formation, so reinforcements are urgently needed.

"Four more men from Gorleston, Peterborough and Norwich are just beginning the 'propaedeutic' year of discernment. Let us pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and the religious life and always remember our own baptismal commitment."

The three candidates have already gone through a long discernment process and for the past year they have been 'aspirants' on a programme run by nine dioceses in the south of England at St John's Seminary Womersley.

This is called a 'propaedeutic' period. It involved four intensive days of formation in the seminary and much preliminary reflection and study and a deepening of their prayer lives. After a selection conference involving a priest, a deacon and a layperson, and after a deep psychological assessment at a centre in



From the left, are Fr Simon Blakesley, Brett Gladden, Deacon John Morrill, Bishop Alan, James Hurst, Martin L'Estrange and Fr Peter Rollings.

the north of England (used for all those seeking Holy Orders), all the men were interviewed by Bishop Alan who accepted them for formation.

They now begin a three-year period which, it is hoped, will lead to their ordination in or after the summer of 2019. The programme consists of one or two Saturdays every month, two of these being replaced by long weekends at an ecumenical study centre in Hoddesdon.

Each study day consists of four lectures framed by morning and evening prayer with Mass at its heart. The weekends are devoted to forming the men in service of those at the margins, and in giving them the opportunity to preach.

Each of the candidates has an academic tutor in the diocese, and a spiritual director. Training is also given in how to assist around the altar and in

presiding at baptisms, weddings and funerals. The academic component is provided and validated by St Mary's University in Twickenham, but much of the teaching is provided by men who are already deacons. Deacon John Morrill teaches Church History and some sacramental theology and homiletics, for example.

Wives are welcomed to attend all the formation days, and have days set aside for them to talk through the experience of sharing their husbands with the Church.

"Brett, James and Martin have a mountain to climb before, having become much more knowledgeable and with much more understanding of their calling as men of prayer and of action, they are able to present themselves for ordination," said John.

Stowmarket Parish gets LiveSimply award

Two years after Stowmarket Parish took the decision to live simply, the parish has been given its LiveSimply award - becoming only the second in the Diocese of East Anglia to receive one. **Allan Scott reports.**

The award was given to Stowmarket's parish priest, Fr David Finegan, and members of the CAFOD+ group on the day of their annual 'Duck Race' - which raised over £400 for CAFOD, as well as giving old and young alike a fun day out in the open air.

When the process began, Stowmarket was already a Fair Trade parish. It was the largest single contributor among Stowmarket churches to the ever-increasing requirements of the town's foodbank. It was also actively supporting communities in Palestine, Africa, Cambodia and India. This was about doing even more, for instance by avoiding waste, saving energy, and reducing the parish's impact on the environment.

The CAFOD+ group, with Fr David's active support and assistance, looked at more ways in which the parish could adopt and promote the principles of living simply. Leaflets explained what the programme was about, while the weekly newsletter suggested actions people could easily take to help. A few months later, parishioners were given a



Assessors Daniel Hale (far left) and Bernard Shaw present the LiveSimply award to Rosemary Muntus (centre) and Pat Keating of the CAFOD+ group and Fr David Finegan.

simple questionnaire at the end of a Sunday Mass, listing the suggestions and asking which they had taken up. The results were excellent, with a very large number of completed sheets and an 85% positive response to the questions.

The group also produced their very own LiveSimply cotton shopping bag (before the plastic bag levy came in) to help parishioners reduce their use of non-recyclable plastic bags.

They went on to organise and deliver a series of talks and presentations on Laudato Si, which encouraged discussion and raised awareness about

environmental issues, and what individuals and groups can do about them. Parish actions included organised recycling for batteries, stamps, paper and printer cartridges and the donation of unwanted tools, bicycles and computers to charities that could make use of them.

The parish is now planning new actions it can take to continue this work in the years to come - including an environmentally responsible extension to the Parish Centre.

If your parish would like to enter for the award, you can find more at: www.cafod.org.uk

YOUTH MATTERS

Cat to ignite youth mission

Catherine Williams has been welcomed as the new Ignite Mission Team Leader as the Diocese said goodbye to Matt, Judith, Ben and Clare whose 'gap' years with the Ignite Team came to end. Keith Morris reports.

Catherine, aged 19, will be working with Youth Director Hamish MacQueen and young volunteers leading retreats and other youth events this coming year, and will be setting up a new full-time Ignite team to start next August.

Catherine (also known as Cat), who lives in Walsingham, has recently returned to England after spending a year as a Catholic missionary with NET (National Evangelisation Teams) near Dublin in Ireland.

She is following in the footsteps of her father Derek, who gave up a job as an investment banker to become a Catholic evangelist for a number of years.

Derek is now the administrator for the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom at the National Catholic Shrine in Walsingham, where Catherine's younger brother, Michael, is a photographer.

Born in Peterborough, Catherine was home-schooled with a Catholic-based curriculum. "It got me very interested in my faith and thinking about it," she said. "I really looked up to my father when I was little. I thought it was really cool how he would travel around preaching the Gospel and teaching people about God and his love for them. It got me interested in evangelism and the role it plays in the church. Because I was home schooled I got to travel around with him a bit, so I went to a lot of Catholic events around the country with him which helped stimulate my interest in evangelisation, which has increased as I got older."

"My faith gives me a lot of joy and I think it is a great privilege to be able to share that with other people. When I attended events such as Youth 2000 I saw people living out their Catholic faith. They had such a joy and vibrancy about them and the testimonies of people really inspired me."

After returning to school to do her A levels, Catherine decided to do a gap year with the NET Catholic missionary group



New Ignite team leader
Cat Williams.

in Ireland.

"Our six-person team lived in our own little community just outside Dublin at Dunshaughlin where we worked with the local parish and primary and secondary schools and set up youth groups and ran events such as surfing retreats at Donegal. The young people would enjoy the surfing and also have encounters with God. It was an amazing year."

When Catherine came back to England in May, her family had just moved to Walsingham, She met Hamish at a Mass at the Shrine, started chatting and was told about the Ignite team leader opportunity.

"It was not what I was expecting, but I am finding with God that he often does what we do not expect. I prayed about it and went to the interview and felt that it was something God was calling me to. I feel very honoured to take on the role and help build up God's kingdom in the Diocese."

"I am really excited about this opportunity," said Catherine. "It is something I have wanted to do since I was very little - to have an active role in the church. It is something I get a lot of joy out of. I cannot think of a bigger privilege than sharing Jesus with young people - it is what I love doing. I am really looking forward to what God is going to do this next year."

"Coming events include the next Diocesan Youth Council meeting in November, so we are looking for more young people to join it and how we can develop it," said Catherine. "There is also the Ignite Festival at the end of April."

Hamish said "The vision of our ministry is to ignite or reignite faith among young people in the Diocese, and we are seeing that happen - these are exciting times"

Details of Ignite activities and events will be posted on Twitter and Facebook and via the Diocesan website.



Ignite Lite

■ Ignite Lite is an exciting new initiative for young people (age 16 - 30) to take part in youth ministry and evangelisation as occasional or part time volunteers.

Whereas the Ignite Team is set up for people to join the team full time, and live in community together, Ignite Lite is for people who are not currently able to do this but would still like to be involved. Training will be provided. Contact us for more information.

Cat on YouTube

■ Each Sunday throughout Advent, Ignite Team Leader Cat Williams will be releasing a vlog (a video blog) with some thoughts on Advent. Check it out at www.rcdea.org.uk/youth/

Key 2017 dates

- **January 8** – Epiphany Candlelight Mass, Poringland,
- **March 11** – 'Flame III' (National Youth Event), Wembley
- **April 29-30** – Ignite Diocesan Youth Festival, Swaffham and Walk to Walsingham
- **May 1** – Pilgrimage Walk to Walsingham
- **June 3-4** – Celebrate East Anglia Family Conference, Bury St Edmunds
- **July / August** – Youth Pilgrimage (location and dates to be decided)
- **July 31 - August 5** – New Dawn Family Conference, Walsingham
- **August 17-26** – Pilgrimage to Lourdes
- **August 24-28** – Youth 2000 Prayer Festival, Walsingham
- **August 25-28** – Summer Camp (age 8 – 14), Norfolk

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

Youth contacts

Tel: 01508 486236
Email: Ignite Team enquiries igniteteam@east-angliadiocese.org.uk
 All other enquiries dys@east-angliadiocese.org.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/igniteyea
Twitter: @igniteyea
Web: www.rcdea.org.uk/youth/

Keeping the spirit of World Youth Day alive



■ The World Youth Day group have had their first reunion since coming back from Poland in August. The group came together to reminisce and catch up, as well as doing an evaluation. Bishop Alan celebrated Mass which was followed by a barbecue. Many of the group have decided to carry on meeting as part of the Diocesan Youth Council which helps plan diocesan youth events and pilgrimages and ultimately World Youth Day in Panama in 2019.



Parishes complete a pilgrimage, church crawl and retreat



■ 100 pilgrims from St Edmunds Deanery took part in a Three Churches Crawl on Saturday September 24. Leaving on a coach from St Henry Morse in Diss. A 10am Mass at Thetford (St Mary's) was followed by tea and bacon rolls in the church hall and a tour of the newly decorated and refurbished church. The journey to Bury St Edmunds for Midday Prayer was followed by a talk from historian John Saunders about St Edmund's church. After lunch in the crypt, the group set off for Stowmarket to Our Lady's for Evening Prayers (left), a look around the church and a cream tea.



■ Parishioners from Sacred Heart in St Ives (above) ranging in age from 6 months to 93 years completed a Year of Mercy pilgrimage to the Holy Door at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich recently writes **Elizabeth Barker**.

On Saturday September 17, 50 parishioners made the pilgrimage by coach to Norwich to gain a Plenary Indulgence by entering the Holy Door.

Arriving at the cathedral in time for 10am Mass, Canon David Paul greeted us warmly at the beginning of the Mass which he concelebrated with our Parish Priest, Fr Karol Porczak MS. After Mass it was time for Confessions or coffee!

A memorable ground floor tour of the Cathedral was followed by a delicious lunch in the Narthex.

The group then met at Our Lady of

Walsingham's altar where Fr Karol gave a short talk about the Holy Door and led the prayers for the indulgence. We then all proceeded through the door.

We proceeded round the Cathedral to meditate on the Stations of the Cross finishing at the Blessed Sacrament Altar at 3pm (The Hour of Mercy) in time to say together the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

This pilgrimage was just a part of our events to commemorate the Year of Mercy which began with Advent Talks in December 2015.

During Lent we studied the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

The parish went to the Diocesan Pilgrimage at the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham in May giving us the first opportunity to visit the second Holy Door in our Diocese.

■ In August, Michael Green (back row left) of Our Lady & St Charles Borromeo Parish in Wisbech organised a retreat at Launde Abbey, the retreat centre for the Anglican Dioceses of Peterborough and Leicester, in Rutland countryside.

The Retreat "Encountering God in Daily Life" was a personal journey to deepen the awareness of God's Presence and was facilitated by Hilary Finlay (back row second from the right).

The group also enjoyed the hospitality of St Joseph's Parish in Oakham for Mass and coffee with parishioners. Group member Mary Harwood (back row third from the left), said: "The Abbey was breath-



taking and its tranquillity creates a calming and reflective effect on visitors. It would be difficult to express how wonderful the experience made us feel, both physically and spiritually. Giving a new insight of how to look on our own Christian life."

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BUILDING BRIDGES

Celebration of a Cambodian tradition

Anyone walking past Sacred Heart Catholic Church Hall in North Walsham on the evening of Friday September 30 might have wondered at the 60+ pairs of shoes outside the door, reports Katie Maidment.

It was all part of what has become an annual event in Sacred Heart Parish: the celebration of the Cambodian 'Feast of Ancestors' in which those who have died are remembered, honoured and prayed for in a service that combines Christian and Buddhist tradition.

The celebration, now in its fifth year, is a wonderful opportunity to engage with the primary basis of our Cambodia twinning, namely friendship and prayer.

Catholics from Ely, Cambridge, Poringland and Yarmouth joined Sacred Heart parishioners for the Mass which was led by Fr Philip Shryane (Gorleston) together with Fr Mark Hackeson (Bury St Edmunds), Fr John Warrington (Ipswich) and Fr James Walsh, parish priest of Sacred Heart.

As in Cambodia, the names or pictures of departed family and friends were displayed, incense was offered in their memory and gifts of food were brought for sharing and distribution to the needy.

Many of those who attended wore white and removed their shoes (both marks of respect in Cambodia), the



Young people from Sacred Heart Parish took a central role in the Mass. By Stella Fox.

flowers and music were Khmer-style and the young people who took a central role in the ceremony was a reminder that Cambodia is still in effect a 'young' country with 75% of the population under 35 years old. The service was described as "beautiful", "so moving" and "really peaceful". Afterwards, all

shared food and community time together - very much in the spirit of the celebration that takes place in Cambodia during this special time.

The next major twinning occasion in Sacred Heart Parish takes place in Aylsham at 7pm on Friday April 28 to which all are welcome.

Can you help build bridges?

The two current Diocese of East Anglia Building Bridges projects are a youth basketball project in Beit Sahour in the Holy Land and a new formation centre for children, youth groups and adults at Battambang in Cambodia.

If you would you like to support these projects, cheques should be made payable to the "RC Diocese of East Anglia".

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Happiness invitation for Jamaica volunteers

An invitation to happiness is the reward on offer to potential volunteers who join an annual trip from East Anglia next January to work with the Missionaries of the Poor in Jamaica. Fr Michael Johnson from North Norfolk, who had led the trip for the past four years, describes the life-changing nature of the opportunity.

"To serve the poor is an invitation to happiness", says Fr Richard Ho Lung, the founder of the Brothers and Sisters who form the Missionaries of the Poor. "Joyful service with Christ on the Cross" is the motto of the Brothers, who are dedicated to "Our Lady Cause of our Joy".

The suffering Christ is seen in each of the poor people who they care for joyfully; and each of the 600-700 mentally or physically handicapped or homeless people in the seven homes they have is looked upon and cared for as though he/she were Christ Himself.

The smiling, joyful presence of each Brother gives each a true sense of his or her human dignity.

I was lucky enough to find



Two happy young female residents of a Missionaries of the Poor home in Jamaica.

the truth of the Fr Ho Lung's promise of Happiness when I went as a volunteer to assist the Brothers in their work for the first time four years ago. It was an experience which changed my life: I have been back to live, pray and work with the brothers every year since - and plan to do so as long as I am able.

The life of the Community, their joy and commitment, is

based on prayer.

In spite of the complete simplicity of their life, in the 30 years since the Community was founded they have grown to be 550 Brothers, with a smaller number of Sisters whose community was founded only recently.

Volunteers to assist the Brothers in their work are always welcome, and people come and go throughout the

year, largely from North America. But now also from the UK, for I have been able to gather groups of generous people - aged from 18 into their '70s - to come with me over the last few years and I plan to do so each year. Could you be one of them?

To learn more about the opportunity email me at fr.mcjohnstone@tesco.net or call me on 01328 823586.

Vibrant pilgrimage



Over 3,500 pilgrims representing the vibrant, multi-cultural Catholic church gathered at the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham on Sunday September 4 for the annual Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage. Keith Morris reports.

Led by Bishop Alan, the day of pilgrimage began with a colourful parading and reception of national flags and banners including from Sri Lanka, Trinidad, Ghana, India, Ethiopia, Lithuania, Filipino, Congo, Zimbabwe, Ireland, Nigeria, Vietnam and across the UK.

A solemn Mass of Our Lady was then presided over by Bishop Alan in the open air Chapel of Reconciliation.

"How wonderful it is to be gathered together from so many nations as one people and family united in our faith and common purpose to

make Jesus Christ known to all," said Bishop Alan in his welcome.

"We offer ourselves in prayer and solidarity with all of our brothers and sisters who are being systematically persecuted and martyred in Iraq, Syria, Nigeria, Pakistan, India and in many other places. Let us pray for an end to all acts of terrorism and for peace and harmony and reconciliation."

Giving the homily, Bishop Alan spoke about the rebuilding of the Walsingham Shrine after its destruction 500 years ago on the orders of Henry VIII.

"Today, in this pilgrimage, we are called upon to pray for the reconversion of our country to the Christian faith and to rebuild the shrine of Walsingham in a spiritual sense – that is to rebuild the Christian culture of our land.

"Have we got what it takes, the spiritual bricks and mortar that we need to rebuild the Christian culture in this land and to make it an effective force for the common good in the public market place.

"To do this we need a spirit of cooperation with one another. Looking at you pilgrims today we see what a vibrant and multi-

cultural church we are. The church is greatly enriched by the presence of so many people from the different countries of the world – we would be the poorer without you.

"At a time when Europe is fragmenting because of its abandonment of our common faith, you remind the wider world of the cohesion and unity that is possible because of the one Lord Jesus Christ, the good shepherd who gathers all of his people into the one sheepfold. We have to work to make this unity in the church a daily reality."

The Mass was followed by picnic lunches for most and then a procession along the Holy Mile between the Catholic Shrine and Walsingham Abbey where Bishop Alan conducted a Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and prayers at the original shrine site in the Abbey grounds.

This pilgrimage is the only time during the year that Catholics are able to conduct a service here. The pilgrimage is named after the 14th century convention of England being known as the "Dowry of Mary" and is the principal pilgrimage in honour of Mary.



Challenge to undertake Corporal Acts of Mercy

As the Year of Mercy comes to an end, Edd Chomicz, Knights of St Columba Action and Youth Officer for the King's Lynn Parish, reports on a year-long challenge to undertake the seven Corporal Acts of Mercy.



■ **Feed the Hungry:** Our first challenge in January was to gather tins, packets and other essential items of food for the local foodbank. Items were brought into Masses during the month and we collected about 12 heavy duty boxes, all donated by parishioners.

■ **Give a Drink to the Thirsty:** A chance remark by Fr Gordon made me

revisit the Water Aid charity. It provides safe water, wells and pumps in all areas in the world, where they are needed. The charity ran a scheme to give up something over Lent and put saved money into a jar – an ideal parish commitment. The parish raised £568 for Water Aid.

■ **Clothe the Naked:** At a Churches Together Meeting, two local young mums were establishing A Baby Basics – West Norfolk group. We exchanged information and set up our Clothe the Naked Mercy appeal. There was much activity during the month with both churches used to store temporarily, nappies, breast pads, newborn baby clothes ready for my collection and two Land Rover loads resulted.

■ **Visit the Imprisoned:** A very difficult thing to do. We have Deacon John Belfield, in King's Lynn, who is a prison Chaplain for a local category A prison. Many offenders are ex-armed services and KSC has produced, with the CTS, an Armed Services Prayer Book. These cost £4 each and over 100 copies were

purchased by parishioners and passed to the Chaplain for prisoners to use.

Our example has now been replicated nationally with all UK KSC councils offering the books for parishioners to buy.

■ **Comfort the Sick:** The call here was to renew individual contacts with families, friends, visiting and writing letters. Parishioners were reminded of the Prayer Cards going to Poland for dedication with the Pope's prayers at World Youth Day as an opportunity to include the intentions and prayers for our sick family and friends.

■ **Shelter the Homeless:** St Vincent de Paul Society Vinnie Packs, which contain emergency cold weather essentials, have saved many a life in overnight freezing conditions.

SVP in King's Lynn, never has enough but a hands-on approach and rattling of tins resulted in raised £813.48 which have paid for 200+ Vinnie Packs. The joy and amazement on our local SVP members' faces was humbling.

■ **Bury the Dead:** For many of us, this is a family or friends provision. Graves are visited, bereaved are comforted, close ones remembered. The parish has raised £275 for two related charities: Friends in Bereavement, developed by a long established local family Funeral services Thornalley Funeral Services, provides free Bereavement Counselling; new national charity Child Funeral Charity provides financial support towards funeral costs for needy families where a young child dies suddenly.

■ This year has provided many of us with pride in our Parish generosity, in our active engagement, in the support for those who need it and, I hope, a little understanding of the continuous background work of KSC brothers. The totals raised are amazing. I thank my fellow brothers for their work and support.

The next major event, for the needs of the Parish will be the Christmas Fayre on Saturday December 17 at Holy Family Church.