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## Over 1,000 join the annual Diocesan pilgrimage



The annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham.

# E Anglia pilgrims go to Walsingham

**More than 1,000 people  
joined the annual Diocese  
of East Anglia pilgrimage  
to Walsingham on Bank  
Holiday Monday, May 1.  
Keith Morris reports.**

The pilgrimage began in Walsingham's Friday market place, outside the Church of the Annunciation and processed along the Holy Mile to the Catholic National Shrine (now the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham).

Groups from across Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs and Peterborough joined the pilgrimage, which this year also marked 120 years since the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham was restored in the Holy House at King's Lynn.

It began at midday with the Angelus followed by Bishop Alan blessing a new sculpture of the Annunciation high on the front of the church and then the traditional crowning of the statue of Mary, which led the procession to the Basilica.

After arriving at the Shrine, there was a prayer for England, the Act of Contrition and confessions. Participants then enjoyed their own lunches before a Pontifical Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham celebrated by Bishop Alan at the Chapel of Reconciliation, attended by around 1400 people.

The singing was led by a choir from St Martha's School in King's Lynn.

In his homily, Bishop Alan welcomed a large group of young pilgrims who had walked across the Norfolk countryside to Walsingham after attending the Ignite Festival in Swaffham: "They have shown us how a pilgrimage really ought to be done," he said.

Referring to the vision of Mary received at Walsingham, where Lady Richeldis was not asked to pray certain prayers or spread a particular teaching but to build. To build a copy of the Holy House of Nazareth where the Lord Jesus Christ was conceived in Mary.

"The story of Walsingham is an enduring witness to the beauty and power of silence," said Bishop Alan.

"Our world is becoming rapidly less and less silent. Always there is background noise – something to keep us from the embarrassment of silence. But the more we run away from silence, the more we run away from the Word of God who speaks to us in the silence of prayer and reflection. Only by imitating Mary's silence can we conceive the Christ in our hearts.

"Our Lady of Walsingham and her husband Saint Joseph are asking us not to speak but to build," said Bishop Alan.

"Saint John Paul tells us that evangelisation must begin with the building of the Civilisation of Love. The foundations of this civilisation are respect for the dignity of human life, love for the God-given institution of marriage and the family and holiness of life. Only if we carefully lay these foundations in our own families, and in our own lives, can we hope together to build a house that will stand up to the various storms of our age and once again bring the Gospel of the risen Christ to all."

■ Picture gallery at [www.rcdea.org.uk](http://www.rcdea.org.uk)



Prof Nicholas Lash (left), Bishop Alan and Prof Eamon Duffy at Fisher House.

## Cambridge professors receive Papal knighthoods

■ Two Cambridge University professors have been honoured with Papal Knight-hoods by Pope Francis for their outstanding work for the Holy See and the Catholic Church.

The knight-hoods were bestowed upon Professor Nicholas Lash and Professor Eamon Duffy by Bishop Alan, at a Mass at the Cambridge University Catholic Chaplaincy, Fisher House, on May 7.

The Equestrian Order of St Gregory the Great, also known as a Papal Knight-hood, is bestowed upon Catholic men and women in recognition of their personal service to the Holy See and to the Catholic Church, through their outstanding work, their support of the Holy See, and their personal example.

Bishop Alan awarded the pair the honours during Mass at the place where they worship regularly.

The commendation that university chaplain, Mgr Mark Langham, read out, said: "Professor Eamon Duffy is our greatest Catholic historian, who has fundamentally changed the way that the Reformation is viewed (his book 'The Stripping of the Altars' is an acknowledged classic), and who has vastly expanded our knowledge of the Catholic history and culture of this country.

"Professor Nicholas Lash is internationally regarded as one of the most incisive, creative and influential Catholic theologians of our time. In 1978 he was elected to the Norris-Hulse Chair of Divinity in Cambridge University – the first Catholic since the Reformation to hold a chair in theology at either Oxford or Cambridge."

Following the award, and extended applause, the choir led the congregation in the Papal national anthem O Roma Felix.



## news in brief

# Creating a better world

■ The highlight of May's meeting of the Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association, held on May 26 at the Norfolk Club, Norwich, was a fascinating after-dinner talk by the Circle's registrar Andrew Clark.

Andrew works for the charity Network for a Better World which is currently operates in the parish of Sitima in Southern Malawi.

Although the charity has only been involved in Malawi for the last four years its actions have been dominated by the floods and droughts during the past two years.

In order to reduce the impact of water shortage the charity has gained funding for an Irrigation project which is helping 35 female-headed households.

"The generosity of Zomba Diocese in giving us a plot of land for five years, means that we can make a big difference to the lives of many people," said Andrew.

## History meeting

■ The Annual General Meeting of the East Anglian Catholic History Society (the diocesan historical society) was held on Saturday June 10 in the chapel at Oxburgh Hall, Norfolk, courtesy of Sir Henry Bedingfeld and the National Trust. The AGM was followed by a lecture from Dr John Ashdown-Hill MBE, the discoverer of the body of King Richard III, on the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in the late 15th century.

## Retreat day

■ As a preparation for Pentecost, the parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel in March had a retreat day on Saturday May 27. Fr Bruce Burbidge, a priest of the Diocese presently lecturing at Oscott Seminary, led the day which was on the theme: "Teach us to pray!"

Around 25 parishioners including Fr Paul Maddison had a wonderful day of reflection and prayer ending with Holy Hour and Benediction. It is hoped to repeat the occasion a couple of times each year.

**Catholic East Anglia**

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# A celebration of priesthood



■ Four priests with a total of 160 years of service joined around 40 others from across the Diocese of East Anglia at a Celebration of Priesthood at the Bishop's White House at Poringland on June 14.

The priests came together to reflect on their ministry and to celebrate the years of faithful service given by those celebrating jubilees in 2017. Mass was concelebrated with Bishop Alan Hopes at the church of Our Lady of the Annunciation in Poringland and Fr Stuart Wilson Spiritual Director of Allen College Seminar in Westminster preached.

This was followed by drinks in the garden of the White House, courtesy of Bishop Alan, and then a buffet lunch.

The priests celebrating special jubilees were from the left with Bishop Alan, Fr James Walsh (50 years) from North Walsham, Fr Nicholas Kearney (30 years) from Huntingdon, Fr Peter Leeming (30 years) from Thetford and Fr Henry MacCarthy (40 years) from Dersingham.

Also celebrating jubilees but unable to be present were Fr Peter Rolling (30 years) from King's Lynn and retired priests Fr Paul Hypher (55 years) and Fr Peter Marsh (55 years).

# Pat is the lady in the pink hard hat

Pat Ezra, known in the ports along the coast of East Anglia as the lady with the pink hard hat, is the new Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) port chaplain.

■ "I thought I should wear something that made me instantly recognisable around the port," said Pat. "While on holiday before I started at AoS I found a pink see-through hard hat. It has provided a great talking point both in the port and on many of the ships I board and provides a great ice-breaker."

At one time, Pat Ezra worked as a project manager in the space industry, making digital cameras for satellites and telescopes. Earlier this year, following the retirement of Sister Marian Davey, she joined AoS.

Sea Sunday occurs on July 9 when the Church asks us to pray for seafarers and support the work of AoS, whose chaplains provide practical and pastoral help in ports around the coast of Britain and on cruise ships.

Pat has always had an interest in the maritime industry. In her teens she attempted to join the merchant navy. When that didn't work out she decided to follow a career in engineering.

She admitted that when she visited Felixstowe for the first time, she was taken aback.

"Felixstowe was the first port I visited and I had forgotten just how large container ships can be. Everything, particularly the cranes, seemed so big. On the whole, the other ports in East Anglia tend to have smaller ships and don't strike you as quite as busy as



Pat Ezra, new Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) port chaplain, on board a ship.

Felixstowe," she said.

Pat was also unprepared for just how tall some container ships are. Some can have 18,000 metal boxes stacked on them. "My first surprise was just how high up container ships are. I hadn't really thought about this before I joined AoS, and it has taken me a while to get used to the height of the bigger ships. But I am getting there now."

Pat's role as a port chaplain is to make herself available to the seafarers she meets and ask what she can do to help. Many will have been at sea for months and have had no contact with their families.

Even though technology has changed the maritime industry, most ships still don't have internet access on board.

"I was asked if I could visit a crew in Great Yarmouth as they needed internet cards. When I arrived they were delighted to see me and it turned out the weather had been pretty bad so they could not offload their cargo. They seemed to really enjoy just telling me all about this and seeing someone different."

A keen musician, Pat is married to a gardener and they have a daughter, who is at university.



# New training course for catechists

■ The Diocese of East Anglia is to step up its support and training for catechists by going into collaboration with the School of the Annunciation, Buckfast.

This October will see the launch of the new Catechetical Certificate for the Diocese of East Anglia. This is an online course, run by the School of the Annunciation for the Diocese.

The course was developed by Dr Caroline Farey, who has already visited the diocese and who spoke to great acclaim at the Newman Lectures. Last year, Dr Farey was named

as one of the 'Catholic Women of the Year' for her work with catechists.

Deacon Andrew Eburne, chair of the Catechesis Commission, said: "We are so delighted to be able to announce this collaboration. The School of the Annunciation is one of the best regarded centres for Catholic education in the country. This catechists' course has already been run in other dioceses to great effect, and has always been oversubscribed."

"One of the great advantages of the course is that almost all the work is completed online, with one study day

each term which the School has agreed to hold in the diocese – and that pattern of work is a great help in a rural diocese like our own!"

Bishop Alan said: "This is a first rate course which promises to give our catechists the help and support that they richly deserve. Our hope is that every parish in the Diocese will have a catechist who has completed the course."

Bishop Alan will be writing to all parish catechists inviting them to apply for the new course, which begins in October.



Pictured at St Mary's Oscott are, from left, David Simcock, Fr Pat Cleary, Magdalena Heath, Bishop Peter Doyle, Jude Belnas, Brian Heude and Jen Simcock.

# Jude admitted to rite of Candidacy

Diocese of East Anglia seminarian Jude Belnas was admitted to the rite of Candidacy, the final stage before Ordination to the Diaconate and then the Priesthood, at a Mass at St Mary's College, Oscott, on Pentecost Sunday (June 4).

Bishop of Northampton Diocese, the Rt Rev Peter Doyle, celebrated the Holy Mass in St Mary's College Chapel and officiated at the Rite of Admission to Candidacy. Eleven seminarians from different dioceses were admitted as Candidates for Holy Orders.

At Oscott College, a seminarian is admitted to the ministries of Reader and Acolyte during the first three years of formation for the Priesthood. The rite of admission to Candidacy is celebrated later when it is determined that a seminarian has reached a maturity of purpose and has shown to have the necessary qualifications.

Jude said: "My admission to Candidacy is a significant moment in my vocation. I publicly manifest my will to offer myself to God and the Church so that I may be chosen to exercise a Sacred Order. The celebration was a joyous occasion, not just for my family, and myself, but also for the entire Diocese of East Anglia."

"I am very blessed to have such a loving and caring diocese under the pastoral care of Bishop Alan. Please



pray for me and all the seminarians of our diocese, that we may follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ with full trust together with Our Lady of Walsingham on the path to the Sacred Priesthood."

Present at the Mass were Jude's parents Brian and Magdalena Heath, Fr Pat Cleary (Vocations Director) and David and Jen Simcock (from St John the Baptist Cathedral).

Also present were two Diocese of

East Anglia priests who are currently philosophy tutors at Oscott, Fr Francis Selman and Fr Bruce Burbridge.

Bishop Alan wrote to Jude: "This is another wonderful milestone to that moment which is drawing ever nearer as you become a Candidate for the priesthood of the Church. I pray that the Holy Spirit will renew your faith, your vocation and your enthusiasm today as you go forward on your journey."

## news in brief

## Film shows God's love for the vulnerable



■ An extraordinary new documentary film, *Summer in the Forest*, about a special Catholic community in France, is arriving in UK cinemas, including two dates in East Anglia in early July.

The film about Jean Vanier and the first L'Arche community, it is, according to its creators, "a story about our search for love and true friendship. In a remarkable reversal of conventional wisdom it shows that the answers we crave can be found among some of our most marginalised people."

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, said: "It is a moving portrait of life in a community where God's love for the vulnerable is lived out."

Like countless others Philippe, Michel, Andre and Patrick were labelled 'idiots', locked away and forgotten in violent asylums, until the 1960s, when the young philosopher Jean Vanier took a stand and secured their release - the first time in history that anyone had beaten the system. Together they created L'Arche, a commune at the edge of a beautiful forest near Paris and a quiet revolution was born.

Now in his 80s, still at L'Arche and revered by some as a living saint, Jean has discovered something that most of us have forgotten - what it is to be human, to be foolish, and to be happy.

The film will be shown at two special screenings in East Anglia. The first is at Cinema City Norwich on July 3 (8pm) and also at the Arts Picturehouse, Cambridge on July 6 (6pm). Both include a Q&A with film director Randall Wright. For details and to book: [www.summerintheforest.com](http://www.summerintheforest.com)

## A miraculous fresco

■ Tales about a miraculous fresco and centuries of devotion to Our Lady unfolded at Clare Priory as the parish celebrated the feast day of their patron Mary, Mother of Good Counsel on April 26.

Rebecca Bretherton, whose parish of March is also dedicated to Our Lady of Good Counsel, spoke about her discoveries of the rich history of the images connected with this ancient title. Rebecca told the story of the new Coptic icon of Our Lady commissioned by March parish in 2013. The talk focussed on three images of Mary and how each one could lead us through reflection and prayer to her son, Jesus Christ.

Rebecca said: "The celebration gave us an opportunity to pray together and to share with each other some thoughts about our relationship with Mary, Mother of Good Counsel."

Frances Massey, who organised the event, said afterwards: "It was lovely and prayerful, and much appreciated. We talked about it again after Sunday Mass, saying how much it had moved us."



# NEW EVANGELISATION

## Faith, friends and fun at camp

Faith, friends, good food and a lot of fun are promised at the Diocese of East Anglia Youth Summer Camp, to be held in late August at Eccles Hall in Norfolk. Rebecca Bretherton met Kerry Thorpe from North Walsham and Chrissie Storman from Great Yarmouth and heard how the weekend helps them share their faith.

■ **Chrissie:** Summer Camp gives children a terrific few days meeting other Catholics from across East Anglia. Children enjoy a weekend of fun and the opportunity to talk about their faith in a new way. I got involved many years ago when the camps were organised by the Catholic Women's League. Times have moved on but the CCWL still support us, especially by praying for us all.

■ **Kerry:** I was 11 years old when I first went to Summer Camp and my sister Lauren joined me. I've been going ever since and I'm now one of the leaders. Summer Camp is special as I spend time sharing my faith with people who have become great friends. I didn't go to a Catholic school so this is my chance to meet other young Catholics.

The games and swimming and fun are mixed with learning new things about being Catholic. Sometimes it clicks and you think, 'Yeah I get that'. Being together means that you can chat about the sessions with other people over the weekend. You start having little discussions about what you have learnt, even in the dorms at night.

Having grown up through camp, I now see the younger ones responding to the sessions. It's really strengthened my relationship with God. It's different to being at home in my parish. When we have Mass at camp it's a special sort of community. It's really powerful to worship together.

■ **Chrissie:** Children's confidence grows as they are able to read prayers and take



■ For those too old for the summer camp, there is the Ignite Youth Festival (see report on page 13).

Pictured above are Chrissie Storman, left, and Kerry Thorpe right

part in worship in a way that is often difficult in their home parish. We have lots of upbeat child-friendly hymns to sing!

■ **Kerry:** There's a sense of belonging and a chance to try things out. After the final Mass we can tell parents what we've done. It's great to see children sharing their faith in God with their families.

■ **Chrissie:** The weekend is full of prayer in a relaxed way. We have prayers at bedtime and grace before meals; things that sometimes get forgotten at home become a natural way to live at Camp.

■ **Kerry:** The weekend has a theme. I will always remember the 'Pilgrimage' year. The groups were so creative and enthusiastic as they presented what they had

learnt with handmade posters and poems they had written. This year's theme is about being alive in your faith. If you want to know more you will have to join us!

■ **Chrissie** is handing over Summer Camp to a new team lead by Lorraine Furnedge.

Chrissie: I know Camp is in safe hands. The new team are planning a great weekend this year!

■ Summer Camp is at Eccles Hall, Norfolk Friday August 25 to Monday August 28. Ages 8-14 years.

For more information email: [diocesan-summercamp@gmail.com](mailto:diocesan-summercamp@gmail.com) or search Catholic Youth Summer Camp on Facebook.

## Challenging and inspirational study

■ Parishioners from St George's in Norwich have completed a challenging and inspirational year-long Bible study. Helen Savelli reports.

Completed in June, the comprehensive study is called the The Bible Timeline which is part of The Great Adventure Bible Study Series that has helped hundreds of thousands of Catholics learn to read the Bible.

The study written by Jeff Cavins, Tim Gray, and Sarah Christmyer has thousands of positive reviews, many claiming that it has transformed their lives by giving those who take part in the study a renewed and deep love of the scriptures. Parish Priest, Fr Sean Connolly, described it as an excellent course for parishes.

Those who took part in St George's were no exception to this. Participants commented that it was both challenging and inspirational, and some even likened it to a 'Road to Emmaus' moment.

The fascinating study takes its participants on a journey through the entire Bible by going deep into each period of salvation history. The group learnt the major people, places, and events of the Bible and discovered how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our faith.

The course content was clearly delivered through discussion, DVD and reading. The reading was from a textbook which guided you through the most relevant sections of the Bible. This was completed in the participants' own time in preparation for the next session. The textbook that accompanied the course is very well laid out with information, questions and answers available. The level at which this was presented meant it was appropriate for both those with a fairly wide range of biblical knowledge and beginners, so newcomers would not be overwhelmed. In fact, it was suggested that it could be a great resource for confirmation groups.

A sentiment echoed by many who took part, was that there was a deepened understanding of the parallels between the Old and the New Testament with one member remarking that he had wished he had done the course 20-30 years earlier as it had made the readings at Mass so much more meaningful.

One participant summed up the value of the course by quoting Acts 8: 26-35 when Philip asks the Ethiopian eunuch who was reading the prophet Isaiah "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How could I, unless I have someone to guide me?" There was broad agreement by the groups that Jeff Cavins made a compelling guide!

Charles and Mary Carver, who brought the course to the parish and facilitated all the sessions, commented that it gave greater sense and meaning to the Bible than any previous studies they had undertaken saying, 'It brought alive much more God's tremendous unconditional love'.

## Media workshop helps share faith



Participants at the recent media workshop in Swaffham with comms director Keith Morris.

■ The latest in a series of Media Workshops across the deaneries of the Diocese of East Anglia is due to be run in Newmarket on Tuesday June 27.

It follows successful workshops in Norwich and Swaffham over the past few weeks, which have already resulted in media coverage in the local and national press.

The evening is a practical evening to develop skills to share our faith with the wider community through the use of the media.

The evening is led by Keith Morris, Director of Communications for the diocese and will be held at Our Lady Immaculate and St Etheldreda Catholic Church Parish centre, Newmarket, from 7-9pm.

Please come yourselves and circulate details to anyone who is interested.

The evening will be useful for people interested in evangelising, parish press officers and website managers, etc. but is of general interest too.

Some of the topics we will discuss, include:

- ◆ What makes a good news story and how to write one
- ◆ How to write a press release and get it published.
- ◆ What's different about writing for the web
- ◆ How to recognise and take a good news photo
- ◆ How to use Catholic East Anglia and the Diocese website to promote what you are doing
- ◆ How good communications and the media can help you achieve your church's mission
- ◆ Introduction to using websites and social media to promote your news

The full address of the venue is 14 Exeter Road, Newmarket, CB8 8LT, there is plenty of parking and tea and coffee will be provided.

To help with planning, please let New Evangelisation Commission Co-ordinator Rebecca Bretherton know you are coming, if possible, at [rebecca.bretherton@icloud.com](mailto:rebecca.bretherton@icloud.com)



## Jacinta celebrates her Fatima saint link

■ A Norwich mother-of-two who was named after a Portuguese shepherd girl was celebrating in May after Pope Francis canonised St Jacinta of Fatima.

Jacinta Goode, a Eucharistic Minister at St George's Catholic parish in Norwich, was named after the shepherd girl who was one of three young children that the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus, appeared to in a series of visions, 100 years ago.

Jacinta Marto, along with her brother Francisco were proclaimed as saints by Pope Francis on Saturday May 13 in a huge Mass attended by around 500,000 at Fatima in Portugal.

Back in 1917, aged 7 and 9, they were tending the family sheep with their cousin Lucia (aged 10), when a vision of Our Lady appeared, asking them to pray the rosary for world peace and to make sacrifice for sinners.

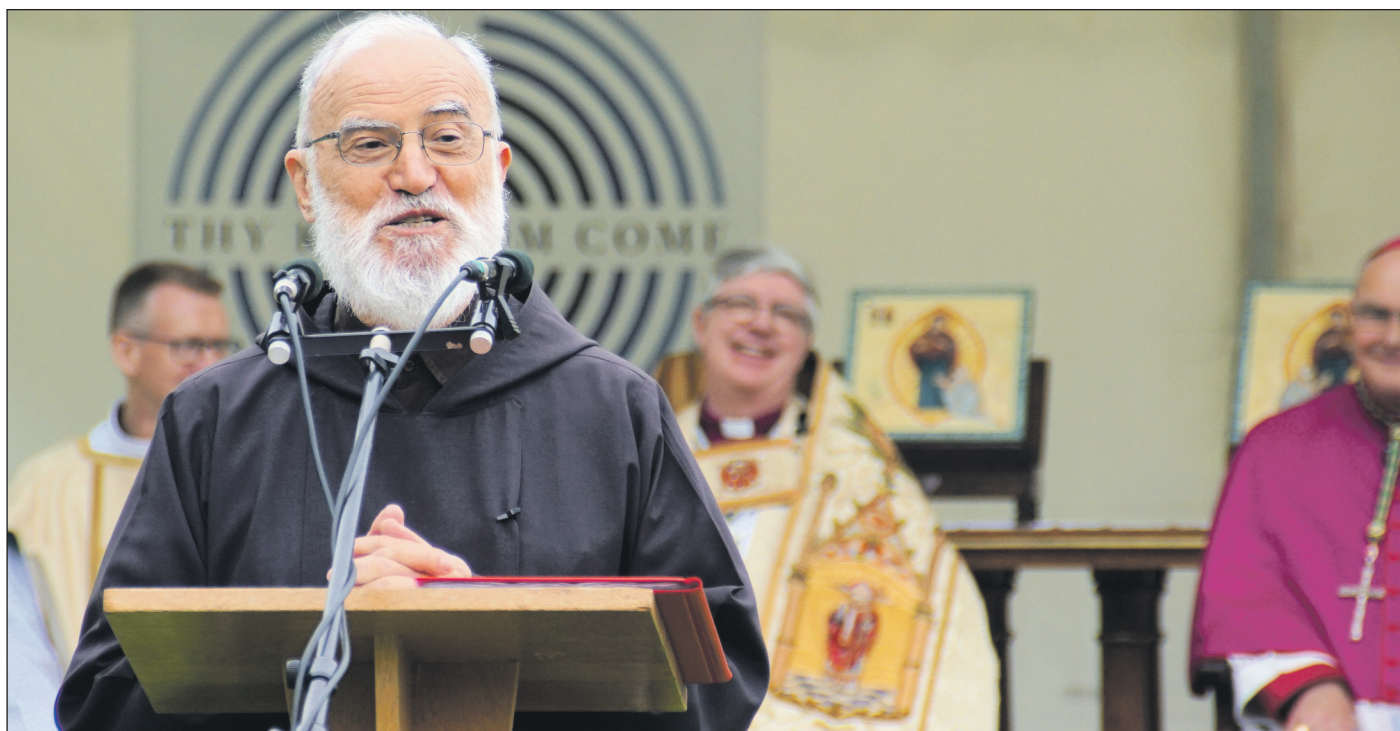
More visions followed, and they have together become one of the Catholic church's most important events of the 20th century. It means they are the

Catholic church's youngest saints who did not die as martyrs.

Jacinta Goode, who is a qualified hypnotherapist and flute teacher, said: "It's not every day that the person you were named after becomes a saint. Many Catholics might be named after a saint, but my mother was so drawn to the message of Fatima that she wanted to name me after Jacinta even before the Church confirmed her presence in Heaven."

"It was very moving to join with the Pope via Youtube to pray the rosary at the vigil and to feel part of the Mass on Saturday. The warmth, and the feeling of the power of prayer, during the service at St George's was palpable. It is a day that I will always remember."

Jacinta celebrated by organising a well-attended service to recite all 40 decades of the rosary at St George's in Norwich. The celebrations continued with a celebration rosary cake made by her son Jamie, and a well-earned drink after the service.



Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, preaches in the grounds of Walsingham Abbey, with Bishop Alan and Bishop Graham in the background.

## Papal words of hope in Norfolk

**Preacher to the Papal Household, Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, brought a message of hope to Walsingham Abbey on Bank Holiday Monday (May 29). Keith Morris reports.**

Fr Raniero was invited to speak to the Anglican National Pilgrimage in the grounds of Walsingham Abbey.

The event was part of Thy Kingdom Come, an ecumenical global prayer movement led by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The wave of prayer ran for 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost.

Bishop Alan was joined by the Anglican Bishop of Norwich and they joined in prayers for the unity of the Church.

Fr Raniero was invited to speak to

around 1,400 pilgrims and spoke about Mary as the mother of hope and courage at the cross of Jesus. "Mary hoped against hope, in a situation which seemed entirely hopeless she still hoped that God was able to raise her son even from the dead and God did not disappoint her," he said.

"Like Mary, the church is called to be a mother of hope for the poor, the suffering, the humiliated, the discriminated against. The church needs to stay close to them in hope as Mary did. It is not enough to pity their sufferings," said Fr Raniero. "People need hope just as much as they need oxygen to breathe."

"The Church was born from a moment of hope. The sudden transformation of the disciples and their enthusiasm cannot be explained otherwise. They were reborn anew to live in hope. With this hope they went on to conquer the world. Hope changes every-

thing, even when nothing has changed," he said. "The task of giving hope to the world is beyond our human capabilities, we need the help of the Holy Spirit, which was given to the early church at Pentecost."

Following the sermon, the traditional Procession of Our Lady took place around the village, returning to the Abbey grounds where Bishop Graham and Bishop Alan led an act of thanksgiving and commitment to the mission of the church.

As a sign of a commitment to work and pray together, two new icons have been commissioned for the Anglican Shrine and the Catholic National Shrine and blessed by both bishops.

The previous day, the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, Fr Raniero preached at the Catholic National Shrine.

■ Full picture gallery to view and download at [www.rcdea.org.uk](http://www.rcdea.org.uk)

## news in brief



## Ian's 40 years of Catenian service

■ A heart-felt tribute has been paid to the founder of the West Norfolk Circle of the Catenians.

On May 10, Ian Robertson celebrated the 40th anniversary of his enrolment as a Catenian. He spent 10 years as an Assistant Sacristan MC at Walsingham and during that time he co-founded the West Norfolk Circle of the Catenians, along with Joe Reynolds.

Ian's wife, Ann, said that he joined as a member of Reading Circle where he served first as Secretary, then as President, then as Provincial President, visiting every circle in the Province twice during his tenure.

"After we moved to Norfolk, he and Joe, co-founded the West Norfolk Circle and received tremendous support from Bishop Michael Evans. When circumstances caused us to move to Surrey he remained a Brother of West Norfolk Circle, taking joint membership of West Surrey Circle."

"Health issues have made it very difficult for him in the last couple of years to attend Circle meetings and I wanted to pay my own special tribute to him, just one year short of our own Golden Wedding," said Ann.

Ian and Ann now live in sheltered housing at Schroder Court, where Ian has been Chair of the Residents Association for the last seven years and runs the shop a couple of times a week.

Pictured above, Joe Reynolds (left) and Ian Robertson serving at a special Walsingham Mass at Westminster Cathedral.

## John is new president

■ The April meeting of Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association, held at the Norfolk Club, saw the installation of its new President John Kenny who took over the reins from Roger Hayes.

During his year of office, John hopes to encourage the practice of having regular after-dinner speakers and to start the ball rolling himself delivered an entertaining speech on the history of the breath test which was introduced during the early 1970s when John was a newly promoted sergeant serving at Notting Hill Police station in West London.

At the close of the evening, John gave Roger a breath test, which fortunately transpired to be negative as John had been offered a lift home by Roger.



## news in brief

## Bishop's invite to day of reflection

■ Bishop Alan is inviting people priests, deacons, and parishioners to join him for a special day, arranged by CAFOD and reflecting on Pope Francis' Laudato Si' on Friday 30 June, in the Cathedral. If you want to find out more about this event and if you are interested in hearing from those that are becoming LiveSimply parishes, please visit: <https://laudatosisummit.eventbrite.co.uk>

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## Diss inspired to live simply

■ Diss Parish has been given the coveted LiveSimply Award, which is inspired by Pope Francis and championed by CAFOD.

Father David Bagstaff and CAFOD's parish volunteer, Judith Tooth, together with a crowd of people of all ages in the parish came forward to accept the award on Sunday May 14.

Inspired by the Pope's encyclical Laudato Si' – a letter by the Pope addressed to the whole world encouraging us to care for the environment and the world's poorest people – the parish felt moved to try and attain a Livesimply award. Championed by CAFOD, the award is given to communities who show they have been living simply, in solidarity with people in poverty and with creation.

The two assessors, Bernard Shaw from St Philip Howard parish, and Pat Keating from Our Lady in Stowmarket, put the parish representatives through a rigorous check.

In giving the award, Bernard said: "I was impressed by how parishioners at St Henry Morse church were building on a special week of action that they had held earlier this year; there is a definite process there, spiritual development and plans for wider engagement.

"I particularly liked the work they did with the local foodbank, and the inclusion of concern for the earth and for its people in the bidding prayers, which are written by parishioners."

During the assessment, members of the church reported how they had risen to the challenge of eating less meat, becoming vegan, buying organic food and growing their own, using less water and not always flushing the toilet – actions that give them a financial benefit as well as preserving precious resources



Father David Bagstaff and CAFOD's parish volunteer, Judith Tooth, together with a crowd of people of all ages in the parish accepting the LiveSimply award.

for others.

The church of St Henry Morse is a new building, which incorporates a ground source heat pump and solar thermal heating panels so the carbon footprint is as small as possible. With the heating and hot water provided on site, the church only needs a little electricity, which it gets from renewable sources thanks to the diocese switching to renewable energy through the Inter-diocesan Fuel Management scheme.

One couple became interested in bee-keeping and their enthusiasm spread across the parish. The youth group created some wildflower beds so the bees had flowers throughout the year.

Judith Tooth explained: "We chose not to rush into the assessment; although we could simply treat it as a checklist we didn't want to do that. We began after we had studied Pope Francis' teaching, Laudato Si', as a parish over four weeks

in November 2015. We have certainly gained momentum this year. We have built on other activities that we were already involved with, for instance we have an annual pilgrimage from Quidenham to Diss. It is a pilgrimage in celebration of God's creation, and this year as part of our Livesimply week of action, we walked in solidarity with refugees."

Father David celebrated the work they were doing and encouraged them: "We want speaking and acting in favour of the most marginalised to become part of our Catholic DNA here at St Henry Morse. The greatest contribution to this massive challenge of prayer for our common home comes from Pope Francis in his letter, Laudato Si', praise to my lord. It is a deeply theological contribution."

The parish of St Henry Morse is the third parish in East Anglia to receive the award.

## Joyful trio professed

■ Three candidates were solemnly professed as full members of the OFS (Ordo Franciscus Secularis), or the Secular Franciscan Order, of the Norwich 'Pax et Bonum' fraternity at a joyful occasion on Saturday May 20, reports Robert Hardie.

Jim Powell, Brigid Rawlinson and Samuel Tassili each received a San Damiano cross, together with a set of the Gospels, a lighted candle and the formal badge of the OFS.

The ceremony was conducted during Mass in St George's Church in Sprowston, Norwich, celebrated by Fr Patrick Lonsdale, National Spiritual Assistant to the OFS, and attended by secular Franciscans belonging to the five fraternities in East Anglia, together with parishioners and friends of those professed.

Fr Patrick's homily was on the Gospel for the Day (John 15:18-21) and dealt with Jesus' words where he is warning those who truly follow Him that they will be rejected by the world because the values that they hold in their rebirth as children of God. The values of love and peace and universal brother (and sister) hood are never acceptable to a society which grounds itself on riches and profit. These values and the strength to persevere can only be achieved when the Son of God dwells deeply within us.



The reflections during the day were based on St Bernadine of Siena, whose feast is May 20, and the love he had for the Holy Name of Jesus through whom everything is possible.

The secular Franciscans in Norwich meet at 4pm on the first Sunday of the month in St George's Church. For further details please contact Debbie Bool 01603 479056 or Rob Hardie 01603 896709. Visitors and enquirers are always most welcome! The aim of the OFS is to live as closely to the Gospel as possible, just as St Francis did.

Pictured above are (from L to R front row) Jim Powell, Brigid Rawlinson and Samuel Tassili.

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# Keep faith public says Archbishop

Faced by a wave of secularisation, people of faith need to remain engaged in the public square, asserted Archbishop Eamon Martin, Primate of All Ireland, speaking at the University of East Anglia in Norwich on May 8. Keith Morris reports.



Talking to an audience of around 120 people in the first of the Newman Lectures series, Archbishop Eamon said: "Inspired by a personal encounter with Christ we enter the public square with a conviction that something else is needed. We don't go there simply to win arguments. When we speak, we draw on both reason and faith and an integral vision of the human person that is linked to the common good."

He said the Blessed John Henry Newman, after whom the lectures are named, had a confidence in the harmony of faith and reason which was shared by Pope John Paul II who said: "Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of the truth."

"The media, entertainment, education, the virtual space, business, arts, music sport, all of these areas enter into the public agenda and from all of these emerge messages which shape our understanding of the truth and how we live our lives," said Archbishop Eamon.

"If the church is to effectively enter the public square, then people of faith need to be in all of these areas both as faithful witnesses to the Gospel and also as faithful citizens. Anywhere people meet and share opinions - like the pub, the hairdressers, the dinner party or staff room - all of these places need to hear the voice of faith."

"We are offering the gift and message of salvation," he said. "The future of humanity rests on those who are capable of handing on reasons for living and hoping."

In Ireland, the context in which the church is entering into the public sphere has shifted dramatically in recent decades, argued Archbishop Eamon. "The church is speaking to a whole new generation. The role of religion and faith in Irish society has been hugely impacted by a wave of secularisation which has swept across Ireland - evidenced by a steady decline in church attendances and in vocations. It has carried many people away from God and religion altogether. Like other parts of Europe and the Western world, more people in Ireland are now living their lives without reference to God or religious belief."

"We are rapidly moving from a society in which it was virtually impossible not to believe in God to one in which faith is just one possibility among others. Commentary is all about the decline of the church and calls to remove the church's perceived influence in schools, health care and policy making. We need to therefore find new ways of presenting the joy of the Gospel," he said.

The church has also seen great damage to its credibility through the child abuse scandal, acknowledged Archbishop Eamon. "Our witness has been weakened."

"I am convinced that the failures of the past must not be allowed to define us, but we should learn lessons for the present."

"We have to learn new ways to present our message and encourage conversations at a national level. Two-way critical interactions and conversations need to take place between religious traditions and the broader culture."

"Pope Benedict said: 'The world of reason and the world of faith need one another. They should not be afraid to enter into a profound and on-going dialogue for the good of our civilisation.'"

"It is this approach that I would advocate in Ireland, here and beyond," said Archbishop Eamon.

"The state will flourish if it is able to sustain itself as a community of communities. It will struggle if such communities find themselves unwelcome or even forced to retreat from the public square."

"I am completely convinced that the voice of faith can and should remain engaged in the public square. Our faith is not for the privacy of our homes and churches, the Gospel is meant for mission and the cut and thrust of public discourse."

"Our challenge is to present to the world the edifying and inspiring witness of people of faith," he said.

"I am convinced of the importance for all of us to engage and speak out of our faith conviction with those we meet in the public square and do so with compassion and with hope."

The Newman Lecture series is sponsored by the UEA and the Diocese of East Anglia

[www.newmanlectures.co.uk](http://www.newmanlectures.co.uk)

Bishop Alan Hopes and Dr Andrew Eburne with Archbishop Eamon Martin (centre) at UEA.

## Jo was extraordinary sister and friend

March parish has celebrated the life of Sister Jo Langley, who died in March aged 98, at a packed memorial Mass on May 7. Her fellow sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary paid tribute saying:

"Sr Jo was so full of life, always sharing her faith in God, who is Love, to everyone she met. Truly an evangeliser in the many countries she lived and worked as a Franciscan Missionary of Mary."

"All of us are here to celebrate an extraordinary sister, friend, family member, or maybe acquaintance, feel richer for knowing our Sr Jo."

"Her firm faith was embedded in her family's strong Catholic faith. Her brother Gerry became a priest serving in East Anglia. She left the family to follow God's call to become a Franciscan Missionary of Mary and entered the Novitiate in 1941 where she pronounced temporary vows in 1943 and in the midst of dangerous warfare sailed across the Atlantic to her first mission field in the USA."



"In 1960, Jo was sent to Ghana where she experienced real poverty among people in a very new mission served by the White Fathers."

"On returning to the UK, her multiple roles included pastoral work, teaching the faith, running a soup kitchen, visiting prisoners, and all kinds of parish and community service."

"In all her missions, Jo was outgoing. She loved people and kept up with the times using modern technology to reach out to the lonely; sick; house-bound and needy with emails and visits. She met people in the street, in shops or on buses - always giving them the message 'God is Love' through her interest in their lives and her wise advice. Sr Jo, so positive, active despite the barriers of aging, overcame obstacles by every available means to reach out and help those in need to the last."

## Enjoy a dose of good reading

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It all adds up to an enjoyable blend of news, ideas and intellectual nourishment, giving you a deeper understanding of what's really shaping the Church and the world. As a subscriber, you can also browse the whole *Tablet* website. Its 176-year old archive gives you a fascinating window onto history – such as the awed response to the photos of the Turin Shroud in 1898.

So if you enjoy great writing and original thinking, it could be time to take *The Tablet*. You can save up to 49% off the cover price at [www.thetablet.co.uk](http://www.thetablet.co.uk) or call 01795 414855.

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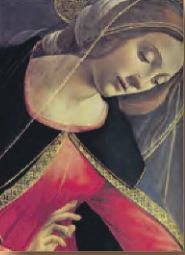


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# Go out to the highways and byways

Fr Henry Whisenant reflects on a famous apologist who took the Catholic faith into the public arena.



■ I've been having a whale of a time reading *The Church and I*, by Frank Sheed, the famous Catholic publisher, apologist and lay theologian. It recounts his experiences of growing up in the Catholic Church in the first half of the 20th century, and living through the days of the Council.

Sheed and his wife, Maisie Ward, met through their involvement in the Catholic Evidence Guild in the 1920s, an organisation established for men and women to be formed in their faith so that they could go out and speak about it in public places to gathered crowds.

This meant several nights a week listening to lectures on Catholicism, giving practice talks, and being grilled with practice questions that hecklers might ask. It meant having the nerve to stand up (after some preparatory prayer!) on Tower Hill or on Hyde Park Corner, to speak about the faith, in the hope of drawing a crowd and keeping them.

It meant dealing with listeners and hecklers of all sorts: drunks and vagrants, intelligent academics, regular objectors, and passers-by in search of amusement.

All this in the hope that those listening might be disarmed of their prejudices towards religion in general, and Catholicism in particular, and be launched – who knows? – on an eventual journey into the Church. A noble endeavour, but nerve-racking as well... Sheed admits that often on the way to an afternoon session in the park he hoped that it might rain!

The first half of the book, with various anecdotes that Sheed recalls, is highly entertaining. He recounts once being interrupted by a heckler in Hyde Park Corner who got onto the topic of suffering. "I could make a better universe than your God!" said the heckler derisively. "Well," Sheed responded, almost as quick as thinking, "I wouldn't ask you to create a universe, but could you make a rabbit just to establish confidence?"

There is, in Sheed's memoirs, a wonderful mix of confidence in, and reverence for, the Catholic faith, balanced by an irreverent realism concerning the sins and foibles of her members – laity and ecclesiastics alike! The guild speakers' apologetics was shot through with a great sense of humour, and a real love of their audience, as varied as its members were.

Sadly the original guild is now moribund, though the New York offshoot was re-established in recent years, at the instigation of Fr Benedict Groeschel, founder of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, who himself used to speak on street corners before being ordained.

I don't know if something like the Guild would work today, and if people would look up long enough from their phones to listen to what was being said.

But perhaps there are Sheeds and Wards in our congregations, able to bring this baton somehow into the 21st century!

# Pentecost

A colourful and enthusiastic International Mass took place in Bury St Edmunds on Sunday June 4, involving a number of different nationalities, timed to coincide with the feast of Pentecost, the birthday of the early Church. Keith Morris reports.

There was standing room only at a packed church of St Edmund's when parishioners wearing their national dress joined together to celebrate their unity in diversity, according to Fr Alvan Ibeh, who came up with the idea for the Mass.

He said: "We have lots of different nationalities in the congregation, I myself am from Nigeria. Our differences are a gift to the parish, so we need to celebrate them, especially on this day of Pentecost to reflect what happened at the first Pentecost. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit came on the Apostles who were made up of lots of nationalities.

"The Holy Spirit unifies the people of God. The Holy Spirit will always break every barrier and enable us to understand each other and to work as one. I want the parish to know that we are all one, no matter where we come from."

The Mass began with a procession of the different national groups into the church, including groups from Poland, India, Philippines, Ghana, Vietnam, Germany, Italy, France, Spain, Mauritius, USA, South Africa and Singapore.

Concelebrating Mass were Fr Alvan and Canon Mark Hackeson assisted by Deacon Alan McMahon.

Prayers were led in different languages and an Indian choir sang for the congregation.

During his homily, Fr Alvan said: "We must speak the same language – the language of love. Let us run away from anything which means we speak a different language. God will give us the fire of his love.

"If I look into your eyes, I do not see Africa or Poland or England – I see love."

Afterward Mass, everyone was invited to the crypt to enjoy a truly international feast, which included delicacies such as Vietnamese spring roll and banana tapioca pudding, Filipino caldereta (beef casserole) and pancit (noodles), Indian tuna cutlets and chicken 65, Ghanaian Jollof rice and Polish cheesecake and chicken salad.

■ Full picture gallery to download at [www.rcdea.org.uk](http://www.rcdea.org.uk)





# international



Pictured are Mass participants outside St Edmunds and, right, Fr Mark Hackeson with a young parishioner.

Pictures by Keith Morris.



## Theology teaching day in Newmarket

■ The Diocese of East Anglia welcomed the Bishop of Paisley to Newmarket on Monday May 22 to give a day of formation to clergy and representatives from diocesan schools. Kerry Urdzik reports.

■ The day was divided into two sessions, with Bishop John Keenan tailoring the talks to the pastoral needs of each group. Bishop John presented an overview of Pope St John Paul II's Wednesday audience teaching known as the Theology of the Body.

He explained that we are made in the image of God, designed for communion with him and with others. Christ was true man and true God, and Catholics believe in the resurrection of the body – as such, our body possesses a profound dignity. Our body speaks a language, be it the offer of practical help, a handshake, or acts of intimacy, and as such it is important for our body to speak honestly.



For those involved in the formation and education of our children, this understanding involves helping young people grow in virtue and attain the self-possession which enables them to make a true gift of themselves, either in marriage or vocation to the priesthood or religious life.

One of the diocesan high school teachers was fascinated by Bishop John's explanation of the way in which sin rejects the true joy of communion with the other, preferring instead to use the other, resulting in our hiddenness from the other. Several teachers said that they plan on making this teaching the framework within which their schools' relationships and sex education programmes sit.

A clearer understanding of this body of teaching will aid clergy in accompanying parishioners - single, married and engaged. One parish priest commented that what he found especially helpful in the Bishop's presentation of Pope St John Paul's 'Theology of the Body' was "his emphasis on human flourishing. For example, that our aim is not to primarily have 'self-control', but rather 'self-possession' - this being the path that can take us, by God's grace, towards a greater capacity to make a genuine gift of ourselves to God and to others".

A shared lunch was enjoyed by all, providing a wonderful opportunity for teachers, school governors and clergy to meet and exchange news.

## Suffolk gifts buy priest car

■ An African priest now has a way of getting round his large parish in Malawi, thanks to parishioners at The Sacred Heart in Southwold.

The Suffolk parish agreed to help sponsor the training of a priest through the Association for the Propagation of the Faith (Missio) and were chosen to help sponsor Cosmas Khasu who was eventually ordained for his diocese in Malawi, explained Fr Roger De Lacy-Spencer.

"We kept in touch when he started his ministry and recently raised £700 to help him buy a car for his ministry in the very large parish of Phalombe. Fr Cosmas is also now teaching in the minor seminary."





## DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

### Ged looks to a future career in football

■ A Catholic schoolboy from Peterborough has been awarded a two-year scholarship with the Jamie Carragher Sports & Learning Academy in Liverpool.

Ged O'Sullivan, aged 16, from the St John Fisher Catholic High School, recently went for a two-day trial with Jamie Carragher's under 18 Football Academy to study a BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Sport (Performance and Excellence) with a view to a future career in the sports industry.

Ged said: "First of all, I had to create a session plan for my group to follow and then we went into training. The training was for two hours and was very intense. The drills were complicated but having a good team helped us succeed."

"After the training my parents had a meeting with Coach Sean Williams and discussed my career with them. I had my place guaranteed out of the three people there and I had to sign a form that indicated I was going to stay on the course."

"The second day was another training session and I had to carry on with the session before hand and then apply it to my training. Sean showed us around the camp and explained how the course works. He also went through what life agreements we had to obey by living up to the life as a professional footballer."

"I'll be starting the apprenticeship on September 3 and am looking forward to a career in the football industry."



Teachers from St Louis Academy with their Catholic Studies certificates.

## Learning about the Catholic faith

■ Teachers from the schools in Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust recently enjoyed participating together in the Diocesan Course in Catholic Studies run by the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology in Cambridge.

The course took place at St Louis Catholic Academy in Newmarket over three twilight sessions and was completed by the presentation of a final 2000-

word essay.

The staff benefited from working together to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith and were enthusiastic about the value of this course in bringing them closer together in this core aspect of their professional and personal lives.

To celebrate their fine achievements staff were invited to Mass followed by supper with Bishop Alan at the Margaret

Beaufort Institute.

Trust CEO Teresa Selvey said: "I was delighted that so many staff from St Felix and St Louis wanted to take part in this course. We all learned a lot more about our faith and about each other and this has had a positive impact on our daily work together. We will certainly be doing more with the Margaret Beaufort Institute in the future. It was superb."

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## DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS



■ Over 100 children from four Catholic primary schools in Norfolk and Suffolk took part in a day of reflection and celebration on the theme of Pentecost led by the Ignite Youth Team on June 7.

Year Four children of St Mary's and St Peters Gorleston, St Mary's Lowestoft and St Augustine's Costessey all travelled to join the children at St Francis of Assisi in Norwich for the day.

The day was prepared and run by the Ignite Team who guided the children to join them in prayer, discussion and song, focussing on the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Fran Ludden, Deputy Head at St Francis of Assisi, said: "The children raised the roof with their singing and amazed us with their ability to be silent."

"This is the first time that the primary schools, all part of the St John the Baptist Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, have come together to celebrate. It was really good to see the children mixing, sharing their thoughts and questions about Pentecost, and praising God together with real enthusiasm."

"We are very grateful to Ignite for leading the day, to the teachers for bringing our children together and we hope it will be the first of many similar get-togethers within the Multi-Academy Trust," said Fran.

# Golden first for St Edmund's primary

■ St Edmund's Catholic Primary school, in Bury St Edmunds, has become the first school in East Anglia to secure the prestigious Gold Linguamarque accreditation, thanks to the coordinated efforts of all the staff, children and governors.

The Gold Linguamarque is awarded for outstanding language learning, consistent progress and assessment, and an active involvement of the whole school to embed languages in every day school life.

St Edmund's has worked hard as a whole school towards achieving this award and staff have seen an impact on children's eagerness to learn and their results in other key STEM subjects; for example French grammar has helped reinforce the English grammar knowledge they need to obtain good SATS results.

Like every good story this one almost went wrong at the last minute as the school long-planned Linguamarque audit ended up coinciding with an OFSTED inspection of the school... but this was not enough to put off Aude Wallace, Primary Languages coordinator at St Edmund's, and the two inspections went on as planned, with the day ending in a gold award.

Mrs Wallace said: "This was quite a challenging day but we had collected strong evidence. On the day, the Year 6 pupils who were observed did a really good lesson on transport and showed off how much they knew with confidence. They were fantastic."

"As a Catholic school, it really fits into our ethos of being open to other cultures, and preparing our young people to become open-minded, tolerant and caring citizens."

Dr Marina Dixon, Schools Choice languages adviser, wrote in her report: "It has been a real pleasure to see St Edmund's successful journey to achieving the Gold Linguamarque



Aude Wallace, primary languages subject leader at St Edmund's Catholic Primary School; Dr Marina Dixon, Suffolk Schools Choice languages adviser, and Maria Kemble, St Edmund's executive headteacher, pictured with pupils and the Gold Linguamarque award.

Award. The head teacher and staff's commitment to Primary Languages, coupled with the excellent leadership of the languages subject leader, Mrs Aude Wallace, have ensured that languages are taught at the school not only in line with the government's requirements but also in a vibrant, enthusiastic and exciting manner.

"I hope that the school pupils will continue to develop their appreciation and passion for languages throughout their lives. We are, after all, preparing our children to become the citizens of tomorrow's world, a "global village" where the ability to communicate with, and respect other people's languages and cultures will be of paramount importance. I hope that other schools will be inspired by St Edmund's model of excellence in primary languages."

Mrs Anne Hornsblow, the school's

governor for primary languages, had visited the school a few weeks earlier and noticed the French calendar and weather charts in each classroom, the French labels and displays throughout the whole school, and how often she was greeted by the children with "Bonjours", and even with a rendition of the French "song of the month" in one class. She commented to the governing body on how happy all the children were to show off their knowledge and understanding of languages.

Dr Dixon presented the school with the Linguamarque Gold certificate on April 20 during assembly.

But the work is not finished as the school has started advising and mentoring other local primary schools to help them achieve Linguamarque, and help Bury St Edmunds become a place to watch for language learning!

### news in brief

## Students row one million metres

■ Over 150 students, their families and members of staff from St Mary's School, Cambridge undertook a Million Metre Row challenge at the historic Goldie Boathouse on Saturday May 20, in a bid to raise money for the school's rowing programme.

Rowing the equivalent of 26 marathons (1 million metres) over the course of the day everyone rowed at least 16 kilometres.

Students from Year 7 to Upper Sixth took part in the event. During the morning, the girls were joined by 10 members of the Cambridge University Boat Club, including Chief Coach and Olympian (Gold, Sydney 2000), Steve Trapmore MBE, who rowed alongside the girls as part of their training.

In order to accommodate more students into the school's rowing programme, St Mary's School, Cambridge is partnering with the City of Cambridge Rowing Club to replace and expand the existing boathouse. The new boathouse will be ready by the summer of 2018.

## Beautiful picture of Mary

■ A beautiful picture of Our Lady of Schoenstatt and her child, Jesus, spent a day on the prayer table in each of the school's 14 classrooms at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School in Norwich thanks to a kind parent.

The children learned how in 1914, a German priest, Fr Joseph Kentenich, along with boys in his care, made a covenant of love with Mary and set about offering her all the little, insignificant



things that go to make up everyday life so as to draw her down to that place that she might work miracles of grace in men's hearts.

The picture of our Lady and Jesus is a copy of one put up in Germany and was the focus of prayer and reflection at the beginning and the end of the school day and helped the children learn more about Our Lady in her special month and about the nature of pilgrimage.

At the end of the month it had a special part to play in the May Procession which the youngest children enjoyed around the school grounds.

## Focus on refugees plight

■ The SVP Conference at Notre Dame High School in Norwich is continuing its work, following the Vincentian Way. During the Spring term, prayers were focused on the plight of refugees and how we, as a community, can come together in support and charity to help others. Students wrote prayers and shared them with the whole school by displaying them on corridor TV screens, encouraging moments of personal prayer during the Lenten season.

Once Easter arrived, chocolate Easter eggs, which were generously collected from the sixth form students, were delivered to the residents of Corton House in Norwich.

The SVP members are looking forward to being an active part of the school's Refugee Week which takes place in June and asks us to continue to pray for all people who are displaced and unable to return to the safety of their homes.



## YOUTH MATTERS

# King's Lynn church is packed for First Communion

■ The largest chapel-of-ease in England – in King's Lynn – was packed with young Catholic First Communion candidates and their families on May 7 for a glorious occasion as Edd Chomicz reports.

It was a day to be remembered and celebrated by the first Holy Communion Candidates in the Catholic Parish of King's Lynn.

For months beforehand, 70 young people had been preparing to receive the Eucharist by attending catechism classes. As the numbers were very large in the Parish, the youngsters were divided into two groups. The catechists worked together to share and portray exactly the same preparatory information.

The majority of them, 58 in total, achieved their first Holy Communion on May 7, a dozen others will have a Syro-malabar Communion service in June. Previously, the Catholic Parish of Our



Lady of the Annunciation, King's Lynn, Holy Family church and have borrowed the Minster. However, the size of the

candidates group has nearly doubled, and a larger church was required.

The Parish organized the use of St Nicholas Chapel, for this special occasion.

St Nicholas Chapel is a grand medieval church and is the largest chapel of ease in England. It was built around 1419 but in 1989 it was declared redundant and the Churches Conservation Trust now cares for it. A chapel-of-ease is a church which is not a parish church.

The Chapel was full on May 7 as candidates, together with their families and parishioners of the Parish filled the pews.

One of the Trust volunteers present said: "It gave me goosebumps to understand the original purpose of the chapel and to see it used, as intended, in its full glory – amazing!"

It certainly was an amazing day for all involved.

# Walk of fun and faith

**Around 350 children and adults took part in an enthusiastic Diocese of East Anglia children's pilgrimage to Walsingham on May 30.**

■ Arriving from across the diocese, there were groups from Norwich, Peterborough, Thetford, Great Yarmouth, Newmarket, Camborne and Sawston who gathered outside the Church of the Annunciation in Little Walsingham for the mile-long walk along the Pilgrims Way to the Catholic National Shrine.

Welcomed by Bishop Alan, the children took turns carrying a miniature statue of Mary at the head of the procession and read prayers and sang hymns along the route, directed by Fr Pat Cleary.

Once they arrived at the Shrine, a midday Mass was celebrated by Bishop Alan who preached about Pentecost – the feast of the Holy Spirit – and what the Holy Spirit does.

"The Holy Spirit brought order and goodness into the chaos of the universe at creation," said Bishop Alan. "When humans made a mess of God's beautiful world, He sent His Son to us to create order and goodness once again in the chaos."

When Jesus was put to death on the cross God wanted order and goodness to continue, so He sent His Holy Spirit upon the apostles so that the church could be a sign of God's order and goodness in the world, explained Bishop Alan.

"Finally God sends the Holy Spirit into each one of our lives in Baptism and Confirmation so that we can have order and goodness in our lives and continue to be a sign of God in the world."

Music was led by Gerry Batty and Jo Graham from the Cathedral in Norwich with readings and prayers from youngsters and a small choir from Great Yarmouth.

Children brought paper doves and flames to hang from a statue of Our Lady and at the end of the Mass they were all given streamers to wave as they sang Shine Jesus Shine.

The Mass was also part of the Thy Kingdom Come initiative leading up to Pentecost Sunday.

Afterwards, families enjoyed a picnic in the Shrine grounds and many visited Our Lady in the Slipper Chapel, as encouraged by Bishop Alan.

The day ended for most groups on the beach at nearby Wells-next-the-Sea in warm sunshine.

■ To see a picture gallery of the pilgrimage visit: <https://flic.kr/s/aHskXnVn5D>



The Children's Pilgrimage started in Little Walsingham, above, and finished at the Catholic National Shrine where a Mass was held, left.





## YOUTH MATTERS



# Hitting the mark at Ignite Festival

Over 200 Catholic young people gathered for the Ignite Youth Festival, camping at Sacred Heart School in Swaffham over the first May bank holiday weekend, and enjoyed challenging talks from Christian speakers, music, mime, sumo wrestling, football, workshops, Adoration, Confession and Mass.

■ Organised by Diocese of East Anglia youth director Hamish MacQueen, and the Ignite Lite youth team, the weekend took theme from Pope Francis for World Youth Day 2017 - "The Mighty One has done great things for me and holy is His name," Luke 1 v49.

Most participants were at the festival as part of their preparation for confirmation this summer.

Saturday opened with worship from Matt Dean and his band, followed by Christian comedian Tony Vino, who set everyone at ease. He was followed by adoration and reconciliation, led by Fr Henry Whisenant.

"This was very powerful and a very large number of young people took the opportunity to go to confession," said Hamish.

Rounding off the evening was Gospel DJ Brotha Charles, followed by everyone sitting around a firepit, singing.

Sunday morning's main speaker was Steve Murray, who uses mime to share the Gospel.

Bishop Alan was in attendance to celebrate Mass, which was followed by a variety of workshops in the afternoon ranging from sumo wrestling and fighting the good fight – using boxing as an illustration, to prayer workshops, adoration, icon painting and mime.

A barbecue and live music from Ignite Lite musician Daisy Hill followed by a talk from Catholic evangelist, and former boxer, Gary Stevens, including a call to commitment. The evening ended with



Pictured top, evangelist and former boxer Gary Stevens and his fight the good fight workshop (based on Paul's letter to Timothy), above, musician Daisy Hill and, below, Bishop Alan prays for a young participant. Pictures by Jason Mawe.

music from Norwich band Night Train.

Hamish said: "It has gone very well and been really wonderful that such a good team of around 20 from Ignite Lite has taken up the challenge and worked well together. A number of people have been genuinely touched afresh."

Daisy Hill, 19, from Buckden Towers in Cambridgeshire, was part of the Ignite Lite volunteer team. She said: "It is my first time at Ignite and I love it and will definitely be back again."

"Adoration was beautiful and it was lovely to see those who went because they felt they had to, to then come out the other side and be like 'I want to find out more, I want to find out who Jesus is and what is going on.'"

"After Fr Henry spoke there were a lot of people who went to confession. When they came out some were beaming, some were a bit emotional, but most were so happy and its like 'I'm light as a feather now'."

On bank holiday Monday, around 100 young people from Ignite walked as a group through the Norfolk countryside from Holkham country park to Walsingham to join the annual diocesan pilgrimage to the Catholic National Shrine.



## 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](mailto:dys@rcdea.org.uk)

## Key 2017 dates

■ **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](http://www.rcdea.org.uk/youth)

## Youth contacts

**Tel:** 01508 486236

**Email:** Ignite Team enquiries  
[igniteyea@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:igniteyea@rcdea.org.uk)

All other enquiries  
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**Facebook:**  
[www.facebook.com/igniteyea](https://www.facebook.com/igniteyea)

**Twitter:** @igniteyea

**Web:** [www.rcdea.org.uk/youth/](http://www.rcdea.org.uk/youth/)



# Charismatics celebrate

**H**undreds of Charismatic Catholics from across the region met at Bury St Edmunds at the Celebrate East Anglia event at the same time as huge crowds were also marking Pentecost and the 50th anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Rome with Pope Francis.

The fifth annual Celebrate East Anglia weekend brought 250 young and older Catholics together at St Benedict's School on June 3 and 4.

Organiser, Philip Walters from Norwich, said: "What a joy it is to be celebrating the Father's gift of the Holy Spirit as we gather together on this most special Pentecost weekend - when the Church celebrates the 50th anniversary of that outpouring of the Holy Spirit Pope John XXIII prayed for - 'A New Pentecost', so valuable in the reviving and renewing of God's people in the Catholic Church family all over the world.

"As we gather we ask the Holy Spirit to join us in heart and mind with all those from across the globe who are gathering in Rome for the amazing celebration that Pope Francis has called the Church to."

With a theme of Seek First His Kingdom, the weekend conference included guest speakers, praise and worship, workshops and streams for young people of all ages.

The opening speaker was David Wells, Director of Adult Formation and Youth Ministry in the Plymouth Diocese.

"If Pentecost is going to burst into your heart you need to lighten up, let down your self-defences and be honest with yourself," he said.

"It is anxiety not doubt which smothers the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is not a state of life but is a moment in time. An experience of Pentecost will send you back into ordinary life on fire."

Other speakers included John Ryeland, Director of Christian Healing Mission, youth worker Gemma Wildsmith, East Anglian seminarian Simon Davies and mime artist Steve Murray.

Bishop Alan visited the conference and celebrated Mass on the Saturday.

[www.celebrateconference.org/east-anglia/](http://www.celebrateconference.org/east-anglia/)

■ To see more pictures visit [www.rcdea.org.uk](http://www.rcdea.org.uk)



Celebrate East Anglia: above, worship, left worship leader Matt Dean and, right, speaker David Wells.



## Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology

Catholic House of Cambridge Theological Federation

### New Courses in 2017-2018

#### Margaret Beaufort Certificate

This course consists of five modules which follows Cambridge University Term Dates. It is possible to book all 5 modules per year or to register for a term.

The list of modules for 2017-2018 includes:

1. Moral Imagination, Art, and Spiritual Formation (Dr Anna Abram)
2. Matristics/Patristics (Dr Amy Daughton)
3. Reform, Rupture, and Revolution: The Reformation (Dr Jon Reimer)
4. Biblical Women from Miriam to Mary Magdalen (Ms Rosalie Moloney)
5. Thomas Merton: Model of Discernment, Personal Care, Pastoral Presence, and Social Justice (Dr Melanie Prejean-Sullivan).

For the list of fees, please visit our website:

[www.margaretbeaufort.cam.ac.uk/](http://www.margaretbeaufort.cam.ac.uk/)

The modules are taught on Thursday afternoons, 2-5 pm. The teaching ends with the Holy Mass at 6 pm and is followed by supper at 7 pm.

#### The Second Vatican Council

A 3-Day Course, led by Dr Peter Coughlan, will explore the history, teaching, reception and impact of the most significant event (Vatican II) in the Roman Catholic Church in the last hundred years.

**Dates: 21, 28 October and 4 November**  
(10 am – 4.30 pm)

**Fees: £210 or £70 per Saturday.** Some bursaries are available; please contact Dr Anna Abram, Principal ([aa2008@cam.ac.uk](mailto:aa2008@cam.ac.uk)) to find out whether you are eligible.

**Tea and coffee will be provided.**  
**Please bring your lunch.**



#### Spirituality, Religion and Ethics in Contemporary Prison Service

This new interactive course which might be of interest to anyone working or volunteering in prison service will be taught over three Wednesdays in February 2018 (7, 14 and 21). It will cover such topics as 'Philosophical Principles (justice, faith, care and rights); theological principles (the human person and spiritual formation) and practical applications in prison service.



For information about **Diploma, Masters and Doctoral Programmes**, please visit our website:

[www.margaretbeaufort.cam.ac.uk](http://www.margaretbeaufort.cam.ac.uk)

*Places are limited so please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.*

For more information about the above courses or to register please email **Ela Wolbek** on [ew263@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ew263@cam.ac.uk)

Venue: 12 Grange Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DU, 01223 741039 Website: [www.margaretbeaufort.cam.ac.uk](http://www.margaretbeaufort.cam.ac.uk)



BUILDING BRIDGES

Cambodia twinning link is celebrated

■ The Diocese of East Anglia's twinning link with the Cambodian Diocese of Battambang was celebrated on April 28 with a Cambodian-style Mass at St John of the Cross, Aylsham, attended by nearly 60 people from across the Diocese, reports Katie Maidment.

Hosted by North Walsham Parish (twinning with St Francis Xavier Parish, Svay Sisophon), these twice-yearly masses are an opportunity for parishioners from all the twinned parishes to come together in prayer to celebrate our links with Cambodia and experience familiar liturgy through the eyes of a different culture.

Fr Philip Shyrane led the twinning celebration with Fr James Walsh and Fr David Ward also taking part, together with representatives from St Mary's Ipswich (Chomnaom), St Ethelreda's, Ely (Prek Toal), Our Lady & St Walstan's, Costessey (Taken) and parishioners from Great Yarmouth and Gorleston.



Traditional Khmer offertory gifts of incense, flowers and food provided a timely link with the host parish's current efforts to 'Live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor' [CAFOD initiative] and many present contributed to a collection of items for the local Food-bank.

Mass concluded with two Khmer customs: the offering of incense in memory of the faithful departed and the sharing of food and friendship.

The next Cambodia-style Mass is on Friday September 22 at North Walsham.

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".

First  
Name.....  
Surname.....  
Address.....  
.....  
.....  
Postcode.....  
Amount enclosed  
.....

Anything you give will be divided equally between Cambodia and the Holy Land unless you indicate by tick-ing the box below that all your money should go to that project.

☐ Cambodia ☐ Holy Land

GIFT AID

You can boost your donation by 25p in Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay in the current tax year. Your address is needed, above, to identify you as a current UK tax-payer.

DECLARATION

I am a UK taxpayer and wish the RC Diocese of East Anglia to treat this donation as a gift aid donation. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature:.....  
Date:.....

Please send to: Building Bridges, 21 Upgate, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7SH

Registered charity no 278742

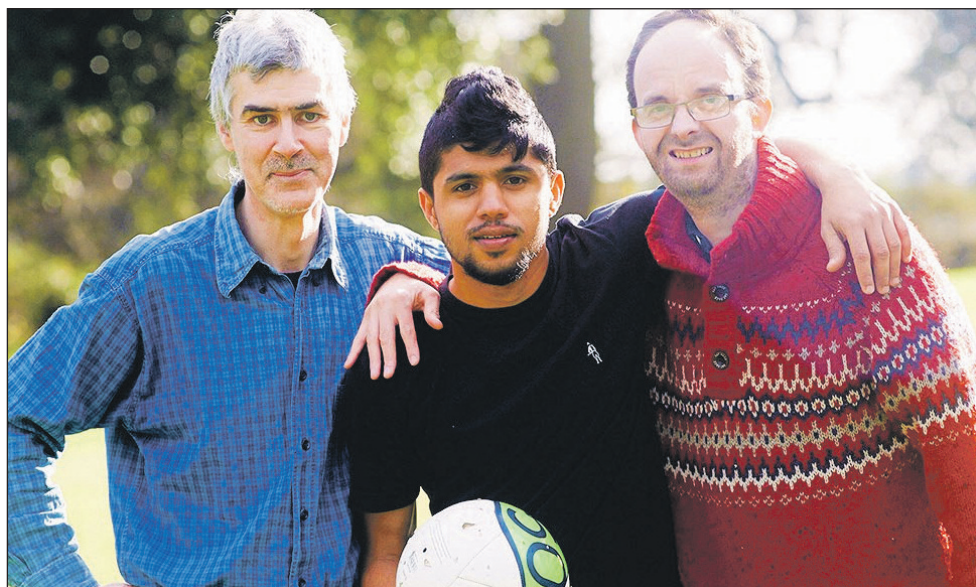
Community which aims to live out the Gospel

■ A Catholic community which brings people with learning disabilities into the heart of the church has a home in Ipswich, with opportunities for people to get involved. Community leader Tony Gibbins reports.

Even with our enlightened attitudes today, people with learning disabilities are often marginalised. But there is an international community, founded by Catholics in France, which welcomes people with learning disabilities and brings them to the centre of things, including into the heart of the Church where they wish this. It is called L'Arche (The Ark).

The approach of L'Arche is to create small communities of people, with and without disabilities who live together and recognise and nurture one another's gifts and qualities. The aim is to integrate people as much as possible into their locality not only by social and practical access, but also by forming friendships and links that endure and support people spiritually and emotionally.

Such an open attitude can be liberating for all involved. Founded in 1964 near Compiègne, in Northern France by Jean Vanier, and, 10 years later in the UK, by Thérèse, his sister, L'Arche now has 147 communities in 35 countries, spread over five continents. For the past 11 years, there is a thriving L'Arche community in the Diocese of East Anglia - in Ipswich.



The original community in Ipswich, "The Cornerstone", is set in an attractive house in a leafy part of town and is a welcoming home rather than an institution. The seven house members, all local and with varying degrees of learning disabilities are known as Core Members. Their eight support workers, most of whom live with them, are called Assistants. Enthusiastic and open people - many are young - they come from all over the world. They are well-trained and competent in caring but also enjoy the fun side of a shared life. Assistants and Core Members share their faith, pray and celebrate together,

socialise and holiday together and there is a varied programme of work for the Core Members among other local projects and enterprises.

A number of satellite communities are being developed, some smaller, encouraging people to develop their independence. L'Arche Ipswich is also developing a courtyard community on a recently purchased site in Ipswich and needs people as assistants (possibly on a gap-year or sabbatical), volunteers, fund-raisers, accompaniers and supporters. Please contact: [tony.gibbins@larche.org.uk](mailto:tony.gibbins@larche.org.uk) web: [www.larche.org.uk/Sites/ipswich](http://www.larche.org.uk/Sites/ipswich)



# News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese



■ Pentecost Sunday was celebrated in style across churches in the Diocese of East Anglia on June 4, marking the feast which celebrates the birthday of the early church.

It was red all over at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Lowestoft, above, for Pentecost Sunday with parishioners wearing red and children being given red balloons. A full church celebrated the feast in international style with prayers in some of the 37 different nations represented in Lowestoft Catholic Church during Mass, followed by a feast of food from around the world, including lots of red of course.

A service of prayers and the world-famous Taizé chants (below) marked the vigil of Pentecost in Chatteris. To celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Christians from March and Chatteris met in the parish church of Saints Peter and Paul in Chatteris, host for Catholic Mass every Sunday, to share an evening of prayer inspired by the music of Taizé.

People were invited to light a candle and pray through music and periods of silence. The community had been meeting all week between Ascension and Pentecost as part of the global wave of prayer 'Thy Kingdom Come'. 'Thy Kingdom Come' is an international prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus.



■ St Mary's, Thetford couple Celestine and Mark Luterbacher were invited to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday, May 23 in recognition of their service to the church. Mgr Peter Leeming nominated Celestine, Lead Confirmation Catechist and Mark, Newsletter Editor, for the honour. "We had a wonderful, if tiring, day and thankfully the weather was kind to all," said Mark.



■ Parishioners from St Benedict's Catholic Community in Sawtry, Cambridgeshire, enjoyed their annual Bluebell Walk recently, hosted by parishioners Pat and Dave from their home in Monks Wood. The walk winds through the woods where plenty of bluebells can be seen. Walkers from St Luke Parish Peterborough, bring food and drink to share afterwards when they can recuperate. Older or less able members of the community can come along afterwards to socialise. The weather was warm and sunny with and a good time was had by all.



■ Bishop Alan has, for the first time, recorded his pastoral letter in video format for use at Masses across the Diocese of East Anglia during May. It was made available online and as a download.

One of the parishes which used it was St Laurence Church in Cambridge (pictured left), where it was used on a large screen at the Ablaze youth Mass on Good Shepherd Sunday.