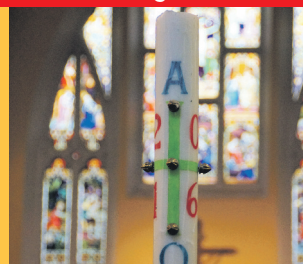


**Chance to
set your
faith on fire
- page 13**



**Fitting finale to
50th birthday
celebrations
- page 14**



**New look for
a place of
sanctuary
- page 16**

Record number at youth Epiphany event



A light-filled celebration

Scenes
from the
Epiphany
Mass and
fireworks
event.

There was a light-filled celebration of Epiphany near Norwich on January 8 when a record 200 young people and their families from across the Diocese of East Anglia enjoyed a candlelit Mass, bonfire, hot dogs and firework display.

The now annual Epiphany Youth Mass, took place at the Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation in Poringland near Norwich, organised by the Ignite team and Director of Youth Services Hamish MacQueen with attendees from as far afield as

Peterborough, Cambridge, Clare, Walsingham, Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Felixstowe.

An overflowing church heard Bishop Alan Hopes lead the Mass, which included a chance for participants to light a candle and donate a present to be given to children who are refugees in the UK via the Red Cross.

The feast of Epiphany celebrates the occasion when the wise men visited the baby Jesus and his birth was first shared with the world.

Bishop Alan said: "The destiny of everyone is symbolised in the journey of the Magi from the east. Our life is a journey to discover the fullness of truth and love which are to be found in

Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

"Each of the candles you have lit today represents the light in each of your lives."

Everyone then went outside to enjoy hot dogs, a bonfire and a firework display in the garden of the Bishop's White House.

Hamish said: "It is the best response we have ever had with well over 200 people attending. It was a wonderful occasion and it gets bigger and bigger every year. The fireworks are symbolic of the wise men looking for the star in the sky."

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

Ordination is a first for Diocese

■ An historic occasion took place in Cambridge on Wednesday January 25 when Seminarian Jaylord Magpuyo became the first-ever Filipino to be ordained as a deacon in the Diocese of East Anglia.

The Ordination Mass was celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes at the Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs in Cambridge.

It was witnessed by a packed church of well over 300 people, including family and friends of Deacon Jaylord and parishioners from the Cambridge churches of St Philip Howard and St Laurence, together with people from the Annunciation of Our Lady, King's Lynn, parishes in which he has served over the last 18 months. Prior to that, Jaylord spent six years in formation for the priesthood in the Philippines.

The Rite of Ordination included the calling and presentation of the candidate, election by Bishop Alan, the laying-on of hands and a prayer of consecration. This was followed by the investiture of Deacon Jaylord with a stole and a Dalmatic (vestment) and the presentation of the Book of the Gospels.

Ending the Mass, Mgr Eugène Harkness, Chancellor of East Anglia and Rector at OLEM, and who first presented Jaylord for consideration for ordination, said: "This is an historic day in the life of our Diocese with Jaylord becoming the first-ever Pinoy deacon – the first of many more we hope, with one more well into his formation and possibly another two to begin their studies soon."

After the Mass the congregation enjoyed an impressive Filipino meal in St Alban's school hall.

■ Read Jaylord's vocation story - page 8.



IGNITE CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

Diocese of East Anglia

April 29th - 30th

Live music, powerful talks, passionate prayer
and lots of fun including sumo suit wrestling.

For Year 9 upwards

More details at: www.ignitefestival.co.uk

news in brief

Parish send out gift to Aleppo

■ Parishioners and schoolchildren in March have rallied round to support the Franciscan Sisters working in Aleppo by sending out over £2,000 this Christmas.

The money was raised from the whole Sunday collection on the weekend before Christmas at Our Lady's Catholic Church being given to help, and from the staff and students at All Saints Inter-Church Academy holding non-uniform days and a collection at their Christmas play.

The sisters working in Aleppo are feeding over 10,000 people a day and are from the same Religious Order as the sisters working in March parish.

Fr Paul Maddison, Parish Priest in March, said: "We were all touched by the emails I have received from the sisters in Aleppo and we wanted to respond. This was a way of making a real and immediate difference to the lives of so many desperate people."

Sr Brygida, the superior in Aleppo, said "You cannot imagine how grateful we are for this support and the knowledge of knowing that wonderful people are thinking of us."

Beer and a talk

■ Subjects have been announced for the next two Peter's Pints evenings, at the Narthex bar at St John's Cathedral in Norwich, which offer the opportunity to hear a talk on the Catholic faith while enjoying a pint of real ale.

On Friday March 17 (St Patrick's Day), the subject is The Spousal Love of God in the Scriptures by Zyg and Paschale Mary Rakowicz. Zyg is Director of Evangelisation at the Catholic National Shrine in Walsingham.

On Friday April 21, the topic is Gearing Up for Mary's Month: A Look at the Power in the Litany of Our Lady. Speaker is Matt Roche-Saunders, a fifth year Seminarian for the Welsh Diocese of Menevia.

For each evening, the bar opens at 7pm with the talk at 7.20pm and a chance for questions afterwards. For more information email: peterspints@gmail.com

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 March 31.

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Sawston says fond farewell to Fr Raf

More than 250 parishioners from across South Cambridgeshire gathered in Sawston on Sunday February 12 for a party to bid farewell and offer heartfelt thanks to Fr Rafael Esteban, who is retiring after more than 40 years of ministry in the area. Mary Crowley reports.

■ For the last ten years, Raf (as he likes to be known) has been priest-in-charge at Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston, in whose hall the farewell tea was held.

Originally from Vitoria in northern Spain, Raf has been a priest for over 50 years and is a member of the Society of Missionaries of Africa, better known in this country as the White Fathers. A skilled linguist and acclaimed theologian, he came to Cambridge over 40 years ago on a sabbatical, fully intending to return to his senior teaching and leadership role in Ghana. However, the fates took a hand when he was diagnosed with skin cancer and was told by his doctors that on no account should he return to life in a hot climate. For a fair-skinned, red-headed Spaniard, cool and rainy Britain was seen as the much safer option. Naturally, Raf was devastated that the vocation he loved had been so cruelly taken from him, but Africa's loss was our gain.

Raf is a servant-leader, a man of vision and action, and these qualities were needed early in his time in Sawston when it was clear that the congregation was seriously outgrowing its existing church space. He galvanised the community and led the project that saw the old hall converted to become the new church, while the former church building was upgraded to a community



Fr Rafael Esteban with an icon of the Archangel Michael, given to him (along with a cheque) as a gift by the community at Sawston.

facility, open to all.

Raf has always been a great encourager of talents and the work involved in these ventures was carried out by parishioners, many of us deploying skills we never knew we had.

We are privileged to have benefitted from Raf's immense spiritual gifts over these last ten years. He places community at the heart of the practice of our faith and it is his firm belief that we most truly reflect Christ's teachings by caring for one another.

He has created a vibrant, welcoming and collaborative environment and it is no coincidence that our congregation continues to grow, with over 300 regularly attending the two Sunday Masses. The increasingly international nature of

Sawston and the neighbouring villages is also well represented in our numbers.

In our sadness at his leaving us, we are happy to know that Raf intends to remain in this area, not least to be close to Addenbrooke's to continue the treatment which began all those years ago. He will now have more time to travel and indulge his twin passions of dry stone walling in County Kerry and cheering on his beloved Real Madrid. Above all, we thank him for his loving ministry, his inspirational preaching, his humanity and compassion, and his inimitable (and very Spanish) sense of humour.

We extend a warm welcome to his replacement, Canon John Minh, who takes over as priest-in-charge at Sawston and nearby Cambourne.

Chance to pick up some media skills

■ Participants from Cambridge, Ipswich, Ramsey and Camborne heard tips and techniques to help get good news about their churches and Catholic organisations into the media, at a workshop held at St Laurence's in Cambridge on January 27.

Run by Diocesan Communications Director Keith Morris, who is an experienced journalist, the ten participants had the chance to discuss the opportunities that working with the media can provide and learn how to successfully promote their activities in the local papers, on radio, online and in their own publications.

Keith said: "The workshop is very interactive and the aim was for participants to go away with ideas for stories about their parishes and be equipped with strategies to help see them appear in the local media."

Run in conjunction with Rebecca Bretherton, co-ordinator for the New Evangelisation Commission, the workshop covering writing news stories and press releases, taking good quality pictures and using websites and social media to broadcast good news stories.

Rebecca said: "We want to tell people who we are, where we are and invite them to join us. A simple news article shows that the Catholic community has a message we want to share with people.



Keith Morris, centre back, with participants at the media workshop in Cambridge.

The workshop gave us some excellent ideas to become more effective in our mission to bring the Good News to others."

Eilish Storey, from Ramsey, said: "I found the workshop very helpful and hopefully we will be able to put some of the ideas into practice soon."

Rosina Abudulai, Pastoral Assistant and Chaplain, at OLEM in Cambridge,

said: "The evening was very educative and engaging."

Stephen Donaghy, from Ipswich, said: "Many thanks for the workshop and the notes."

The next media workshop will be held in the Norwich Deanery in the spring.

All are welcome, please let Rebecca know you are interested in attending at rebecca.bretherton@icloud.com

2017 Yearbook is now available in churches

■ The Diocese of East Anglia 2017 Yearbook and Liturgical Calendar is now available in parishes across the region, as well as online.

The annual printed publication, which this year is a bumper 192 pages with colour-coded sections, is available for the new lower price of just £3.

Edited and designed by Communications Director Keith Morris, with content supplied by Bishop's PA Elaine Bugg, the publication is a comprehensive directory of parishes and contacts across the diocese.

It includes guides to the different departments and commissions of the diocese, as well parishes, schools, hospitals and prisons as well

as a listing of all clergy and religious across East Anglia.

Also included is a pictorial guide to the last 12 months in the life of the diocese, alongside pastoral statistics, the diocese financial report and a Catholic organisations and societies directory. Bishop Alan has written a foreword. The Diocesan Liturgical Calendar has been produced by Fr David Finegan and Tricia Steel with assistance from Fr Padraig Hawkins.

Both the full yearbook, and the separate calendar, are available online at www.rcdea.org.uk and are fully searchable.

Printed copies are available at the new lower price of £3, from parishes and churches across the diocese.



Ecumenism is alive and well in Diocese

Ecumenism is alive and well across East Anglia with the Catholic Diocese and its representatives playing a full role, according to a survey just published by the Diocesan Commission for Dialogue and Unity.

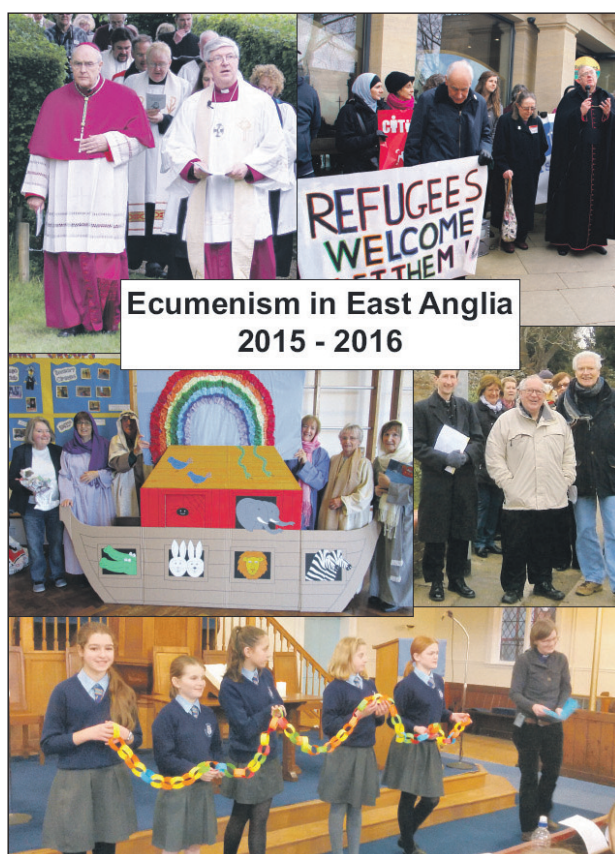
The Ecumenical Survey revealed that over 120 church and lay representatives from the Diocese were involved in ecumenical bodies in 2015/2016. They ranged from Churches Together and Christians Together groups to church networks, fraternal meetings, Women's World Day of Prayer and foodbanks.

As well as church groupings and networks, Catholic parishes also took part in a wide range of ecumenical projects. These included social action projects such as street pastors, foodbanks, Open Door, night shelters, soup kitchens and clothing banks. Also included were inter-church prayer groups, Bible studies, Lent groups, worship and Alpha courses.

Ecumenical chaplaincy activities took place in hospitals, prisons, universities, hospices, sea ports and workplaces.

Activities focused on certain events were also highlighted, including Remembrance Day, Advent, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Lent, Pentecost and the Women's World Day of Prayer. Some 14 parishes reported exchanging pulpits during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

In a foreword to the report, Bishop Alan wrote: "The 50th anniversary of the promulgation of the Second Vatican Council document *Nostra Aetate* concerning the relationship between the Christian Church, Jews and Muslims was marked in the Diocese by a one-day symposium in November 2015 at St John's Cathedral in Norwich, involving Christians, Jews



Ecumenism in East Anglia
2015 - 2016

and Muslims.

"This year is the 500th Anniversary of the writing of his 95 Theses by Martin Luther, which unleashed the Reformation. This anniversary takes place at a time when relations between Catholics and Lutherans have entered a new era of friendship.

"Both of these events bring into focus how in our present world there is a need for constructive dialogue between peoples of all faiths.

"The report concludes that there is significant involvement of members of the Diocese working both locally and as officers of Local Ecumenical Bodies. The ecumenical activities between the churches are much more detailed in this survey and are very impressive. Both spiritual witness and practical

projects show the churches working together well," wrote Bishop Alan.

"It is clear that members of the Diocese have responded well to the challenges facing our present society and in doing so have given considerable witness to the ecumenical cause."

Chairman of the Diocesan Commission for Dialogue and Unity, Dr Geoffrey Cook, said: "It is very encouraging to see from this survey that increasingly the churches and members of other faiths are working together on matters of social concern."

Priscilla Barlow, County Ecumenical Officer in Cambridgeshire, added her thoughts to the report. She wrote: "One area of ecumenical working that has been increasing in recent years is joint action on social justice issues, and this has seen the establishment of foodbanks, money advice centres, credit unions, refugee support groups and similar groupings in many places.

"These are all areas in which people of faith (and indeed no faith) can work together in their local context 'for the common good' and the Catholic Church's strong history of social teaching and action supports this practical way of helping people who are in difficult, sometimes desperate, circumstances. It has the advantage for many people (non-Catholics as well as Catholics) that the 'difficult' issues such as Eucharistic sharing are not in the forefront while working together to help others reflects the gospel message in a very clear way."

■ You can download a pdf copy of the full report at rcdea.org.uk

news in brief

Invitation to Lent Station Masses

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

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

Masses will take place at: St Luke's in Peterborough on March 6, St Edmunds in Bury St Edmunds on March 9, St Pancras in Ipswich on March 16, Holy Family, Gaywood, King's Lynn on March 20, Our Lady of the Annunciation in Poringland near Norwich on March 23, St Peter's Gorleston on March 27 and Our Lady and the English Martyrs in Cambridge on March 31.

Bishop Alan said: "Let us take the opportunity this Lent to come home to the Father. Encourage those who no longer worship with us or have lost their way, to come home to the Father! And when you have done so, become a missionary of God's loving mercy in your family, in your place of work or learning, in your local community, in your local Christian community. For Mercy is the beating heart of the Gospel and must be the beating heart of every Christian community and every Christian life."

The "Station Mass" originated in Rome under the auspices of Pope Gregory the Great. They were conceived as a daily pilgrimage in the footsteps of the martyrs and saints. Pilgrims and penitents visited 40 churches in Rome on foot and performed penitential exercises and celebrated Mass in each "stopping place" or "station". In doing so, they were also following the example of Jesus who went out into the desert and fasted for forty days and forty nights in preparation for his mission.

All welcome at Chrism Mass in Norwich

■ One of the largest diocesan gatherings of the year, the Chrism Mass, takes place on April 11, the Tuesday of Holy Week, at 7pm at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich, and all are welcome to attend.

During the Mass the Oil of Chrism, a mixture of olive oil and a sweet smelling perfume, usually balsam, is consecrated by Bishop Alan to be sent out to all the parishes of the diocese where it will be used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination and for the consecration of churches and altars.

Bishop Alan will also bless two other oils to be sent for use in parishes: the oil used by priests in the sacrament of anointing of the sick and the oil used to strengthen catechumen prior to baptism.





NEW EVANGELISATION

Breaking the silence

Fr Sean Connolly and Rebecca Bretherton explore why we need to break the taboo about sharing our personal Christian faith.

■ Some say there's a culture in our Catholic parishes of "Don't ask, don't tell." We don't ask about faith: that's private. We certainly don't tell others about our own faith: that wouldn't be humble.

It can almost become a spiral of silence. As Catholics, we quickly pick up that it's 'abnormal' to talk openly about our faith, so no one does. This might keep everyone in our parish comfortable but it puts a huge dampener on evangelisation.

If we're going to try to evangelise and create evangelising parishes, perhaps the first thing that has to be done is to break the silence and, in particular, to break the silence about a personal relationship with God.

We will talk about the Church, we will talk about politics, we will add the two together and talk about church politics - the administration and personalities in the parish - but the one thing we Catholics tend not to do is talk about our relationship with God.

And then what about the holy name of Jesus? Previous generations of Catholics were raised to bow their heads reverently when the name Jesus was spoken, and that's no bad thing. There was a tendency, even, to avoid using His name, referring to him as 'Our Lord'.

Again, not a bad thing in itself. To Christians from the evangelical tradition, however, it can make Jesus a little like Voldemort in Harry Potter: "He who must

not be named."

But what if being silent out of reverence means that in a couple of generations people have forgotten what we're being silently reverent about? What happens if we don't talk about Him and, by not talking about Him, we make Him invisible? Are we in danger of communicating an institutional faith rather than a personal one?

At the heart of our Christian faith is belief in a personal God. This is a God who not only created us, but who calls us into personal relationship (to 'know' him, as the Old Testament puts it, meaning to have the sort of intimacy a husband and wife have).

This is a God who not only calls us again and again to relationship but who, when we sinned and wandered far away, came to seek and find us; took flesh and entered our experience; became Incarnate and one like us in all things but sin. He did this to bring us back to that close, personal relationship with Him.

This is the Christian faith and being an evangelist means wanting the people of our parishes to know it. It means wanting our kids to know it! But where are they going to get it if no one's mentioning it - if we're not talking about our faith in the parish and at home and in the workplace? We need to break the spiral of silence, the 'Don't ask, don't tell' culture, about Jesus and the reality of having a personal relationship with Him.

In speaking to the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelisation, Pope Francis said:

"What we need, especially in these times, are credible witnesses who can, through their life and words, make the Gospel visible, awaken the attraction to Jesus

Christ, for the beauty of God."

Would you say that people in your parish are giving a credible witness through their life and in their words to the transformative power of Jesus Christ? Do you often hear the name of Jesus spoken in formal or casual conversation in your parish? It is critical that we begin to create a culture of witness by modelling it ourselves and by helping our fellow parishioners to speak about their faith.

Where do we start? How do we witness? We can begin by telling the story of God working in our own lives - in big and small ways. We can encourage others to catch a glimpse of God's compassionate presence in the ordinary and extraordinary events of life.

One of the most powerful ways to challenge the silence is by making a safe place for others to talk about their own lived relationship with God.

Imagine small faith sharing groups where friends share weekly stories of joy and struggle. Picture families gathering around the table each evening to discuss the events at school and work in the light of Christ. We can break the culture of silence and begin to transform our parishes and homes through a culture of witness. We can, through witness, make the Gospel visible and attract others to Jesus Christ!

How can we structure "happenings" where the silence can be broken? Where are the safe places in our parish? How can we help to create these safe environments?

■ **Based on Sherry Weddell - Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus.**

Are you planning to share your faith in 2017?

■ Small grants are available to help parish projects and events which focus on encouraging non-church going Catholics to come back to their community.

East Anglian parishes have already used the money to run a concert in church for family and friends or to invite Catholic friends to a parish meal.

Are you planning to kick start your youth group, or begin digging a parish Mary Garden? Have you planned to welcome families in a special way to your First Communion Masses? Will you be inviting others to celebrate your patron saint's feast this year? Have you got an even better idea?

The grant application process is simple.

Your project will focus on non-church going Catholics and involve as many parishioners and parish groups as possible. Your project will give Catholics the chance to evangelise.

To ensure financial probity there are some questions your parish will need to answer.

The diocesan Commission of the New Evangelisation will help you with your application. Successful parishes have received up to £300.

The fund is administered by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

Please contact Rebecca Bretherton, the coordinator of the diocesan Commission for the New Evangelisation for details: rebecca.bretherton@icloud.com

How to... run a church crib festival

Over 60 cribs went on display at St Edmund's Church, Bungay, to coincide with the annual Bungay Christmas Street Fair, reports Andy Parris.

■ The idea was initiated by Sue Altarelli and Jenny Beaugeard after seeing similar festivals in other churches, as a means of raising the church's profile within the Bungay community.

Parishioners, friends and family were asked to lend their crib sets to display in the church, and the response was overwhelming with 62 sets to display.

Along with lots of card tables, white table clothes and holly the festival opened from 12noon to 4pm on December 2 and 3.

The oldest crib that was lent was an Italian plaster set dating 1880. The newest set was a crocheted set finished that morning! The variety was amazing. They ranged from life-sized cut-outs (outside) to one small enough to fit in a ring box. They were made from wood (olive wood from Bethlehem), plastic, paper, card, salt dough, plaster, fabric, yarn, glass, silver, china and clay.

Some were finger puppets, children's toys, carousels, Russian dolls and mobiles to hang on a tree. Some had a stable fitted with electric light; others had arms missing or stuck together; but all were



willingly lent in good faith.

Poringland Parish, which has run similar festivals, offered help, which was invaluable in aiding the smooth running of the event. It was agreed not to have an entry fee, just a jar for contributions for East Anglia Children's Hospices. There was atmospheric plainchant playing over the sound system.

The word on the street was that the crib festival was one of the best things of the

fair and over 300 people were counted coming through the door over the two days.

As an evangelisation project that makes it a huge success, with so many people saying that they had lived in the town all their lives and never set foot in the church. When asked why, some of the responses were:

- I didn't know it was here.
- I had never noticed it before.
- I didn't think I was allowed.

- I thought you had to be Catholic.
- I didn't want to do anything wrong and stand out.
- I've never seen the door open and it always looks closed.

People loved the church, the ornamentation and the lighting. They liked the music (plainchant) and the calmness, and quite a few people just sat on a pew looking around them. The atmosphere was museum-like and respectful. There was a huge interest in the history of the church and its architecture.

Jenny, Sue and Pio (Sue's husband) concentrated on being friendly and welcoming and really enjoyed talking to a variety of lovely people. Sue took £250 to EACH and a report will be in their fundraising magazine. Parish Christmas cards, Traidcraft cards and six small cribs were sold with orders taken for another six - dozens more could have been sold! It means that, maybe, this Christmas people will have a crib in their homes that have never had one before.

The organisers are so grateful to everyone who lent their sets for the display. It was a nerve-wracking experience for the organisers 'policing' the festival at busy times. However, all cribs were kept safe with no breakages. Sue and Jenny found it a pleasure to arrange and considering all the positive feedback that was received, well worth repeating.

First Norfolk Police Catholic chaplain

■ A first-ever official Catholic chaplain has been appointed to Norfolk Constabulary.

Rev Nick Greef, who is a permanent deacon at St George's Parish in Norwich, has recently joined the existing multi-faith Norfolk Police chaplaincy team.

He will be engaged in this supportive role within the Great Yarmouth area which consists of three operational stations.

Nick, who is employed by French construction company Vinci as a Health Safety and Environmental Advisor, said: "I am very much looking forward to working with Norfolk Constabulary. I feel privileged to support the police service in this manner. Many Police staff work in a highly stressful conditions and anything I can do to help will be great."

Nick joins the existing team which meets at the Force headquarters in Wymondham.

Richard Whall, Lead Chaplain, said: "I am pleased to welcome Nick to the Norfolk Constabulary chaplaincy team. We are a multi-faith team seeking to provide personal, practical support for all officers and staff irrespective of their faith or none, and spiritual care where required."

"Police work has become increasingly complex and demanding, and is often daunting and dangerous. The majority of UK police forces now have chaplains whose aim is to provide independent pastoral care and an additional resource where faith and operational issues interact. Chaplains can also be valuable in developing links between churches, communities and the police."

PC Andrew Nattrass, a former chair of the Catholic Police Guild, was instrumental in the appointment of a first Catholic chaplain to the force.



New Norfolk Police Catholic Chaplain, Rev Nick Greef.

Appeal for Catholic schools champions

By Keith Morris

The Diocese of East Anglia is looking for 'local champions' in areas where it wants to open new Catholic schools.

The Diocese's Schools Team is looking for parents, education professionals and parishioners who are keen to support the move by the Diocese to open new Catholic schools in Norwich, Peterborough, Thetford and Cambridgeshire.

East Anglia has some of the most severe shortage of places in Catholic schools in the country due to the demographic changes that have taken place in the region over the past decade. And since Prime Minister Theresa May announced the proposed removal of the 50% cap on faith admissions, the Diocese has been progressing with up to eight new school bids.

The areas of East Anglia where the new schools are being proposed are those with some of the highest need for places and where possible sites for new schools have already been identified.

Now, the Diocese's Schools Team is looking for local champions who want to see these new Catholic schools open, to help them gather support amongst the local communities and show there is a demand that will fill the new school places.

As part of the bidding process, the Diocese needs to show there are families who would want their children to go to a Catholic school if one was avail-

Show your support

■ Parents, parishioners and education professionals who are keen to support the move by the Diocese of East Anglia to open new Catholic schools in Norwich, Peterborough, Thetford and Cambridgeshire are being asked to show their support online.

As part of the bidding process, the Diocese needs to demonstrate support for its plans and show there are families who would want their children to go to a Catholic school if one was available.

To express your support: Visit www.facebook.com/RCDEANewSchools and "Like" it and visit www.twitter.com/RCNewSchools and "Follow" it.

able and get them to sign up on a simple form to register their interest.

Assistant Director for Schools at the Diocese of East Anglia, Helen Bates, said: "It is a very exciting time and we are really looking forward to opening new schools which are desperately needed to meet the demand we already have here in East Anglia."

"We want to hear from anyone who supports our plans in the areas we have identified, to firstly sign up to register interest in their children attending a new Catholic school and also to encourage others they know, to also sign up.

"The level of support for any new schools, will be a key factor that the Government will be looking at in deciding whether to approve a new Catholic school or not, and we need to be able to show this demand when we submit our bid in March. So it's really important that people do this over the next few weeks."

In Cambridgeshire, the Diocese wants to establish a high school and a primary school in West Cambourne and another primary in the Cherry Hinton area. The Diocese also wants to establish a new primary school in Peterborough.

A new Catholic primary school is also being proposed in Thetford where there is already a significant Catholic population and where there is further housing planned to the north of the town.

Two primaries and possible sixth form provision are also hoped for in north and central Norwich, where pupil numbers are increasing. In addition, the Sacred Heart Convent School in Swaffham is also considering proposals to become a free school with possible expansion plans.

Parents can register their interest in any of the new schools at www.rcdea.org.uk/freeschools/

If you would like to become a Catholic schools champion and help the Schools Team find other families who are interested, please contact Helen on 01508-495509 or at helen.bates@rcdea.org.uk



Connect with work of CAFOD in Peru

■ The parish of St Laurence's, Cambridge, has just celebrated its new partnership with communities in Peru, facilitated through international development agency CAFOD's Connect2 scheme.

By becoming a 'Connect2: Peru' parish, St Laurence's will hear about and support the work that CAFOD's partners, The Bishop's Social Action Commission (CEAS) and Warmi Huasi are doing in Ancash and Lima, two different regions of Peru.

CEAS focuses primarily on supporting the small-scale farmer community of Cruz de Mayo with the management of water resources from glacier Lake Parón. Warmi Huasi works to support the children in Lomas de Carabayllo, ensuring that they understand their rights and have safe spaces to learn and play. CAFOD has been working in Peru for 50 years, meaning that the parish will be building on half a decade of unwavering support.

To launch the scheme the parish hosted a Peruvian evening. Whilst listening to an engaging talk on the communities they will be supporting, guests enjoyed 'A taste of Peru'; tasty empanadas, Peruvian cake and traditional shots of pisco sours were sampled, the latter ensuring conversation flowed.

The scheme has been adopted by the parish in its entirety. Everyone from the children's liturgy group to the CAFOD supporters group will be involved. A monthly Pound to Peru collection will form the basis of fundraising and the parish is fully committed to supporting the work of CAFOD's partners in these two communities of Peru. St Laurence's will receive updates from the communities, meaning they can hear from them about the impact of their support.

Parish priest Fr Pat Cleary, who has worked in South America in the past, has been especially enthusiastic: "As a Parish we felt we needed to do something abroad. We're very active at home, but inspired by Pope Francis, we felt we needed to look further afield. Whilst we can't solve things, we can do something to help."

"The launch was fantastic, with local foods, music and two stimulating talks that explored the complexities of the Peruvian context. It gave people a real sense of ownership."

Mary Watkins, a member of the parish's CAFOD support group, said: "So much bad news around the world has left many of us with a sense of hopelessness but projects such as these enable the parish to work together and contribute to small but real improvements in the lives of others around the world."

"Ruth and Illari from CAFOD's Latin American team were invited to give a homily at all Masses and this meant a more considered view of the project reached many more parishioners than usual."

"Enthusiasm in the parish is high and we're really looking forward to developing our understanding of the communities in Peru – and theirs of ours! – via the communications we'll receive."

Find out more at: www.cafod.org.uk

news in brief**History newsletter is now available**

■ The Winter 2016/17 edition of *Oriente Lumen*, the newsletter of the East Anglian Catholic History Society, has been published containing latest news, events and articles.

The edition carries articles about two Suffolk Catholic families, the Mannocks of Giffords Hall and the nearby Cuddons of Stoke-by-Nayland.

There is also news of events including the Katherine of Aragon Festival at Peterborough Cathedral in late January, the Society's own AGM in July and the Catholic Record Society conference in Cambridge in July.

To sign up for free copies of the newsletter, email editor Dr Francis Young on catholiceastanglia@gmail.com

Christian unity week

■ Bishop Alan helped King's Lynn Churches Together mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity when he preached at London Road Methodist Church on Sunday, January 22. He spoke on the theme for the week of the 'Reconciliation: The Love of God Compels Us' based on 2 Corinthians 5:14-20.

Resources for the week come from the Catholic Church in Germany following the refugee crisis and have been made into a booklet called 'Crossing Barriers'.

Christian unity move

■ During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Bishop of Norwich welcomed three new ecumenical canons to Norwich's Anglican Cathedral, including the Very Rev David Paul, Dean of St John the Baptist Cathedral.

Bishop of Norwich, Rt Rev Graham James, was delighted to install Fr Paul along with the Rev Julian Pursehouse, Chair of the East Anglia Methodist District and Pastor Jon Norman of Soul Church, as ecumenical canons in front of a full Cathedral on Sunday January 22.

Joined with clergy from around the diocese, a congregation from a range of Christian traditions and by the choirs of Norwich Cathedral and of St John's RC Cathedral, Bishop Graham underlined the importance of Christian unity and that the appointments of these ecumenical canons further illustrate the deepening relationships between the different churches in Norwich and more widely in the Diocese.

Bishop Graham said: "I am delighted that Fr David Paul and The Rev Julian Pursehouse accepted my invitation to become ecumenical canons of our cathedral church, illustrating the partnership in the gospel we enjoy with the Roman Catholic and Methodist churches."

"I am delighted too that Jon Norman from Soul Church accepted my invitation to become an ecumenical canon. Along with his wife Chantel, he leads a very large and growing community church and has quickly become a significant church leader in our city."

Fr David Paul said: "This is a very tangible expression of our friendship, co-operation and working together."



Pictured above are, from the left, Pastor Jon Norman, the Very Rev David Paul, Rev Julian Pursehouse, Very Rev Jane Hedges and Bishop Graham James.

Because we are a two-cathedral city it seems to make sense to work together and participate in lots of good works that we can do - and have joint services such as we're having on Good Friday for example. I was very pleased to accept the invitation as a sign of our friendship and working together for the service of the gospel."

The Very Rev Jane Hedges, Dean of Norwich, said: "The Dean and Chapter are delighted that Bishop Graham has

appointed three new Ecumenical Canons for the Cathedral. We hope through these appointments to continue to strengthen our good relationships with our brothers and sisters at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, in the Methodist District and in the Independent Free Churches. We have so much to give and to receive from each other and most important of all this gives us the opportunity to think further about our joint witness to Christ."

Parish aim to Live Simply reaches refugees in Greece

Parishioners at Sacred Heart Parish in North Norfolk have determined to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor, including donating £2000 to refugee work on two Greek islands. Rob and Clare Hardie report.

■ During June and July last year parishioners from all three of our churches in North Walsham, Aylsham and Hoveton met to reflect on Pope Francis' encyclical 'Laudato Sii. Central to his message is how we see our role in the world that conforms with the vision of St Francis of Assisi.

Stephen Matthews from CAFOD helped lead these sessions using the CAFOD study guide and then encouraged us to work together to gain a CAFOD LiveSimply Award, which would involve the parish in trying to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor.

We formed a steering committee with Fr James Walsh and members from the three churches get together monthly to plan a project for each month and a list of hopefully helpful suggestions for living more simply which have been compiled from the suggestions put forward to us by our parishioners.

One of our main projects is to live in solidarity with the poor and we have started by concentrating our efforts on this as we towards our Live Simply Award.

A couple of parishioners attended a



Clare Hardie presenting Fr John Luke Gregory with letters and a donation from the Sacred Heart Parish.

forum of voluntary and statutory agencies offering services for refugees and asylum seekers and thought that 'English+' provided an identifiable service that we could support.

We organized a collection of bicycles, hoovers and tools for the refugees and stored them in Fr James' garage until English+ were able to organise a van to collect them.

In October, parishioners Rob and Clare

Hardie undertook a pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St Paul which took them to the Greek islands of Kos and Rhodes where they met Fr John Luke Gregory, a Franciscan Priest of the Custody of the Holy Land, who is the Parish Priest on Rhodes and Kos.

He, with the help of some parishioners, has almost single-handedly been caring for the needs of the thousands of refugees who have managed to escape

from Syria and survive the treacherous crossing from Turkey to land on these Greek Islands where they are now stuck in camps with no prospect of moving further into Europe.

Fr John Luke was given a gift of £2000 from the Parish along with letters of support to the refugees from the children of St Francis of Assisi School in Norwich who had been learning about the Lampedusa Cross and the refugee crisis. He was quite overwhelmed and extremely grateful.

We already have a very well-established twinning with St Francis Xavier Parish in Svay Sisophon, Cambodia and several members of our Parish have visited our twinned Parish and others continue to make an annual visit for mutual, spiritual and practical help. We have two Cambodian Style Mass celebrations during the year timed to coincide with Feast Days in Cambodia.

During Advent we concentrated on our local Foodbanks in Norwich and Cromer and the Parish wholeheartedly got behind the idea of the Reverse Advent Calendar. People were asked to collect 25 items over 25 days from the list supplied by the Foodbanks.

We collected 72 boxes many with more than the 25 items and delivered them to the Foodbanks for onward distribution to the needy local families. We also encouraged Parishioners to choose CAFOD World Gifts for their Christmas presents for friends and families this year.

We start the New Year concentrating on Living Simply with ideas for not wasting food, and not buying more than we need.

Support given after fatal ship explosion

A Catholic port chaplain and parish priest in Felixstowe have been able to lend support to the crew of a ship birthed in the port after an explosion killed one seafarer and injured another.

St Felix parish priest Fr John Barnes and Sr Marian Davey, port chaplain with Catholic charity Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) were both able to support the crew following the incident.

Sr Marian spoke about her admiration for the faith and dignity of the crew of the Manhattan Bridge which was berthed at Felixstowe port on January 19 when the incident occurred, killing a crew member and injuring the second engineer.

"They're a crew who have a strong bond of relationship and respect for each other," said Sr Marian.

"Strong leadership on board was very evident from the captain and his officers - all the crew were trying to help each other to come to terms with all that's happened," she added.

Sr Marian was informed of the incident in the early hours of the morning by the Harbour Master and Port Health and Safety Manager. On hearing the news, she travelled immediately from her short break in Manchester to offer assistance to the Filipino crew.

"They wanted to make sure that the remaining crew got as much support as possible," said Sr Marian, who visited the ship several times over the weekend.

"The crew had to cope with a very lengthy process of investigation procedures by both the police and the Marine



AoS East Anglian ports chaplain, Sr Marian Davey, who is about to retire.

Accident Investigation Branch throughout the 48 hours the ship was berthed, so I had to snatch slots of time in between to give both one-to-one and collective moments of support.

"The faith and dignity of the crew was inspirational. I provided moments where they could openly express their grief and shock through tears and words and prayer and silence," she said.

Sr Marian also arranged a Mass on board, celebrated by St Felix parish priest

Fr John Barnes. It was a great help to the crew who were able to attend. This was followed by a blessing of various parts of the ship, including the cabin of the deceased seafarer.

"The captain was extremely grateful for the support offered by AoS and to Fr John for celebrating Mass," said Sr Marian.

The family of the seafarer who died have also expressed their thanks for the help given, through contact on Facebook.

Port chaplain set to retire

■ Sister Marian Davey has been a familiar sight in the ports of East Anglia for the last ten years. Now she is about to retire as an Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) chaplain.

Seeing her friendly face at the top of the gangway has been a welcome sight for seafarers who arrive in port, often having been at sea for weeks or months.

"My role as a chaplain is wrapped in layer upon layer of something called presence, being present to and putting yourself at the service of someone else in a spirit of mutual respect," said Sr Marian.

"It may sound a bit corny, but chaplaincy for me has to be person-centred. At port level a chaplain is perhaps the only person in the chain of moving goods around in a port who is person-centred as opposed to cargo-centred.

Sr Marian entered religious life over 40 years ago, joining the Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary. Before joining AoS, she served as an interfaith chaplain to a hospital near Cambridge; supporting people with mental health problems; and worked with Irish Travellers.

During her ten years as a port chaplain, the general condition of the ships she sees has improved, she said.

In 2015, Sr Marian achieved one of her dreams when a new seafarers' centre opened in the port of King's Lynn.

"It is the first time in the port's recent history that a space has been set aside specifically for seafarers to use," she said.



Anniversary celebrations

■ The Ipswich section of the East Anglia Branch of the Catholic Women's League has staged a celebration of its 80th anniversary of its founding in 1936, which intriguingly threw up archived information which may indicate it is even older.

The 80th birthday party, held in St Pancras Church Hall, Ipswich in November, was attended by National President Margaret Valentine who travelled down from Newcastle to be there, and Audrey Kelly (93) a member for over 50 years, both pictured above together.

But what was thought to be a straightforward memorable celebration, brought to light two puzzling bits of history, explained Monica Ford.

"We had assumed it was our 80th anniversary, as announced in the 1936 minutes," said Monica. "But a newspaper article, also found in the CWL archives, reported that in July 1915 Ipswich CWL members were holding a fete in aid of the funds for the WW1 wounded and Belgium refugees.

"Also, in a cupboard in the church hall, a banner emerged from the 1930s which combined the Guide trefoil with the CWL logo. What was the link? Was the CWL somehow involved locally in the development of the scout and guide movement during the 1930s?"

The branch decided that more research is needed to establish the full facts.

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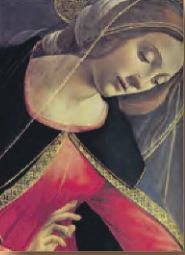
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Pray, fast and give alms in Lent

Fr Henry Whisenant reflects on the call to pray, fast and give alms in Lent and the revived place of the Station Mass in the season.



■ So we come once again to the great season of Lent (and I mean “great” not in the modern sense by which we say an ice cream flavour is “great”, but in the deeper sense by which we say the extent of the sea is “great”). It is an ancient, well-worn season that speaks for itself. Its rites, its symbols, its unfolding scheme of readings, all teach us something about the ever-urgent need to do penance, to return to the Lord, and to prepare for the greatest (there is it again!) days of the Christian year with the Easter Triduum.

We all know, and will be told again no doubt, about the three-fold observation that we are encouraged to make in these days ahead: to pray, to fast, and to give alms. It seems to me that we are fairly good about two of them. Firstly, there is still a strong culture, even among the unchurched, of “giving something up” for Lent, as a way of keeping the observation to fast. Secondly, we are pretty good as a Church about giving to those in need, and each year the diocese chooses two charities to support in an especial way during this season. But that leaves the third observation, prayer, which sometimes gets missed in all the concern for giving more and eating less. In what tangible ways do we not only maintain our prayer in this Lenten season, but increase it?

One of the ways that the Roman church of old has spiritually marked these days is by the daily pilgrimage to the Roman “station” churches. Since before Pope Gregory the Great, the people of Rome, led by a prelate or even the Pope himself, have had the custom of processing to a different church in the city each day, praying litanies, celebrating Mass on arrival, and venerating the relics of the saints honoured in the particular church. After some centuries’ hiatus, this custom has been revived again today in Rome, and here in the diocese we have our own version of this custom, with Bishop Alan visiting each of the deaneries during Lent for a Station Mass with the gathered parishes.

There is much that we could take away from this practice for our own spiritual “programme” this Lent (besides obviously going to the Station Mass in our own deanery).

If you have the time and availability, why not go to daily Mass during Lent, or at least a few times in the week? Why not take one of the litanies – to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, or the Litany of Our Lady – as something to pray each day for this season? Or perhaps, thinking of the veneration of the saints in the Roman station churches, you might decide to invoke the intercession of one or two saints in a particular way this Lent – to have them as spiritual companions on your 40-day pilgrimage. Because Lent is hard enough without trying to do it on our own!

Jaylord's

Seminarian Jaylord Magpuyo became the first-ever Filipino to be ordained as a deacon in the Diocese of East Anglia on January 25 at OLEM in Cambridge. Here is his own vocation story.

“... like one of your hired hands [Luke 15:19].”

This response of the lost son in Luke has become a guiding principle in my response to God’s calling. On the one hand, it crystallizes the meaning of service for me. On the other, it shows the depth of God’s love.

I would consider my calling as nothing extraordinary. In fact, it is a simple one. There are no imposing signs which I could categorize as special. All I knew was to play basketball and chess and paint. I have taken the sport so seriously that I even skipped meals just to play the game and be with my friends. Such was my passion that I even intended to make chess a living.

But my plan is not God’s. I realized that everything has already been laid out for me and all was part of His plan. He used my feebleness to His gain. When accepting the invitation of my classmates to a three-day visit to the St Francis Xavier College Seminary, in Davao City, I found out there were lots of basketball courts inside and the seminarians play almost every day during their sports time. That made me interested.

After passing the entrance exam, I decided to try the seminary life for a year at the age of 16, and the year became years. But one thing I realized, God was slowly preparing and forming me to become not an athlete but a servant of His vineyard.

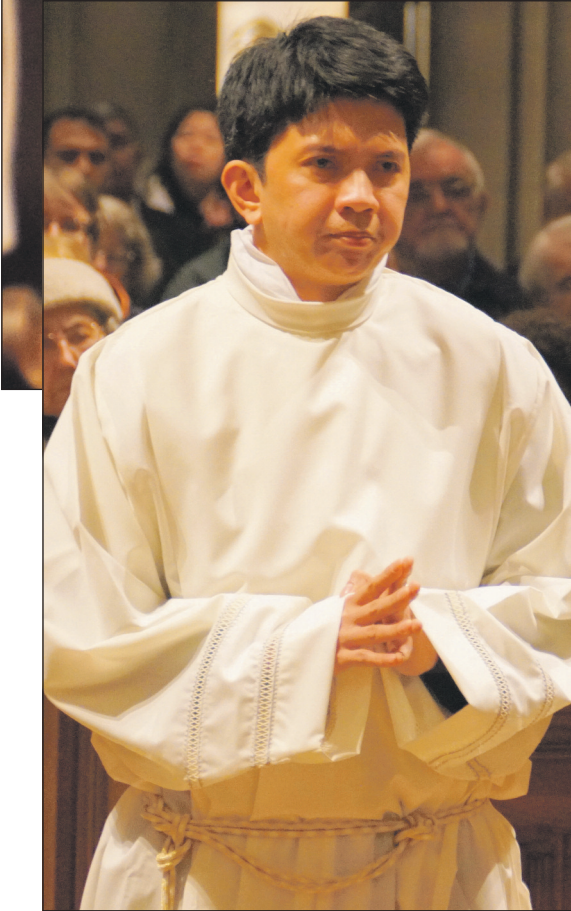
I finished my AB Philosophy degree and MA in Theology in 10 years all together, not including my pastoral and work assignments. But of course, the journey was not easy for it was long and winding. There were intermittent events along the way that have influenced my future decisions. I was admitted into the Military Ordinariate while finishing my theology at San Carlos Graduate School of Theology, Manila.

The experience was challenging, since I was trained to be a priest with a view to becoming a Military Chaplain. As I was about to graduate in theology, I discerned and prayed if this would be the life that God was leading me into.

Again, God hears my cry, like the psalmist used to pray. After much time spent in front of the Blessed Sacrament everyday, I decided not to pursue the vocation in the military service and instead applied to the Diocese of East Anglia.

To be accepted by the Diocese and be ordained as a Deacon by the Bishop Alan is, for me, the will of God. To serve the Diocese with utmost devotion and steadfast generosity will be my lifelong commitment.

■ For a full picture gallery of the ordination, please visit: www.flickr.com/photos/diocese-of-eastanglia



call to serve



Seminarian Jaylord Magpuyo is ordained by Bishop Alan as a deacon in the Diocese of East Anglia.

Pictures by Keith Morris.



PC Andrew Nattrass, right, receiving his award from Norfolk Police Chief Constable Simon Bailey.

Catholic PC is honoured by chief

■ A Norfolk PC, and former chair of the Catholic Police Guild, has received a special award from his Chief Constable for his work over the last five years in helping over 36,000 young people become better drivers.

Norfolk Police Chief Constable Simon Bailey presented PC Andrew Nattrass with a Special Recognition Award at the recent Norfolk Safer Community Awards (NOSCAs). He said: "Andrew's dedication in protecting young people on our roads and rehabilitating offenders has been unwavering. While it's impossible to say how many lives have been saved through the delivery of this presentation, I'm confident young people are better educated to face life behind the wheel."

The award was for services to roads policing in Andrew's role as young driver education co-ordinator, ensuring that students from Year 11 and above at schools and colleges across the county have benefited from seeing a presentation about the dangers of driving and being a passenger.

"The presentation focuses on what we call the Fatal Four," said Andrew. "They are speeding, driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, mobile phone use while driving and the dangers of drivers and passengers not wearing seat belts."

"I was really pleased to receive the award. The role has been challenging but very rewarding. There has been a drop in the number of young people killed and seriously injured on the county's roads. This may be in part due to the presentations."

Andrew, who is due to retire from the force this year after 30 years of service, has spent the last 25 years working as a Roads Policing Officer on the county's roads and often carried out the role of Family Liaison Officer following fatal road traffic collisions.

Andrew is the long-standing Norfolk representative on the Catholic Police Guild of England and Wales and for two years was the national chairman of the Guild. In this role he had the honour of presenting a Metropolitan Police helmet to Pope Francis.

Joint town prayer initiative

■ The Catholic and Anglican churches in Chatteris have teamed up in a new initiative to pray for every single street in the town.

March Catholic parish priest Fr Paul Maddison and Chatteris Anglican Parish Church vicar Wendy Thomson discuss the initiative in a new YouTube video.

Fr Paul said: "It is important that as Catholics and Anglicans we do work together in Chatteris and one of the great ways we do that is in praying for the town together. A recent survey revealed that 60% of people pray - some maybe not sure what they are praying for or how to pray - but is a great positive that we can build on."

Wendy said: "It is great to know that we share that prayer priority together. When the Christmas lights were switched on in the town recently, we had over 150 people come into the church off the street to see the Christmas tree but also to light a candle and to actually pray. It was really moving to see how people really engaged with their prayers - it was really exciting to see that."

"The new prayer initiative has produced a monthly sheet which lists the dates, the streets in the town and topics for prayer, so that we are praying for exactly the same things," said Wendy.

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS



Girls give charity shop a festive feel

■ Boarders from St Mary's Girls School in Cambridge helped to decorate the Cancer Research UK charity shop on Regent Street, Cambridge, for the Christmas season using only recycled materials.

The girls have a long-standing tradition of donating unwanted clothes to the shop and shop manager Michael Bain invited them to create the display.

The girls collected plastic bottles and old wrapping paper and devoted an afternoon to transforming the bottles into festive characters, including Father Christmas, and Olaf, the snowman from Frozen.

School doubles in size

■ A £3.5m extension which has enabled a West Norfolk Catholic primary school to double in size from 210 to 420 places, has been blessed by Bishop Alan during a visit on January 19.

The major expansion at St Martha's primary school near Holy Family Church, in Gaywood, King's Lynn, was funded by a mixture of Norfolk County Council, Diocese of East Anglia and central government.

It provides the school with eight new classrooms, a sports hall, a new staff room and group rooms. It has also created a parent 'drop-off' area behind the church in order to improve congestion at peak times, and an enlarged staff car park.

Headteacher, Aidan McGovern, said: "We were very pleased to celebrate Mass with Bishop Alan at the beginning of a new school term. We combined this visit with a blessing of our new school extension and marked it with a food festival celebrating the wonderful diversity of our school. The children and adults tasted food from all over the world, lovingly prepared by the families of the children."

Helen Bates, Assistant Director of the Diocesan Schools Service, said:



Bishop Alan at St Martha's School to bless the major extension project.

"This is a shared project between the Diocese and Norfolk County Council, which increases not only the number of primary school places in this part of King's Lynn, but also helps to meet a growing demand for Catholic school places. The school will eventually

increase in size from 210 places to 420, although it will not reach its full capacity until 2021."

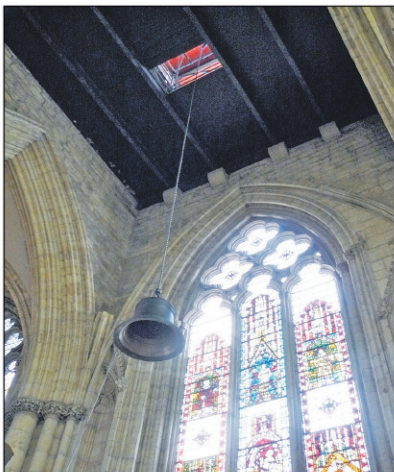
The official opening is being planned for September 21 which will also coincide with the 60th anniversary of the school itself.



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Anointing with oil and prayers for the sick

■ The 25th World Day of the Sick and the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was marked at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich on Saturday February 11, with the Anointing of the Sick by Bishop Alan.

Parishioners from across the Diocese of East Anglia took the opportunity to be anointed with Holy Oil and experience the laying-on of hands in prayer.

During his homily, Bishop Alan, said: "As we encounter Jesus Christ through the prayer of the church, the laying on of hands and anointing with Holy Oil, we experience afresh God's love and mercy, which always bring healing and wholeness in our lives."

"We must unite our sufferings with those of Jesus on the cross. Just as his holy sufferings redeemed the whole world, so we will discover that our own suffering can become a source of grace



Bishop Alan praying at the Anointing of the Sick Mass.

in the lives of others as we offer it up in love in union with Him."

Bishop Alan quoted Pope Francis' words for the day, expressing his: "closeness to all of you, our suffering brothers and sisters and to your families... and my appreciation to all those in different roles of service and in the healthcare institutions, who work with such professionalism, responsibility and dedication for your care, treatment and well being..."

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS



■ St Mary's Primary in Lowestoft celebrated Advent with a variety of special events including a nativity play performed entirely in French.

All the children in Reception to Year 2 performed a wonderful nativity to a packed audience of families. Years 4-6 participated in an Advent service in the beautiful setting of Our Lady's church, including readings, songs and hymns.

Year 6 carried on the school's tradition of

performing a nativity completely in French. It was written by Mary Hunt, former teacher in the school, who kindly returns each year to help the children learn their parts.

The performance finished with children saying Happy Christmas in all the different languages represented by the families in the community. This teaches the children to be proud of their own culture and to respect each other.

Teacher honoured for 25 years' service

■ Cambridge teacher Barbara Quail has influenced hundreds of pupils over her 25 years at St Laurence Catholic primary school in the city and her long service has been recognised with the award of a Diocese of East Anglia Medal. **Mary Jane O'Sullivan reports.**

In January 1991, Barbara started teaching at St Laurence on a two-term temporary contract, having recently moved to the area with her family, after teaching in London. Two of her children were attending St Laurence.

The "temporary contract" was extended, then made permanent, and this year Barbara is celebrating 25 years of teaching at the school. Although quite a few teachers have clocked up over 20 years of teaching at St Laurence, Barbara is the one who's taught there the longest: more than half of the lifetime of the school, which opened in 1968.

On February 3, the whole school celebrated Mass together in St Laurence's Church in thanksgiving for Barbara's 25 years' service. This was the first time in many years that the whole school has celebrated Mass together in the parish Church. They were joined by parishioners, parents and governors as well as previous teachers, parents, pupils and



Teacher Barbara Quail.

governors.

The Mass was also a family celebration, with Barbara being joined by her sister, two daughters and five of her grandchildren (one of whom is now a pupil at the school). Also there were some of her original class from 1991 (all now in their mid-30s), including Barbara's own daughter. Another pupil in the class went on to be a teacher and currently teaches at

St Laurence.

During the Mass, parish priest Fr Pat Cleary presented Barbara with the Diocesan Medal in recognition of her contribution to the parish and school. As an active member of the parish, Barbara has been key in strengthening the links between school and parish.

School Chair of Governors, Mary Jane O'Sullivan, paid tribute to Barbara, describing how her openness about her faith has made her an outstanding Catholic role model for all who know her. She highlighted Barbara's love of teaching and of children, her reputation for making learning fun and exciting, and her loyalty and commitment to both parish and school.

Headteacher Clare Clark said: "Barbara has also been the lead First Communion Catechist for many hundreds of children, playing a fundamental role in sharing her knowledge and love of our Catholic faith. On a personal note, she has been an invaluable support to me in the last two years since I took up the role of Headteacher."

The celebrations continued afterwards with two parties; one in the parish room for parishioners and another tea party at the end of the school day for children and parents.

news in brief



Pupils intrigued by Multi-faith day

■ St Mary's Primary in Lowestoft recently held a Multi Faith Day, which one pupil said was "unique and intriguing".

To prepare for the event, each class created a display on a different faith including Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Judaism. The day started with a whole school Mass.

Deacon Stephen Pomeroy explained that although the global population is divided into different cultures and faith, we are all loved by God.

In the afternoon, a group of visitors, who represented each of the faiths, explained about their beliefs and traditions. The children learnt about how Buddhists chant, the meaning of the five K symbols that Sikhs wear, how Jews respect the Bible as a holy book, why Muslims wear special clothes and how Hindus celebrate different festivals.

When the pupils were asked what they had learnt from the day, Joss said: "Each faith was unique and intriguing - I really enjoyed it", Freddie commented that: "We shouldn't judge people, just by what they wear, instead we should treat everyone with respect." Thavisha summed up the day by saying: "All the faiths believe in living in peace and loving each other."

Different ways to celebrate

■ Students at St Alban's High School in Ipswich found a number of ways of celebrating Advent and Christmas.

They supported local charity Love Ipswich which is run by geography teacher, Fran Marcus and whose aim is to provide the most vulnerable families in Ipswich with a luxury Christmas dinner in a box. Families received a number of items such as gravy granules, custard, stuffing, Christmas biscuits, mince pies, chocolates together with a £10 meat voucher. The referrals for the families came from Social Services and other organisations across the town. In total, 61 families in Ipswich received a Christmas hamper.

During Advent, Year 7 students reflected on the true meaning of Christmas. In RE lessons, students were invited to spend time in reflective prayer on a number of themes at prayer station in the school Chapel.

"I liked the mirror station because it made me realise that it is not about you on the outside. It's about you one the inside. I am happy that God made me who I am," said one pupil.

"My favourite prayer station was when we prayed for different parts of the world. I have family in the Philippines who are struggling and are really poor. It made me realise how much I have and made me more grateful," said another.

On the last day of term, Will Garnham provided a charity musical extravaganza! As part of his Extended Project, Will and some brave peers and staff, lip synced their way through many favourite Christmas hits. Over 600 students and teachers attended the event held at lunch-time and the money raised went to support the work of CAFOD.

Schools marks its golden anniversary

■ St Benedict's Catholic School in Bury St Edmunds began its Golden Jubilee Year on Friday January 20, with a celebration of Mass in St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

During the Mass, led by the Vicar General David Bagstaff, the students, governors and staff remembered important moments from the school's 50-year history.

David Dawson, Chair of Governors, spoke eloquently about the importance of Catholic education in

West Suffolk, praising the work of the staff and head teachers over the years.

The support of local parish priest, Fr Houghton, Councillor Pemberton and John Lacey-Scott was crucial to the founding of the School. St Benedict's opened on January 16, 1967 with only 89 pupils on roll. Numbers grew steadily over the years and it is now a very successful 11-18 school with 860 students.

For the occasion of the Mass, a

special frontal was placed before the altar. The beautiful (and intricate) piece was designed by art teacher, Dominic Billings and was made by his Year 9 Students.

Amongst the music for the Mass, the choir performed a setting of 'Jubilate Deo', specially written for the occasion by the young British composer James Devor.

Further celebrations are planned throughout the year. Details at: www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk



Bishop Michael Evans.

Bishop Michael remembered

■ Bishop Michael Evans, former bishop of East Anglia, will be remembered and prayed for at a Mass at St George's Cathedral in Southwark held in honour of the Blessed Oscar Romero and marking the 37th anniversary of his assassination on March 24.

2017 is also the centenary year of the birth of Blessed Oscar Romero, born on August 15, 1917.

Following a petition from the Archbishop of Southwark, the Most Rev Peter Smith, to have Blessed Oscar Romero added to the liturgical Calendar of the Diocese, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, by virtue of the faculties granted to it by Pope Francis, has granted that a 'liturgical commemoration' may be celebrated annually in St George's Cathedral, Southwark, on March 24, the anniversary of his martyrdom.

The intention at the Mass will be to pray for the repose of the soul of Bishop Michael Evans, former bishop of East Anglia and for nearly 28 years priest of the diocese of Southwark, who had a great admiration and devotion for Oscar Romero, and was a founding trustee of the Archbishop Romero Trust.

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YOUTH MATTERS

Ignite Lite training weekend a success

The first Ignite Lite youth training weekend was held in late January for participants to learn more about their faith and the practical elements of ministry. Catherine Williams reports.

■ Ignite Lite is a new initiative which has been set up for young people aged between 16 and 30 to work alongside the Ignite Diocesan Youth Mission Team in the facilitation and running of events in schools and parishes around the Diocese.

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.

A first training weekend was held in Poringland from January 20 to 22 when a group of eight young people came together.

It is a chance for young people to come together and learn more about their faith as well as the practicals of being involved in ministry; growing in skills such as delivering presentations and testimonies, leading games, drama, music and more besides, while at the same time growing in fellowship with one another.

The weekend was run by Hamish MacQueen, Youth Director for the Diocese and Catherine Williams, Ignite Team Leader, with input from New Evangelisation Administrator Rebecca Bretherton on the Sunday.

Topics covered included: discipleship, evangelisation, leading small groups and activities along with developing and scheduling retreat days amongst other things. Each day there was Mass, time for personal prayer and prayer as a group with one of the highlights being a time of adoration on the Saturday evening. There were also times for fellowship and



The first Ignite Lite group with Bishop Alan, Hamish MacQueen and Catherine Williams.

growing closer both as a team and also just as a group of young Catholics.

It was a really fantastic weekend to be a part of and enjoyed by all those who came, as one of the attendees at the training weekend said: "It was enjoyable both to learn some new things and spend time with the other people on the weekend. Each talk/session brought something unique. There was a nice combination of evangelisation 'theory' and practical training with fellowship and opportunities for personal spiritual development."

Each training weekend for Ignite Lite will deal with different elements of evangelisation and growth in the Catholic faith with continued input from Hamish and Catherine as well as various

guest speakers.

This will help the members of Ignite Lite to encounter Jesus and grow in their relationship with Him as well as being formed in their faith. In turn this will help them to provide an authentic Christian witness to the youth they encounter and so become both effective disciples and disciplers!

The next training weekend will be from March 31 to April 2 and there will be opportunities throughout the year for day trips.

If you are interested in applying to join Ignite Lite or just want to find out more please contact Catherine at igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk or check out www.facebook.com/igniteyea

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YOUTH MATTERS



Set your faith on fire

■ There are two great opportunities for young people across the Diocese to set their faith on fire over this spring. Hamish MacQueen, Director of Youth Service explains.

First up, on March 11, is Flame – a gathering of thousands of young Catholics (aimed at those in Year 10 and above) at the SSE Arena, Wembley. Organised by CYMFed, there will be inspirational talks from world class speakers, music from Matt Redman (who wrote the worship song 10,000 Reasons) and times of prayer. We are excited to be taking a group from the Diocese - at the

time of going to press about 50 people are going but there's plenty of room for more! The Diocese is offering subsidised tickets and arranging subsidised transport from around East Anglia.

Closer to home, on the last weekend of April, we have our own Diocesan youth festival – The Ignite Festival. This is for people in Year 9 upwards and everyone preparing for Confirmation (whatever age).

There is a mixture of live music, powerful talks, passionate prayer, interactive workshops, and lots of time for sports and fun including sumo suit wrestling!

On the Bank Holiday Monday, young people who have been at the festival can take part in a pilgrimage walk to join with the wider Diocese for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham. If the last two years are anything to go by, it can be a life changing weekend.

You can find out more information and book online for both Flame and Ignite at www.rcdea.org.uk/youth.

If you're not quite old enough, don't forget there's also Celebrate East Anglia (June 3 and 4), which is for people of any age and the Diocesan Summer Camp (August 25 - 28) for those aged 8 - 14.

Young Adults Pilgrimage to Santiago Compostela Walking the Camino



From 23rd July – 1st August 2017

For those age 18 – 35

See www.rcdea.org.uk/youth for more information

Youth ministry

■ The Catholic Youth Ministry Federation (CYMFed), organizes Flame. It is made up of every Catholic diocese and organisation that works with young people, such as the Sion Community and Youth 2000. The Diocese of East Anglia is represented by our Director of Youth Service, Hamish MacQueen who is also on the CYMFed board.

Members of CYMFed take in turn to work on national projects - amongst other things, Hamish helped plan the Papal Visit in 2010 and has worked on resources for young people and vocations.

CYMFed "seeks to help shape and support Catholic Youth Ministry in England & Wales" and is supported by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales. Visit: www.cymfed.org.uk



Summer pilgrims

■ During summer 2017, the Diocese will be organising a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, walking the Camino. For people age 18 - 30. Full details will be sent out in the new year but to register interest, please email dys@rcdea.org.uk

Key 2017 dates

■ **March 11** – 'Flame III' (National Youth Event), Wembley

■ **April 29-30** – Ignite Diocesan Youth Festival and Walk to Walsingham

■ **May 1** – Pilgrimage Walk to Walsingham

■ **June 3-4** – Celebrate East Anglia Family Conference, Bury St Edmunds

■ **July 23 - August 1** – Young Adults (18 to 35) Pilgrimage, to Santiago Compostela, Walking the Camino

■ **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
igniteyea@rcdea.org.uk

All other enquiries
dys@rcdea.org.uk

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/igniteyea

Twitter: @igniteyea

Web: www.rcdea.org.uk/youth/

www.ignitefestival.co.uk

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April 29th - 30th

News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese



■ Young people from the Sunday Children's Liturgy Group at Our Lady of Good Counsel, March, performing their Christmas Nativity play. This was held after Mass on the Sunday before Christmas in front of a sizeable number of parishioners and parents.



■ A Mass for the Religious of the Diocese of East Anglia was held at St John's Cathedral in Norwich on Thursday February 2.

All Priests, Brothers and Sisters of Religious Orders who live within the Diocese, were invited and many attended the Mass celebrated by Bishop Alan and around 65 stayed to enjoy a lunch in the Cathedral Narthex. Picture by David Street.



■ A first-ever Christmas tree festival at St George's church in Norwich has raised funds for over 30 local charities and helped bring to an end a year of celebrations to mark the church's 50th anniversary.

The festival featured trees imaginatively decorated by over 30 charities and community clubs all with a local connection, each raising funds for the good cause.

The magnificent 16ft by 10ft Livability Knitted Christmas Tree, took pride of place near the altar. Let the Children Live had a tree decorated with disposable items of rubbish as the street children it helps in Colombia are called "the disposables" and there was also a tree where people could make a pledge and tie it to a branch.

Other trees represented CAFOD, Foodbank, Mary's Meals, Hope into Action, Emmaus, St Vincent de Paul Society, Franciscans, Age UK, Leeway, 17th Norwich Scouts (who meet in the church hall) and Coming Home among many others.

"Festival co-ordinator, Tessa Brewster, said: We thought it would be a great idea to use our church to raise money for lots of local charities and groups. When they came to decorate their trees it was a really friendly atmosphere and we made lots of new friends."

"After a wonderful year of events at St George's, it was a fitting finale to our anniversary year," said St George's events committee member, Mark Pointer. "The church looked magnificent and what a better way to get into the mood for Christmas."

Several hundred people visited the festival over the three days of December 10 to 12.

Pictured, top, is organiser Tessa Brewster with the 16ft Liveability knitted Christmas tree in St George's.



■ The Posada statue of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus made its way into a care home in Wisbech during December reports Sean Finlay.

Amanda and Mark Wilson, from Our Lady and St Charles Church, are pictured presenting the Posada to Marion Crampton, a resident at Dove Court Care Home. Also in the photograph are Robin Hine, secretary of Wisbech Churches Together and Annie Pinto, from Our Lady.

Amanda said: "Having the Posada in our home was a helpful way for us to convey to our three children the real meaning of Christmas, and that Jesus and his family were refugees in need of care and love."

Robin said that in his last parish in Livingstone in Scotland the Posada figures were made of wool and travelled around the community, to supermarkets and even to a football game.

BUILDING BRIDGES

Choir says arrivederci to Italian singer

■ The choir at St John's Cathedral in Norwich has said 'arrivederci' to Italian singer Luciana Ravina after 40 years of musical service.

Luciana began singing in the parish church in San Lorenzo in Tuscany, where the choir-master was later made a Cardinal for his services to church music.

Her interest and enthusiasm for church music spans eight decades and Luciana has sung in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Oman, Basildon and in Norwich, where she has been a member of the St John's Cathedral Choir for over 40 years.

She also sang with the Hethersett Singers and with the Eaton Parishes Choir and will be moving to Bristol.

Daniel Justin, Master of Music at St John's Cathedral, said: "It was a great sadness to hear that Luciana was leaving the choir, especially after so many years of faithful service. Her knowledge of Italian polyphony was always very impressive.

"Being from Bristol myself, I have no doubt she'll enjoy yet another 'fine' city, and her new parish (Sacred Heart, Henleaze) has fond memories for me attending G&S Operettas by the Bristol Catholic Players as a young lad. So arrivederci, Luciana!"



Double Anglican link for Pilgrimage People

■ Diocese of East Anglia-linked travel company, Pilgrimage People, is planning to expand its ability to help development projects across the Holy Land through new relationships with the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem and the Diocese of Norwich.

The Cambridge-based charitable company, which grew out of a Catholic Diocese of East Anglia project, has run pilgrimages and tours, mainly to the Holy Land but also to other pilgrimage destinations, since 2006. As a charity, all of the surplus money it generates is given to development projects which support the Christian communities in the Holy Land and in the last decade over £600,000 had been donated.

Now the company wants to expand its work to include more Anglican and other denominational groups.

The Anglican Bishop of Norwich the Rt Rev Graham James, has recently become a trustee of the charity and is planning to lead a group of his curates on a pilgrimage in 2018.



Fr Paul Maddison, left, and Bishop of Jerusalem's Chaplain, Rev David Longe, meet in Jerusalem.

Trustees and staff from Pilgrimage People recently visited the Holy Land and met with the Bishop of Jerusalem's Chaplain, Rev David Longe. They discussed how future pilgrimages with Anglican groups might establish links and raise funds for social action projects from the Anglican Diocese which covers Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Israel.

Rev Longe said: "The beauty of ecumenical partnerships is that we stand united to sustain the precious and precar-

ious 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."

Founder and Trustee of Pilgrimage People, Fr Paul Maddison, from March, said: "We were very grateful for the opportunity to meet David as we look to bring more Anglican groups to the Holy Land while supporting humanitarian

projects in the Jerusalem diocese.

Chelmsford Anglican priest, Rev Stephen Need, former Dean of St George's College in Jerusalem, was also in the visiting group.

He said: "I am keen to help Pilgrimage People bring more Anglican groups to experience the unique atmosphere of the Holy Land while also supporting the important work of the Jerusalem diocese."

www.pilgrimagepeople.org
www.j-diocese.org

Can you help build bridges?

The two current Diocese of East Anglia Building Bridges projects are support for the salary of a kindergarten teacher 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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Place of sanctuary

A packed congregation witnessed the blessing of a new-look Sanctuary at St Felix Church in Felixstowe on December 18, following a £25,000 project. Keith Morris reports.

Bishop Alan celebrated Mass and blessed the new works which included a new tiled floor, new supports for the stone altar, a new stone plinth for the tabernacle and a new stone ambo (lectern).

The project was funded by the Diocese Alive in Faith project, plus some anonymous donations.

Parish Priest, Fr John Barnes, said: "The re-modelling involved laying a new floor of small red tiles to replace a jazzy 1970s floor of highly patterned yellow and brown tiles, replacing two concrete supports for the white marble top of the altar with matching stone and the introduction of a handsome stone plinth for a new tabernacle, now in the centre of the east wall.

"The new ambo of matching stone, incorporates stone carvings of the four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, which were rescued from a previous stone pulpit which has lain in churchyard for the last 30 years."

The work at the church, which first opened in 1912, took place under the direction of architect Neil Birdsall and was all blessed by Bishop Alan during the Mass.

A Lady Chapel was also redecorated by a medieval paintings expert and blessed by Bishop Alan during the Mass.

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



Inter Faith pilgrims head to Walsingham

An Inter Faith pilgrimage is set to take place at Walsingham in Norfolk on Saturday April 1, involving Catholics, other Christians, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Jews and those of no faith, for only the second time.

The first-ever East Anglian Inter Faith Pilgrimage took place in Walsingham in October 2015, organised by Cynthia Capey from SIFRE (Suffolk Inter Faith Resource) and involved 40 pilgrims from different faiths visiting both the Catholic and Anglican Shrines in Walsingham.

Because of the success of the first pilgrimage, the Diocese of East Anglia has joined with the Inter Faith Councils of Norwich, Wisbech and Peterborough to organise a second. It will be led by East Anglia Catholic priest Fr Michael Rear, who also led the first pilgrimage.

Brian Keegan, the lead for Inter Religious Dialogue in the Diocese of East Anglia said:

"I am delighted with the enthusiasm and cooperation of the Inter Faith Councils in East Anglia who have joined together with us to organise this second pilgrimage and I am looking forward to meeting with a great many people of many different faiths and cultures to share a few hours together enjoying and reflecting on our God-given earth with all its potential riches shared by us all."

The programme for this year's pilgrimage begins at 11.30 at the Catholic Shrine at Houghton St Giles. Pilgrim Mass, a shared lunch, Blessing, a walk from the Catholic Shrine to the Anglican Shrine with several stops for reflection. (This will be along the old railway embankment, now the Pilgrim Way) and reflections and sprinkling at the Anglican Shrine.

For more details contact: Brian Keegan, at brian@briankeegan.demon.co.uk or on 01733 265769



The first-ever East Anglian Inter Faith Pilgrimage in 2015, pictured outside the Catholic National Shrine in Walsingham.