

May
2017
FREE

Catholic East Anglia

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

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Over 1,000 gather from across the Diocese



Chrism Mass shows unity

**Bishop
Alan with
the Sacred
Oils at the
Chrism
Mass.**

Over 1,000 people marked a "significant moment in the life of the Diocese of East Anglia" on April 11 at the annual Chrism Mass at a packed Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich, during which priestly promises were renewed and sacred oils blessed. Keith Morris reports.

In the biggest gathering of the diocesan year, Bishop Alan Hopes welcomed clergy and laity from parishes right across the Diocese, with coaches lining the nearby roads.

"The Chrism Mass is a significant moment for us as a Diocese to come together today as we prepare to celebrate the Paschal mystery of the Lord's passion, death and resurrection," he said.

"In so doing, we renew our unity with each other and with the whole church throughout the world. This unity is clearly expressed by the blessing of the holy oils which will be used across the Diocese in the coming year for baptism and for the anointing of the sick and by the

consecration of the sacred oil of chrism which will be used for the celebration of confirmation and ordination to the priesthood."

In his homily, Bishop Alan spoke about the body of Christ: "As the Church we are called to be nothing less than Christ's body in the world – we are to be his eyes and ears, his hands and his feet, doing good to our neighbour, serving Him in those who are on the margins of society, those in need, the refugee, the migrant, the stranger."

"Through His Church – through you and me – Jesus Christ continues his work of love, reconciliation and forgiveness throughout the world," he said.

■ Continued on centre pages

Archbishop set for UEA Newman lecture

■ An Archbishop, a Professor and the 'Catholic Woman of the Year' will be speaking at this year's Newman Lectures at the University of East Anglia in May.

Church, State and Culture are the overall theme for this year's series of lectures at the UEA, organised by the Catholic Chaplaincy, which have become one of the most popular lecture series at the university.

This year's speakers are Archbishop Eamon Martin, Primate of All Ireland (May 8), pictured below; Dr Caroline Farey, of the School of the Annunciation, Buckfast (May 15); and Professor John Charmley, of St Mary's University Twickenham (May 22).

Lectures take place on Monday evenings at 6.30pm at the UEA's Julian Study Centre and are free to attend.



Deacon

Andrew Eburne, Catholic Chaplain at UEA, said: "I'm delighted to be able to announce such distinguished and diverse speakers. Archbishop Eamon Martin will be speaking on 'The Church and its relationship to the State', and as Primate of All Ireland will bring a fascinating perspective to that issue. Dr Caroline Farey has won many plaudits for her work at the School of the Annunciation, including being named as 'Catholic Woman of the Year' in 2016, and she will be speaking on the Church and Sacred Art."

"Finally, Professor John Charmley was the co-founder of the Newman Lectures at UEA before moving to St Mary's University Twickenham as Pro-Vice Chancellor, and his subject is 'Churchill and the Churches'."

For more information please contact Andrew.Eburne@uea.ac.uk.

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news in brief

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All stories and pictures which appear in this newspaper or the Diocesan website at www.rcdea.org.uk are available for you to use free of charge.

We also have an online stock of pictures of events and people across the Diocese stretching back over the past couple of years which are available to download for free

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Two further free evening media workshop are set to be run by Diocesan Communications Director Keith Morris. Keith, who is an experienced journalist, will talk about how to take advantage of the opportunities that working with the media can provide to successfully promote local church activities and projects in your local papers, on radio, online and in your own publications.

The first is in Norwich at Our Lady, Mother of God, Churchfield Green, Thorpe St Andrew, on May 11 and the second is in the parish room at Our Lady of Pity, in Swaffham on May 31. Both run from 7-9pm and should be booked through Rebecca Bretherton at rebecca.bretherton@icloud.com

Church is filled

■ On Four Ash Wednesday Masses at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Lowestoft were very well attended on March 1 with around 400 people present. Deacon Stephen Pomeroy said: "Our aim was to give the maximum opportunity for as many as possible to receive the Ashes and attend mass, including those at work, retired and families."

"The 9.15am Mass saw a full church of 200 plus, including the whole of St Mary's Primary School, plus parents and regular parishioners."

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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 June 1.

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Bishop helps arrange Pope Francis blessing

A group of young adults from a special needs school in Dublin have met and received a personal blessing from Pope Francis, thanks to Bishop Alan Hopes and rugby children's charity Wooden Spoon.

■ The group of young adults with various intellectual and physical impairments, supported by family members and staff from Cheeverstown, a special needs school in Dublin, flew into Rome on February 7, on a trip organized by Wooden Spoon, to see the recent rugby international match between Italy and Ireland.

Séamus Farrelly, Chairman of Wooden Spoon Eastern Counties Region, based in Norwich, helped to raise funds for the trip as he has links with Dublin. Trip organisers asked him if, while in Rome, it would be possible to visit the Holy City and maybe see His Holiness.

Séamus said: "I approached Bishop Alan regarding this and he kindly wrote to the Papal Nuncio in London. Because of this the youngsters, their helpers and parents were blessed to be at the front of the Papal audience on the Wednesday."

"After the proceedings, Pope Francis came to meet them personally and give them each a blessing and some very kind words. All of the group received a set of Rosary beads from His Holiness to mark the occasion and these will be forever cherished. Parents commented this was truly a pinnacle in their youngster's lives."



Pope Francis blesses one of the Dublin children.

Stations of the Cross restored for Lent

■ As Lent began on March 1, the Stations of the Cross at the Church of St Henry Morse, Diss, under restoration for the past few months, were back in place ready for the parish community to pray and reflect on Jesus's journey to his crucifixion.

When the church was built five years ago, the Stations were brought from the old church in the town as a symbol of continuity. The silver-plated bronze castings, probably of French or Spanish origin, mounted on wooden crosses, are held in great affection by many in the parish community: no-one seems certain, but some think that the late Fr Robert McCormick – better known as Father Mac – made the wooden crosses himself during his time as parish priest.

Now hanging in a much bigger church, parishioner Richard Poole thought the Stations should have more prominence. "They were looking a bit tired, and really needed enhancing," he said. "I realised how beautiful they would look if they could incorporate the same stone used to make the altar."

Richard, a retired creative director, showed some drawings to parish priest, Fr David Bagstaff. Given the go-ahead, he set about finding local craftspeople to carry out the restoration and new stonework.

Peter Hall, a metal finisher from Finningham, restored the bronze castings and applied new silver plate; Peter Dunsmore, who designed and built all the oak seating in the church, made new crosses – the old ones having disintegrated, and Paul Blake, master



Master stonemason Paul Blake, who made the new stone crosses on which the wooden ones are mounted.

stonemason at Watton-based H Brett and Son, made the new stone crosses on which the wooden ones are mounted.

Fr David is delighted with the result: "The restored and enhanced depictions of Jesus's journey to Calvary, leading to the great promise and hope of Easter, are

beautiful and contemporary to our church building. They should be a great aid to our prayer, which embraces both word and the visual. We will be praying the Stations of the Cross each week during Lent, at varying times to enable as many people as possible to take part."



Bishop Alan Hopes, Sister Yvonne Mwila, and CAFOD volunteers in the garden of St John's Cathedral.

Bishop celebrates CAFOD Mass

■ Welcoming the crowd of CAFOD volunteers in St John's Cathedral, in Norwich, Bishop Alan Hopes thanked them for all that they do for the charity in parishes and schools across the diocese, gathering support for people in need across the world.

The Mass, on February 25, was part of the diocesan celebrations of its 40th anniversary.

Bishop Alan said: "CAFOD was created after the Second Vatican Council from the response that the Catholic community had shown to the needs of others as they witnessed their plight around the world.

"Helping people in poverty around the world, church partners, and the wider Caritas International family is a heartfelt expression of our faith,

carrying out those acts of mercy that we have been remembering over the last year: feeding the hungry, giving water to the thirsty, and welcoming the stranger."

Stephen Matthews, CAFOD Community Participation Coordinator said: "CAFOD has always been a dear part of the work of this diocese, part of our mission to carry forward the work of Christ Himself in the world, helping people toward fulfilment, free from poverty and injustice. And so we pray, we fast, and we give generously to help our global neighbours."

In the afternoon, CAFOD partner, Sister Yvonne Mwila from Zambia, spoke about the work she is able to do thanks to the donations that people have given to the charity. She works

with households in distress, caring for those who are orphaned, those with disabilities, and those who are living with HIV. Sister Yvonne and the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, care for these people.

Florence lost her husband and son to HIV. Through the care and treatment of the Sisters, she was nursed back to health. They gave her 500 tiny fish, tools and training to build a pond and farm fish. Florence became someone important. And in turn Florence has taught other people how they too can farm fish.

The day ended with Stations of the Cross, reflecting on the experiences of those who fall and thirst in Zambia.

You can also donate online at www.cafod.org.uk or on 0303 303 3030.

Trio installed as acolytes in Rome

Three Diocese of East Anglia seminarians at the Beda College in Rome received the Ministry of Acolyte at an evening Mass on March 15.

There were 11 students installed as Acolytes at the Beda College, three of whom are studying for East Anglia - Michael Brookes, Paul Spellman and Alan Hodgson. The service was concelebrated by Canon David Bagstaff, Vicar General, representing the Bishop of East Anglia.

Alan explained: "The Acolyte Mass is generally carried out by a bishop in the seminary and is a significant stage that we complete during our studies. We receive Acolyte after being installed as lectors (last year) and before becoming candidates and then deacons (next year).

"Before Vatican II the office was referred to as 'sub-deacon'. During the Mass the bishop hands the candidate a patten filled with bread and says the words, 'Take this vessel with bread for the celebration of the eucharist. Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and of his Church'.

"The ministry is a permanent one and can only be received once by an



Michael Brookes is installed as an Acolyte.

individual. It allows us, as students, to serve at the altar during Holy Mass, distribute Holy Communion and to purify the sacred vessels.

"It is an exciting stage for us because we get to work closer to the priests during the Mass as well as to draw

closer to the Blessed Sacrament.

"At the Beda College we are also candle bearers during the Mass and we generally do all the serving at Masses either in the college or if we are invited to celebrate Mass in other venues," said Alan.

news in brief

Musical service of over 40 years

■ Forty plus years of musical service have been recognised by the presentation of a Diocesan Medal to 92-year-old Mary Henriksen on Sunday March 12 by Fr Denys Lloyd, Parish Priest of Our Lady and St Joseph Parish, Sheringham and Cromer.

The medal was presented in recognition of Mary's long service to church music in both the Diocese of East Anglia at Our Lady of Refuge, Cromer, over the last 40 years and before that in the Archdiocese of Westminster.

Since 1977, when the family moved to North Norfolk, Mary has been singing in the choir or playing the organ – and, since 1997, she has been organist at all Masses, Benedictions, funerals and other services, as well as the weekly choir practice.



Before that, and since her marriage in 1964, Mary was playing the organ at 20 or so local Catholic and Anglican churches in the Hoddesdon area in Hertfordshire and in 1974 was received into the Catholic Church. Since the late 1940s Mary was an established professional singer including a lead operatic singer on the North London stage, and music teacher.

Mary is a highly qualified musician: LRAM (singing), LRAM (piano) and GRSM. In the 1990s when the Royal Academy became a full college of the University of London, the GRSM was replaced by the award of the BMus (London)

Mary joined the Gregorian Association in 1964 and after many decades of singing was made an Honorary Member. At 85, Mary decided she would give up her teaching post at Cromer High school, but at 92 she still gives individual lessons to choir members.

Fr Denys said: "When she was presented with the Diocesan Medal at the end of Sunday Mass, the congregation burst into a spontaneous round of applause – a testimony to the affection and gratitude we all feel for this very remarkable lady."

Speaking competition

■ An historic Catenian speaking competition – the Saubolle Cup – was held in West Norfolk recently between incoming president elects from across Province 2.

Staged at Andel Lodge, Tottenham, near King's Lynn on February 16, each circle's incoming president elect was invited to talk for two minutes before an audience of members from all circles in the province.

Each presentation was assessed by a panel of judges Provincial Director Dennis Barter (West Norfolk), Provincial President Philip Hoy (Norwich) and Aidan McGovern (Headmaster of St Martha's Primary School, King's Lynn). The entire proceedings were controlled by traffic lights.

Participants poured their hearts and souls into their speeches on the subject of Catenian Engagement. The overall winner was Malcolm Butterworth (Upminster) and the runners-up Roger Sclater (Chelmsford Mid Essex) and Peter Coates (W. Norfolk).

The competition was first held in 1976 as a tribute to Brother George Saubolle who died at the age of 84 having completed 54 years as a member of Upminster Circle.

Province 2 of the Catenians stretches all the way down to Essex and East London and west to King's Lynn and Wisbech.

NEW EVANGELISATION

Madonnas and Miracles

Madonnas and Miracles is the title of a major new exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge until June 4, which reveals the central place of religion in the Italian Renaissance home. Keith Morris reports.

■ This free exhibition shows how religious beliefs and practices were embedded in every aspect of domestic life, peering through the keyhole of the Italian Renaissance home and discovering a hidden world of religious devotion.

The culmination of a four-year European-funded project, *Madonnas and Miracles* presents the fruits of a ground-breaking interdisciplinary investigation carried out at the University of Cambridge which has uncovered hundreds of sources that tell a new story about the role of the divine in everyday life.

The exhibition presents a domestic sphere that was supercharged with spiritual significance. Many different kinds of artefact—paintings and crucifixes, crockery and cutlery, jewellery, rosaries, statuettes, prayer books and cheap prints—are brought together to show how they worked collectively to shape the domestic religious sphere.

Some of the most powerful items on display are familiar items of daily life turned to divine purposes. An ivory comb from the mid-fifteenth century features a tiny Annunciation scene. A two-handed cup is decorated with the instruments of Christ's Passion. Conversely, some religious objects served worldly purposes. A rock crystal rosary (pictured right), created for a wealthy patron, reveals delicate scenes in gilded glass within each of its 13 beads; it would have functioned simultaneously as a potent religious tool and a breath-taking piece of jewellery.

Displaying 50 objects from the museum's

own collection, as well as over 100 important loan works from Europe, the United States and Israel, *Madonnas and Miracles* explores a series of interlinked themes: family life, the physical experience of prayer, the role of the saints, miracles, pilgrimage and religious reform.

Exhibition co-curator, Deborah Howard, said: "The exhibition demonstrates that domestic religion at the time was well attuned to the needs of ordinary lay-folk, as they experienced the crises and anxieties of everyday life."

The point is driven home by one of the highlights of the show: a selection of ex-voto painted wooden images drawn from shrines across Italy and never before displayed in the UK. The roughly painted boards were originally created to give thanks for miracles were produced in the period – deliverance from earthquakes, falls from high windows, house fires and disease.

"The images of worshippers at moments of extreme physical peril provide moving testimony to the Renaissance fascination with the miraculous, in its intersection with everyday domestic life," said Deborah.

The exhibition shows how the Madonna functioned as a role-model for motherhood and parenting. This theme is intimately depicted in a favourite painting from the Fitzwilliam's collection, Pinturicchio's *Virgin and Child with St John*, which portrays Mary teaching Jesus to read.

A 15th-century polychrome wooden doll of the Christ Child from Camerino, which survived a recent earthquake which hit the area and monastery of Santa Chiara, has left Italy for the first time to be displayed in the exhibition. Many women in Renaissance Italy possessed similar dolls, which were dressed, undressed, handled and kissed, mimicking the Virgin's maternal bond with Christ.

Alongside masterpieces by renowned artists such as Filippo Lippi and Annibale

Carracci, *Madonnas and Miracles* features domestic objects from the museum's reserve collection rarely seen by the public.

The multi-sensory nature of devotion is highlighted by the use of different media. While they admire rosaries made of rosewood and bone, visitors can listen to the voice of an elderly Italian woman repeating her Ave Marias and Paternosters and Cambridge resident and Italian Catholic Dr Anna Gannon talk about her personal devotions and the rosary.

One particularly unusual item is a set of knives that bear the musical notation for a four-part grace - brought to life by a recording by members of the Choir of St John's College, Cambridge.

The exhibition is accompanied by a lavishly illustrated catalogue, edited by curators Maya Corry, Deborah Howard and Mary Laven. The exhibition runs until June 4 every day except Mondays.

www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

Pictures copyright of the museum.



Bringing our Christian faith into our homes



Rebecca Bretherton says that the exhibition shows how we can bring our Christian faith into our homes.

■ Walking through the *Madonnas and Miracles* exhibition as a Catholic, it all looks very familiar. The show gives glimpses of how Italians brought their Christian faith into their homes and their workplaces in the sixteenth century. We Catholics still use pictures and religious objects to bring Jesus Christ into the centre of our everyday routines. We could use these same things to share His message with other people.

Many of us have difficulty even thinking about talking about our relationship with Jesus Christ. We could get better at this by sharing the practical ways we bring prayer into our daily lives. Not to boast about our amazing relationship with God but to help other people develop ways to encounter Our Lord. Here are some thoughts to start the conversation:

It is often easy to spot a Catholic home: saints are mixed up with fam-

ily photos and jostle with knick-knacks on the mantelpiece. Just like the Italians of long ago, we want pictures of loved ones around us and to show them to visitors. When I was a child we had pictures of Our Lady everywhere. Some were beautiful; others, frankly, were not so lovely. Wherever my mum worked, even surrounded by the family laundry, she was reminded of Christ's mother. Nowadays, interior design doesn't have much space for religious art. I admit that my visitors wouldn't know I am a Catholic. I need to consider what I can do about that. I could start by getting my crucifix out of the drawer so that others can see that I'm trying to keep Our Saviour in my thoughts.

When we are away from home we are more likely to have an app on our smart phones than the folded paper prayers seen in the exhibition, though we may not be so far removed from those Renaissance Italians. I had a school satchel rosary so the ambulance men would know I was Catholic. Mum started this practice which continued into my adult brief-

case. Just recently I realised that if I'm going to try to pray the Rosary it needs to be in my pocket.

Here's something I can pass on: since a friend said she cut out prayers from our parish bulletin, I have done the same. The snippets are a handy way to sanctify the working day. St Martin of Tours; Blessed John Henry Newman; and a photocopied icon share space in my diary with a youthful photo of my husband. No one knew about my newsletter saints until I told you just now.

I am happy to help someone by recommending a mechanic or by giving a delicious recipe and I've noticed that people who share their faith often give prayer cards to friends. Could I give someone a prayer that helps me or confess that I find the Rosary tricky too? I could give a new Catholic a picture of a saint I admire or recommend some Catholic Twitter accounts. I have nothing to lose and they may give me something precious in return. A simple conversation about an everyday habit that helps me follow Jesus Christ may change a friend's life.

Funding boost to repair and open up church

■ A project to make essential repairs to a landmark Suffolk Catholic church and widen its community access, including as a music venue, has received initial funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

Our Lady Star of the Sea in Lowestoft, built in 1902, has received development funding of £25,400 from the HLF to help its owner, the Diocese of East Anglia, progress its plans to apply for a full grant of £221,500 at a later date.

The project aims to carry out essential external repairs to the church building and also develop the 'Opening Doors' element to increase wider public use of the historic Lowestoft town centre building.

Essential external repairs include work to prevent rainwater getting inside the church and to restore damaged stonework and the tracery of the West window.

To increase wider community use, the project will also include an interpretation scheme for visitors to appreciate the architecture, art and religious significance of the interior. This will include training opportunities for stewards. By providing easy to erect modular staging, the project aims to increase use of the building as a music performance venue for choral and instrumental concerts.

In recent years the church tower has been a well-used nesting site for kittiwakes, a rare gull species, and the project will provide for close-up public viewing of the birds and provide information about them.

Built in 1902, the listed building is a prominent feature of the Lowestoft townscape and its town centre location suits a wider community role. The interior is a fine example of the



Gothic revival style, has an excellent acoustic for music and a splendid church organ.

Commenting on the award, Father Paul Chanh, resident priest at Our Lady's, said: "We're delighted that we've received this support. As well as

Above, the interior of Our Lady of the sea and, left, some of the stonework which has fallen off the church in the recent past.

continuing to be a place of worship we are pleased that the local community will have a greater chance to use and enjoy it."

Following the initial Grants for Places of Worship award, detailed proposals are then considered by HLF and as long as plans have progressed satisfactorily and according to the original proposal, an award for the project is confirmed.

Double boost for new schools plan

By Keith Morris

The bid by the Diocese of East Anglia to open eight new Catholic schools across the region has received a double boost with a mention by the Chancellor in his recent Budget and news that over 800 people have registered their support for the plans.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, mentioned removing barriers to opening good quality faith schools in his March Budget. This follows on from Prime Minister Theresa May's announcement in the autumn on the proposed removal of the 50% cap on faith admissions.

A further boost for the bids came with news that over 800 people have expressed their support for the plan to open new Catholic schools in Norwich, Peterborough, Thetford and Cambridgeshire and for their children to attend such schools once open.

A number of local schools champions have also come forward to actively promote the bids in each of the relevant locations.

Assistant Director for Schools, Helen Bates, said: "We were pleased to see that the Chancellor mentioned remov-

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.

ing barriers to opening good quality faith schools in the Budget, and look forward to receiving further information about the timescales for this over the next few months.

"Online registrations to support the plan have now exceeded 800 and we

have had a number of schools champions come forward to promote the bid and would encourage others to come forward. We need these champions to demonstrate to the Government strong active support for our plans across the region."

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.

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 the schools have already been identified.

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 within the significant new housing development planned to the north of the town, whilst two primaries and possible sixth form provision are hoped for in Norwich.



New Diocesan priest in Cambs

■ For the first time in over 30 years a priest from the Diocese of East Anglia has been inducted in the joint parish of St Jude the Apostle, Whittlesey, and Sacred Heart, Ramsey, reports Clare Storey.

On February 26, Bishop Alan Hopes inducted Fr Michael Vulliamy as priest in the join parish. Up until summer 2016, priests from the Rosminian Order (after Blessed Antonio Rosmini) had served here.

One long-time parishioner commented that it was the first time they had ever witnessed a parish priest's induction. Somebody else said, "It is encouraging to know that the Bishop recognises that things are happening in our parish, especially when one of our young men is discerning a vocation to the priesthood."

Bishop Alan made a point of asking parishioners to pray for Fr Michael and all the priests who have served the parish over the years, especially Fr Antony Slack IC, who sadly died shortly after retiring in 2016.

After the Mass at Whittlesey, there was a shared lunch and an opportunity to speak with Bishop Alan.

Pictured top is the induction of Fr Michael, with Bishop Alan at St Jude's Whittlesey and, below, also at Sacred Heart Ramsey.



Standing room only

■ Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association held its traditional annual 'Gourmet Evening' in the Debut Restaurant of City College on Shrove Tuesday, February 28.

The event was organised as usual by John Moseley, the Circle's dinner secretary who, before his retirement, had been a lecturer at the College. The maitre d'hotel for the evening was Tracy Cole assisted by a number of students including, Charly Poindexter who is of native American descent.

Around 60 diners, including wives and friends, enjoyed a sumptuous meal which had been brilliantly cooked and very professionally served by 20 of the college's students who should have little problem on graduation of finding lucrative employment.

Grace before and after the meal was recited by Circle President Roger Hayes.

news in brief



Cooking up a recipe for success

■ Chrism Mass hot cross buns from the catering team at St John's Cathedral in Norwich are featured in the new Norfolk Cookbook, set for release on April 21.

The Norfolk Cook Book brings together the very best of the region's burgeoning food and drink scene; from a fantastic array of independent restaurants and cafés to pubs, delis, producers and suppliers.

It features over 50 recipes and strives to capture and promote the region's vibrant, diverse approach to catering, with each chapter focusing on delicious yet unique recipes and the stories behind each foodie business.

Included in those stories is a four-page spread on St John's Cathedral and Narthex, including a recipe for Chrism Mass hot cross buns adapted by café staff over the years.

Narthex General manager Gavin Wood said: "We are delighted to be included in this cookbook as the garden café is serving fresh food from plot to plate. It also showcases our lovely gardens within the confines of the city along with our magnificent cathedral."

The Norfolk Cook Book retails at £14.95 and is available in the Narthex bookshop, local gift shops, book shops including Waterstones, and online on www.mezepublishing.co.uk/shop.

Concert for peace

■ A concert for Peace and Reconciliation has been held at Wolfson College in Cambridge by musician Gila Margolin, co-founder of The Little Sisters of Joy, which builds bridges between Jews, Christians and Muslims.

Gila, a member at St Laurence's in Cambridge, was born into an Orthodox Jewish family and became a catholic in 1989.

The concert was held on the Jewish New Year for Trees, February 11, in front of a mixed audience including Catholics and Jews.



■ A group of around 30 pilgrims and volunteers have walked the 24 plus miles from Norwich Cathedral to the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham in North Norfolk. Fr Seelan, who was part of the group, said: "Very big thanks to our blessed Mother Mary for enabling us

to walk the pilgrimage from St John's Cathedral in Norwich to the shrine at Walsingham on March 25.

"We walked 24.4 miles, a total of 62,871 steps, which took us eleven and a half hours, starting at 5.50am in the morning."

Station Masses for Lent

■ People from Peterborough, March and Whittlesey joined Bishop Alan Hopes and the deanery's priests at St Luke's church for East Anglia's first Station Mass this Lent on March 6. **Rebecca Bretherton reports.**

A Station Mass is one celebrated by the Bishop in Lent when he travels to different churches in his diocese. It traces its roots back to the practice of the Bishop of Rome celebrating the liturgies of the church year at various churches throughout Rome, a tradition dating back as far as the late second or early third century.

An hour's Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament before Mass included an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). St Luke's parishioners welcomed guests warmly and everyone enjoyed a buffet supper after Mass.

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."

East Anglia's Station Masses have



The Station Mass at St Luke's in Peterborough.

become a popular feature in Lent and, together with the Chrism Mass at the cathedral on April 11, are opportunities to celebrate the season with Bishop Alan and Catholics from other parishes.

Each Mass began with an exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession, followed by the Station Mass and

refreshments.

Masses took place at: St Edmunds in Bury St Edmunds, St Pancras in Ipswich, Holy Family, Gaywood, King's Lynn, Our Lady of the Annunciation in Poringland, St Peter's Gorleston and Our Lady and the English Martyrs in Cambridge.

Paschal supper marks feast of Passover



■ For a second consecutive year, a Paschal supper has been celebrated in St Edmund's Catholic church hall, Bungay, marking the Jewish festival of Passover reports **Helen Kirby**.

The event, on April 4, proved to be very popular and was attended by 57 parishioners from across the Bungay and Harleston area.

Once again, Sonia Montagu organised the entire celebration and took on the mammoth task of shopping and cooking the roast lamb dinner for all our guests. Importantly, she also chose the order of service which involved both children and adults and enabled us to express our Christian faith by participating symbolically in the story of salvation, whilst at the same time preserving the spirit of the Jewish traditions.

On show was some wonderful artwork by the children of St Edmund's Primary School who had been studying Judaism the previous week; the work displayed a great depth of knowledge regarding Judaism and Jewish culture and traditions.

Queen, Pope & Bishop mark couple's 60th

A Norfolk couple have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a blessing from Pope Francis, a service of blessing from Bishop Alan Hopes at St John's Cathedral in Norwich and a card from The Queen.

Michael and Bridget O'Sullivan, both born in Southern Ireland, were married at St Dominic's Priory in London on March 2, 1957; they have four married daughters and six grandchildren.

They now live in Watton in Mid Norfolk where they regularly attend Mass, which is celebrated at the Methodist Church, as well as monthly trips to the Cathedral in Norwich, where one granddaughter was married in 2013.

Having already received a written Papal Blessing and a congratulatory card from the Queen, the couple were delighted to be invited by Fr Seelan to meet Bishop Alan at St John's Cathedral on Sunday March 5.

After a large celebration family meal at Spooner Row near Wymondham, Michael and Bridget went to the cathedral where they met Fr Seelan, who took them to the Walsingham Chapel, where the Bishop thought it would be nice to meet.

Michael and Bridget, said: "Bishop Alan said he would like to give us a blessing, which we were delighted about, as we thought he would only have time to say hello.

"He first congratulated us and asked us about ourselves. We had brought the Papal Blessing to show him, along with the official congratulations card from the Queen, which my daughter had arranged



Michael and Bridget O'Sullivan with Bishop Alan at the blessing. Picture by Tom Uragallo.

and we told him that a blessing from him was the icing on the cake. We had fun chatting together.

"Then the Bishop conducted a little service just for us, in which he blessed our happy marriage, our lives together and our family. It was a beautiful moment, very sincerely given by the Bishop and it made us feel very special.

"Although he was conducting a large service very soon afterwards, we felt we

had all the time in the world and thought it was just lovely."

The couple are planning a further celebration in the summer when the family will meet in London to have Mass said at St Dominic's Priory, where they were actually married.

Michael and Bridget said: "We have had a very happy life together so far and are looking forward to our 70th wedding anniversary."

Sweet farewell for Fr Henry

■ A farewell "chocolate party" was thrown for Fr Henry Whisenant at the end of February when he left Our Lady of the Annunciation in King's Lynn to take up his new appointment at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich after 18 months in West Norfolk. Parishioner **Pauline Mcsherry** pays tribute.

Fr Henry came to our parish in the autumn of 2015 and our first impressions were: "Well he seems a very pleasant young lad." "Just a school boy, he looks about 18."

During his short time with us many have got to know Father as he went about his parochial duties. Seeds have been sown with our young folk... "Today's Church Tomorrow's Church." and will, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, continue.

Great joy you gave to the household and our elderly in care homes. We thank you Father for your interest and support of the work of SVP Society. The Elders were always pleased to see you. Those who attended the Prayer Group and Wednesday evening gatherings greatly valued your input.

With grateful hearts we thank you for all you have done for us during your short time in King's Lynn. On behalf of the parish, Charles Busuttill paid tribute to your time with us. Our Canon followed with his words of gratitude. There is little more to add. It is simply to express our sincere thanks to you Father as you make your untimely exit. Your Frexit! Take with you our love and our thanks. In our prayers we will never forget you.



Youth summer camp invite

■ Swimming, basketball, a disco and talent show are all part of a three-day faith-based camp on offer to young people across the Diocese of East Anglia this summer.

The annual camp is held at Eccles Hall School in Norfolk and runs over the August bank holiday weekend from Friday August 25 to Monday August 28.

The camp follows a Christian theme with age-appropriate activities for two age groups 8-11 and 11-14.

Organiser Lorraine Furmedge said: "The camps have been running since the 1950s and some campers come to us at age 8 and attend every year until they are 14.

"We use the facilities and the grounds

of Eccles Hall School to their full potential, including a set of low climbing ropes, football and basketball courts and the swimming pool. We get the children outside as much as we can with lots of games, team activities and swimming. We also have a disco and talent show.

"It is wonderful to watch the children of our diocese grow and learn so much in just three days, plus they have the added benefits of making new friends and having a lot of fun."

The cost of the camp is £85 with a £25 deposit required by May 31.

For further information please contact: Lorraine Furmedge on 07765411170 or at diocesansummercamp@gmail.com

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Relevance of Our Lady of Fatima today

On the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima, Fr Henry Whisenant looks at their relevance for our lives today.



■ *"Do not be afraid, I will not hurt you."*

On May 13, 1917, some months before the Bolshevik Uprising in Russia, and in the midst of a bitter world war, a lady dressed brilliantly in white appeared to three shepherd children on a slope in the rural parish of Fatima, Portugal.

She would appear to them at the same spot on the same day for the next five months. On that last day, October 13, she revealed to them who she was: "I am the Lady of the Rosary".

As an accompanying sign, the sun danced miraculously in the sky in plain view of the tens of thousands of pilgrims and curious lookers on, who had been drawn by the increasing publicity of the young seers and their story.

These are the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima which took place 100 years ago, and which have been recognised by the Church as worthy of belief. As we celebrate their centenary, we might ask: what is the relevance for Fatima in our lives today?

I cannot help but think that the characters of the seers Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco have something to teach us. Lucia recalls in her memoirs how they were children with a love of life and life's simple pleasures: singing, dancing, playing outdoors... It seems that God's grace can only get through to those who are grounded in the simplicity of reality. Would Mary have been able to appear to three children with their eyes and ears ever plugged into gadgets, blind and deaf to the world under their feet and the sky above their heads?

Then there is the message itself to consider. Our Lady encourages the children to pray the rosary daily for peace, to make sacrifices for the conversion of sinners, and to spread devotion to her Immaculate Heart (in particular she asked that Russia should be consecrated to her heart). From Fatima originates the devotion of five first Saturdays of the month to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, with Mass, Confession, rosary and 15 minutes meditation on a particular mystery of the rosary.

Of course, all this is not something that a Catholic has to do – but then there are many worthy and commendable things we do in life that we do not have to do. This is precisely where devotions differ from commandments. They are an expression above and beyond the minimum; a question – to borrow from A Man for All Seasons – not ultimately of reason but of love. "Her heart is so good! How I love it!" confided Jacinta to Lucia, as she took on herself the little prayers and sacrifices Our Lady had asked of them.

Perhaps these words are one of the best descriptions of the Immaculate Heart of Mary that could be given! And a reason for loving her beyond what reason demands.

■ **The National Pilgrimage of the Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, and Relics of Blessed Jacinta and Francisco, will visit St John's Cathedral in Norwich from September 23 to 24 this year (more details in our next edition).**

Unity of C

■ **Continued from front page**
Addressing the assembled priests and deacons from across the Diocese, Bishop Alan said: "We are called to teach the deep truths of our faith, to hand on the tradition. Our faith must be a living one – lived out of our own encounter with Jesus Christ."

"We are called to celebrate worthily the Mass and the other Sacraments. We touch and handle things unseen – but nevertheless real and sacred – truly profound mysteries. We must never allow them to become a matter of routine."

"We are ordained to serve the Body of Christ, to sustain our people and encourage them in their faith and witness. Always be generous in your service of love for them and for the wider community in which you live," said Bishop Alan.

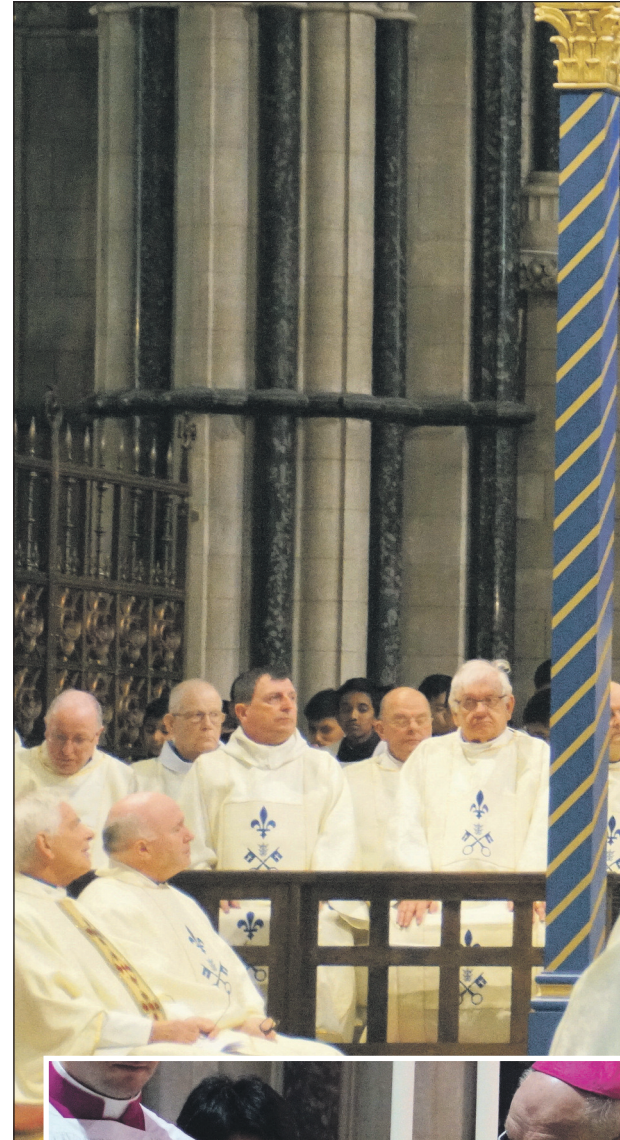
The renewal of priestly promises was then followed by the blessing of the three oils. The Oil of Chrism is a mixture of olive oil and a sweet smelling perfume, consecrated by Bishop Alan to be sent out to all the parishes of the diocese where it will be used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination and for the consecration of churches and altars.

The Bishop also blessed 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.

At the end of the Mass, the oils were collected by the seven diocesan Deans for distribution to the parishes in their deaneries.

When the Mass had finished, everyone was invited to have a hot drink and a hot cross bun in the Narthex.

■ **For a full picture gallery visit www.rcdea.org.uk or <https://flic.kr/s/aHskSHexHL>**



Chrism Mass



Pictured are scenes from the Chrism Mass at St John's Cathedral in Norwich on April 11.

Pictures by Keith Morris.



The Diocese of East Anglia has started a programme to recheck older DBS disclosures for staff and volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding Administrator Rebecca Bretherton answers some common questions which may arise.

Q What is a DBS Disclosure?

A The diocese may request a criminal records check processed through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) as part of our safe recruitment process. The check includes information held on the DBS children and adults' barred lists, together with any information held by police forces that is reasonably considered to be relevant to the applied for post.

These checks are to assist the diocese in making safer recruitment decisions. However, a check is just one part of robust recruitment practice. When a check has been processed by the DBS and completed the applicant will receive a DBS certificate (DBS check).

Q Why do I need a DBS Disclosure to work in my parish?

A The safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is at the heart of the Church's mission. There is no place in the Church, or indeed society, for abuse - a grievous crime which can affect people for their entire lives. Everyone who works on behalf of the Catholic community in a role that means they can work unsupervised with children or vulnerable adults needs to have a DBS Disclosure.

Q I already have a DBS Disclosure. Why do I need to go through the DBS process again?

A A DBS check has no official expiry date but any information included will only be accurate at the time the check was carried out. It is up to an employer to decide when a new check is needed. The diocese has started to check people with DBS certificates which are over three years old. This may seem to be simply a paperwork exercise but we have already found that some applicants have new information disclosed as a result of their check. You may have a DBS Disclosure arranged through a different organisation. We can sometimes use this disclosure but there is a process which needs to be followed to ensure that all DBS disclosures are appropriate for the work you are doing for the Church.

Q What is the diocese doing to ensure that existing workers are still safe to work?

A We are asking existing volunteers and other workers to apply for a DBS certificate as part of our re-check programme. We are using an online process to make the process as quick and efficient as we can. If any relevant information is disclosed during the process a confidential risk assessment is completed by the Diocesan Safeguarding Office to ensure that the worker is safe to continue working for the Church.

Q Why do I need to show my identity documents again?

A You may be very well known in your community but the DBS require that you provide these details to ensure that the disclosure is an accurate check.

Q Do I have to go through this DBS recheck process?

A You can choose not to renew your DBS Disclosure but that will mean that you will no longer be able to work unsupervised with children or vulnerable adults.

Q What training have the Parish Safeguarding Representatives received?

A Your parish safeguarding representative has been trained to support you through the process. Like you, they are volunteers who are committed to ensuring that the Church is a safe place for everyone. Please help them to help you.

Q What do I need to do now?

A If you think you may need a DBS Disclosure, please speak to your Parish Safeguarding Representative to ensure that you are checked appropriately. If you already have a DBS certificate arranged through the diocese, your representative will contact you when the time arrives for your recheck. DBS checks are free for volunteers.

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS



The wonderful world of books

■ Notre Dame High School students and staff rose to the challenge of celebrating World Book Day on March 2. World Book Day is an annual celebration of all things book and this year was a celebration of its 20th anniversary.

All students in Years 7-11 received book tokens to spend and all students in Year 7 were invited to dress up as characters from books with lots of members of staff also dressing up for the day.

This year, the chosen theme was Heroes and Villains. Special mention went to the Science department who all dressed up as characters from Batman and to Mrs Pointer for her fabulous Medusa costume. Miss Foster created a competition for students to find as many characters as possible over the course of the day.

In the LRC, many students took advantage of the pop-up Photo Booth and had a silly photo taken with some of the props, including, hats, masks, wigs and speech bubbles to write their favourite book on. The LRC was also host to a lunchtime book quiz, with opportunities to win books, sweets and medals.

Every student in the school also read One Finger Salute by Paul Jennings over the course of the day. The story was organised into five sections so that teachers could incorporate 15 minutes of reading into each lesson and complete the story in a day.



■ St Benet's Catholic Primary, Beccles held a Congo School for Peace assembly on March 7 with the head of the charity, Mary Ellwood.

The School for Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo was set up by Anne Bauers, a former governor of St Benet's CP School and is twinned with St Benet's School. Much of the fund-raising takes place in the Beccles area.

It now educates over 700 children from 3-18 years, many of whom would otherwise never be able to afford to go to school. Mary, who heads up the Congo School For Peace is a teacher at Langley School in Loddon.

www.schoolforpeace.org

High school musical hit

■ Notre Dame High School's latest production Horizons has caught the attention of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Company which produces legendary West End musicals such as Cats and Evita.

Horizons was written and composed by 15-year-old Iona MacQueen and Anna Savelli, both students at Notre Dame in Norwich, and arranged by Alex Kennett who left Notre Dame last year. Set in the 1930s, the 20-song musical centres on three women on a journey to find their husbands, who never returned from the Spanish civil war.

Iona said: "It was amazing to see the vision come to life. It all came together and the whole cast and orchestra went for it. The performances went so well, I have always had faith in Horizons, however, it completely superseded our expectations."

"This experience has meant I have made lots of friends from the cast and crew. Also I have grown in confidence and it has helped me further understand the hard work and passion that goes

Some of the cast of Horizons with writers Anna Savelli front right and Iona MacQueen front middle.



behind putting on a production," said Iona who is hoping to have a career in musical theatre.

Anna said: "It was surreal having a cast of over 50 people singing our songs! It was such an incredible experience and one I will take with me my whole life. The cast were so supportive. I couldn't

have asked or imagined a better outcome as a result of something that began as Iona and I enjoying writing melodies, harmonies and lyrics together in our spare time."

Lloyd Webber's company sent someone to watch the production in February. www.horizonsthemusical.com

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Students get to rewrite history

■ As part of Women's History Month a group of Sixth Form History and Politics students from St Mary's School, Cambridge spent time revisiting the stories of significant women in history in order to decide for themselves how the stories should be re-told and how the women should be remembered.

The workshop was run by Alice Wroe of Herstory, based on Judy Chicago's The Dinner Party – an art installation depicting a ceremonial banquet with 39 place settings, each of which commemorates an important woman from history – with each of the students taking on the challenge of sharing the story of one of these 39 women. Each girl was given an envelope containing a range of facts about one of the historical figures, and spent time reviewing the information and determining how to use the information to hand to represent the figure.

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS



■ The whole of Sacred Heart School, Swaffham took part in a Frugal Meal on March 2, in recognition of the divide between the rich and poor of the world.

Three students from Year 11 represented the rich, eating a substantial meal of their choice, whereas the rest of the school ate a minimal meal of bread, cheese and an apple to represent the proportions of

rich and poor in the world.

Before the meal, Charlotte Reid, the Charities Prefect, outlined some key facts about poverty and how the rich are a minority in society.

This emphasised to students of all ages, the importance of collecting money for the poor, especially during Lent.

Heads visit No10 for education briefing

■ Two Catholic head teachers from the Diocese of East Anglia heard Prime Minister Theresa May repeat her commitment to new Free Schools with no faith cap, at an education reception at No 10 Downing Street on March 20.

Joe McCrossan, Head Teacher at St Albans, Cambridge and Brian Conway, CEO of the St John the Baptist MAT in Norfolk, were part of a select audience of education professionals invited to hear from the Prime Minister along with Secretary of State for Education, Justine Greening, about the forthcoming Education White Paper.

Flavio Vettese, Deputy Director of Schools for the Diocese of East Anglia, said: "It is a real boost for our new Free Schools bid that two of our head teachers were invited along to this important briefing at No 10 about the government's future education plans."

Brian said: "We were delighted to be invited along to the meeting on behalf of the Diocese. Joe spoke to Justine Greening about the ideas and also about school funding. I spoke with Toby Young, the Head of the New Schools Network, who was very supportive of our Free School bids."



Pictured outside No 10 Downing Street are Brian Conway, left, and Joe McCrossan.

School retreat builds friendships

Building and exploring relationships was the theme of a week's retreat in Derbyshire for 117 pupils from St Albans High School, Ipswich. Principal Colin Walker reports.

■ January and February saw 117 excited Year 8 students travel to the Briars Catholic Retreat Centre just outside Matlock.

The theme of each week was exploring 'Relationships' - with themselves, each other, the world and God.

Each day began and ended with a prayer reflection often prepared by the students themselves with many lively sung graces at meals.

On arrival at the Briars, the students' first challenge was to make their beds! They then met in their small groups where the real fun began.



Tuesday enabled the students to reach great heights and to develop their team building skills. Despite the vagaries of the weather giving us four seasons in one day, great fun was had by all even if some ended up a little muddy!

Wednesday gave us the opportunity to explore the wonderful

Derbyshire countryside and the day finished with a beautiful Service of Reconciliation with each small group explaining the meaning of this Sacrament.

Thursday our last full day had many highlights - we had an amazing celebration of Mass with each small group doing something in the service such as drama, dance and prayer.

The Mass was then followed by a talent show displaying the wonderful talents of both students and staff.

Our final liturgy included words of affirmation given by fellow group members - a perfect end to a perfect week.

Students said: "The talent show was great"; "I liked getting to know people - even the teachers!"; "The best of the Briars was building new relationships."

news in brief



Dads and daughters discuss gender bias

■ St Mary's School, Cambridge held its inaugural Dads4Daughters day event on March 15 at which 40 day girls and boarders from Year 10 to Upper Sixth were accompanied by some of the significant men in their lives (fathers, uncles, rowing coaches, and form tutors) to discuss workplace gender bias.

Headmistress, Charlotte Avery, said: "We value enormously the role that women play in those jobs that are perceived to have been traditionally women's roles - from being the first educator of their own children, or nursing the sick - but we equally value the contribution that women can make in those roles that were once thought of as traditionally male roles - perhaps as astronauts or football players."

"What is important is that each child is encouraged and equipped to pursue whatever ambition they choose for themselves; this is what we do at St Mary's School, Cambridge."

"When our girls enter the workplace they are likely to encounter some level of gender bias. This is what we hope to address - to flag up some areas where both men and women are still perpetuating a sense of inequality in the workplace, whether knowingly doing so or not, and to promote positive action to tackle this issue."

Children join world prayer

■ Children from St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School, along with parents and members of staff, joined the congregation at St Anne's Church, Colman Road, Norwich for their afternoon service and their first ever experience of Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday March 3 - and what an experience it was.

This year, the Women's World Day of Prayer was prepared by the women of the Philippines and the 13 children saw and recognised photos of the Philippines and they learned more about the lives of people there.

Deputy Headteacher, Fran Ludden, said: "The children saw how the people of the Philippines had been affected by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, which was something some of them had experienced with family members caught up in the disaster and which our school had fundraised in aid of. They helped us all pronounce some of the words in Tagalog and had even brought along refreshments to share with everyone."

"The children were fantastic ambassadors for the school and made new friends across the generations. We're hoping that this will become a regular event in the school's calendar. The children are now planning how they can invite their new friends to visit us back in school over the next few months."

YOUTH MATTERS

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Full-time Ignite team members wanted

■ The Diocese of East Anglia's Ignite Youth Mission team is looking for full time members to join for a year from September, as well as part-time Ignite Lite volunteers.

Youth director, Hamish MacQueen, said: "We are looking for more young people to join Ignite Lite, our associate membership for those who can volunteer now and then while studying or working."

"We are also looking for people to join the Ignite Team as full-time members from September 2017 - August 2018. If you are age 18-29 and looking for a new challenge maybe for a gap year, this



could be it! It's an opportunity to grow

in your own faith as well as share your faith in schools and parishes in contemporary ways such as through tech, music and drama. Accommodation, food and living expenses are provided plus an allowance each month."

Ben Nazareth, who was on the team last year, said: "It's been the most intense, but also the most exciting period of my life... Taking this year out has taught me a lot about myself and how I view my faith."

For further information please see www.rcdea.org/youth or contact Catherine Williams, Ignite Team Leader igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk

A night of adoration

An all-night vigil of prayer and reflection took place at St John's Cathedral in Norwich on March 3 with an extended period of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

■ Various prayer and youth groups were invited to lead hours of prayer throughout the day and the evening until midnight. From midnight until 8am the young people of the parish took it in turns to read aloud the New Testament - before the Blessed Sacrament.

Youth workshops were run in the Narthex hall and groups involved in the event included the Vianney Mission team, the UEA Chaplaincy team, Youth for Christ and COL of Walsingham.

The Ignite Team also organised street evangelisation outside the cathedral - inviting passers-by to come in and light a candle during the evening.

Cathedral lead catechist, Jo Graham, said: "The aim was to give people an opportunity to rediscover Jesus through reflection on the scriptures and prayer. In addition to these times of prayer, the Ignite team and catechists put on a series



A group leading prayer and adoration at St John's Cathedral.

of mini workshops on the Holy Mass and the Blessed Sacrament in the Narthex hall.

"The workshops covered topics funda-

mental for all Catholics. The better our understanding of the mystery of the sacrifice of the mass, the deeper our appreciation of God's love for us".

Chance to join youth Santiago pilgrimage

■ The Diocesan Youth Service is excited to be organising a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, walking approximately 125km of the 'Camino', also known as 'The Way of St James'.

Legend holds that St James's remains were carried by boat from Jerusalem to northern Spain, where he was buried in what is now the city of Santiago de Compostela.

The Way of St James was one of the most important Christian pilgrimages during the Middle Ages. However, the Black Death, the Reformation, and political unrest in 16th century Europe led to its decline.

Since the 1980s, walking the Camino has become popular again with over 270,000 pilgrims walking it in 2016, and more than this expected in 2017.

The pilgrimage will also include a visit to Fatima in Portugal as it is the 100th anniversary this year of when the apparitions of Mary were first reported there.

The Youth Pilgrimage is for 18 to 35 year-olds and people are advised to book their flights soon as prices will go up. More information on this and the rest of the pilgrimage at www.rcdea.org.uk/youth or contact Hamish MacQueen, Director of Diocesan Youth Service on 07812 004934, email dys@rcdea.org.uk

Young Adults Pilgrimage to Santiago Compostela Walking the Camino



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YOUTH MATTERS



Almost 10,000 young Catholics from across the country were joined by 175 from the Diocese of East Anglia at the Flame event which filled the SSE Wembley Arena in London on March 11.

■ Flame is a national youth event organised by CYMFED (Catholic Youth Ministry Federation) and was held for the third time this year.

The day was made up of talks from speakers such as Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Cardinal Bo from Myanmar in Burma, Mike Pilvachi (the founder of Soul Survivor) and David Wells.

There was also input from organisations such as CAFOD which highlighted the plight of refugees and dramas from the Rise Theatre.

Highlights of the day included worship led by Christian worship artist Matt Redman along with the Catholic worship group One Hope Project and a time of to encounter Christ through adoration and benediction led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

Ignite team leader Catherine Williams, said: "It was a wonderful event to be a part of, not least just to grow in fellowship with one another and to witness the vibrancy of the Catholic Church with a huge variety of different groups from across the Church in Britain being represented.

"It reminded us, as Cardinal Bo said in his talk, that we 'are made for greater things. Let hope put fire into your hearts and make you a great human being'."

Clare Storey, who attended from Ramsey, said: "It was a really fantastic day, with lots of thought-provoking moments. Rise Theatre gave a face to the often invisible refugees and those who are displaced due to war and desperate poverty that are too difficult for us to comprehend.

"Volunteers from CAFOD spoke about their experiences of visiting a refugee camp in Lebanon, and Sarah Teather from the Jesuit Refugee Service spoke about the work they do in supporting those who arrive in England with nothing.



Pictured above and bottom are the group from East Anglia at Wembley SSE Arena and, left, scenes from the Flame event. Pictures by Clare Storey and Marcin Mazur.



"This was interspersed with great worship music from Matt Redman and Guvna B, and a beautiful liturgy towards the end. I am looking forward to the next one already."

A message from Pope Francis was read out which said: "The Holy Father encourages all of you to see in this moment an opportunity to pray together and to learn from one another, so that your lives may be enriched and renewed. He especially prays that Flame 2017 may foster a greater zeal within all of you to be witnesses to Christ's love in the community.

This is the third time the event has run and this year drew in around 10,000 youth from across the country.



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 – 35. Full details will be sent out in the new year but to register interest, please email dys@rcdea.org.uk

Key 2017 dates

■ 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), Eccles Hall School, Norfolk

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

Youth contacts

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igniteyea@rcdea.org.uk

All other enquiries
dys@rcdea.org.uk

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/igniteyea

Twitter: @igniteyea

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

Welcome to The Church

Around 50 people preparing to be baptised or confirmed and received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church were personally greeted by Bishop Alan Hopes at the Rite of Election service at St John's Cathedral in Norwich on Sunday March 5.

Catechumens and Candidates from across the Diocese of East Anglia gathered at the cathedral with their sponsors to take part in the important stage of their journey of initiation and preparation to receive the Eucharist, mostly for the first time, at the Easter Vigil at the end of Lent.

Catechumens are adults who have never been baptised and seek to become members of the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Candidates are adults who have been baptised in another Christian denomination and seek to be members of the Catholic Church through the Rite of Reception and the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

Bishop Alan told said to them: "Today is a celebration of your hope and trust in Jesus Christ, to whom you turn for salvation. Today you are being elected, chosen, called to salvation. The Church rejoices with you as she numbers you amongst all those who have been called and chosen.

"During Lent, together with the whole Church, you are being called to turn to the Lord. You are being called to deepen your commitment to Him and so grow in holiness. You are being called to become saints of God."

■ To see a full picture gallery of the service visit: www.flickr.com/photos/dioceseofeastanglia



Bishop Alan greets those welcomed at the Rite of Election and hands are laid on them in prayer.



Inter faith pilgrimage at Walsingham

■ The second East Anglian Inter Faith Pilgrimage took place on Saturday April 1, when around 100 pilgrims including Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Jews and Pagans from Norwich, Ipswich, Cambridge, Wisbech, Lowestoft, Peterborough and from the local Walsingham Deanery met at Walsingham.

The first pilgrimage took place in 2015 and was organised by Suffolk Inter Faith Resource. This year's Pilgrimage was arranged by the Diocese of East Anglia, Wisbech Inter Faith Forum and Peterborough Inter Faith Council.

The Pilgrimage started with Mass at the Catholic National Shrine, concelebrated by Monsignor John Armitage, Rector of the Shrine, Fr Michael Rear who was leading the Pilgrimage and Deacon Paul Hirons. This was followed by a shared lunch.

After lunch most of the pilgrims walked one and a quarter miles along the Pilgrims Way to Little Walsingham, stopping at six 'stations' for time to reflect on our world today.



Reflections were shared by Sean Finlay from Wisbech Inter Faith Council, Brian Keegan from the Diocese of East Anglia, Bharat Khetani from Wisbech Inter Faith Council, a reading from the Sikh scripture provided by Jaspal Singh Chairman of Peterborough Inter Faith Council and read by Canon Matthew Bradbury from St Peter's and St Paul's Anglican Church in Wisbech, Di Nicholas, the Liberal Jewish represen-

tative on the Peterborough Inter Faith Council and a reading from the Qur'an said by Zahid Akbar, Secretary of the Peterborough Inter Faith Council.

Everyone joined together at the Anglican Shrine for the Sprinkling Service celebrated by Fr Andreas Wenzel, the Shrine Priest.

Brian Keegan, the Lead for Inter Faith Relations in the Catholic Diocese and also a member of Peterborough Inter

Faith Council, one of the joint organisers, said: "I was delighted that so many pilgrims from all the major faiths, as well as the Chair of Cambridge Inter Faith Group, who is a pagan, were able to join us for this pilgrimage and share with us from their sacred texts readings which enabled us to reflect together about the problems facing our world today and pray in our own ways for peace."

BUILDING BRIDGES

Filipino ladies lead world prayer day

■ Women's World Day of Prayer services were held across East Anglia on March 3.

In Bury St Edmunds a service at St Edmund King & Martyr Catholic church was led by a group of Filipino ladies who live in the Suffolk town, appropriate because the service used across the world was provided by the Philippines on the theme of 'Am I being Fair to You?'

Jill O'Kelly, who represents St Edmunds on the committee for the Women's World Day of Prayer, said: "We are blessed with a vibrant Filipino community in our Parish, so it seemed appropriate that we would host the evening service at St Edmunds. Our Filipinos are very proud of their country and were keen to play a major part.

"Rosa Mijares was the leader of the service and four other ladies took the main roles. Marie Velarde gave a very moving account of her life in the Philippines and how she came to live in England, having trained as a nurse.

"Every year this service gives us a real insight into the lives of women in other countries and whilst we all live very different lives, with very different problems the thing that binds us together is our Christian faith and knowledge that God is with us," said Jill.

Shirley Grimshaw and Anne Mans-



WWDP services in Wisbech, above, and Bury St Edmunds, right.



field helped Jill to organise the service

St Peter and Paul's church, Wisbech was the setting for a service which attracted over 50 people from across the town. Brenda Wegg, a former lady mayoress, who was the main organiser for the event said: "This service, which Wisbech has marked for many years, was put together by women from the Philippines. The content was challenging,

moving and encouraging. I am most grateful to everybody who turned up and to my colleagues on the organising committee."

Next year's service will be held at Our Lady and St Charles Catholic Church.

First Syro-Malabar Mass in Slipper Chapel

■ An historic event occurred at the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham on Thursday, March 2, when Bishop Joseph Srampicka became the first Syro-Malabar bishop to say Mass in the 14th-century Slipper Chapel.

The Pontifical Mass was said in the Syro-Malabar rite which follows the East-Syrian liturgy which dates back to the third century, and today it is the second largest Eastern Catholic Church behind the Ukrainian Catholic Church with over five million members.

Bishop Joseph made a fleeting visit to Walsingham, along with Frs Terin Mullakkara and Fanzwa Pathil to discuss plans for the upcoming Tamil pilgrimage in July with Shrine Rector Mgr John Armitage.

The Syro-Malabar Catholic Church is in full communion with the Bishop of Rome and in July last year Pope Francis established the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain with its See in Preston at St Alphonsa Cathedral.

Bishop Joseph was then appointed as the first Bishop/Eparch of the new Eparchy.

Up to 7,000 Tamils are expected to come on pilgrimage to Walsingham this year to pay homage to Our Lady of Walsingham.



Bishop Joseph Srampicka in the Slipper Chapel with Shrine Rector Mgr John Armitage and Frs Terin Mullakkara and Fanzwa Pathil.

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.

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News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese



■ Bishop Alan Hopes washed the feet of 12 members of the congregation at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich on April 13, in the traditional Maundy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper.

Bishop Alan knelt to wash, dry and kiss their feet following the example of Jesus, who did the same to his 12 disciples at the Last Supper, the day before he was crucified.



■ Above, Palm Sunday Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Lowestoft. Large confetti was scattered by the first communion children ahead of Fr Paul, Fr Neville and Deacon Stephen with palm leaves laid on the altar and, left, a Palm Sunday procession at St Joseph's in Sheringham.

■ The Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich was turned from pitch black to a mass of blazing light during an Easter Vigil on April 15. An Easter Paschal candle was lit from a brazier fire outside the west door and processed into the cathedral where it was used to light candles from each of the hundreds of people present at the first Mass of Easter.



■ The start of the Easter vigil mass at St Pancras church in Ipswich on Easter Saturday evening, led by priest Fr Francis Leeder.

■ St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich played host to 24 choristers from Brentwood Cathedral on Sunday February 19, when they sang the 11am Solemn Mass.



■ Venerating the Cross on Good Friday at St Laurence's Church in Cambridge. Picture by Jim O'Sullivan.



■ Student Cross pilgrims on their way to Walsingham were greeted by the deputy mayor of Wisbech on April 11 and treated to a hearty Fen feast by parishioners of our Lady and St Charles Catholic church. Councillor Steve Tierney, Deputy Mayor was at the Rosmini Centre on Tuesday evening to welcome the young walkers as they tucked in to a hearty Fen meal, courtesy of the parishioners.