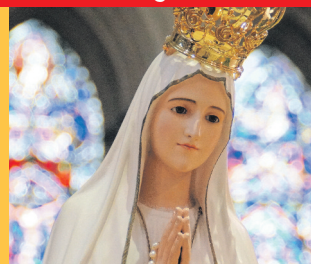


**Norfolk
convent opens
doors to reality
TV - page 3**



**Peñafrañcia
celebration on
Norfolk Broads
- page 5**



**Fatima statue
visits Norwich
- page 7**

St Martha's doubles in size with £3.5m building



Headteacher, Aidan McGovern, and King's Lynn mayor, Carol Bower, with pupils at St Martha's outside the new building.

Celebration as school expands

A full day of celebrations on September 25 marked the 60th anniversary of St Martha's Catholic primary school in King's Lynn and the official opening of a new £3.5m extension which has enabled it to double in size from 210 to 420 places.

The major expansion at St Martha's was funded through Norfolk County Council, the Diocese of East Anglia and central government.

It has provided the school with eight new classrooms, a sports hall, a new staff room and group rooms. It has also created a parent 'drop-off' area behind the church in order to improve congestion at peak times, and an enlarged staff car park. There is also a new 3G multi-use games area.

The day of celebrations, on September 25, began with a School Mass at nearby Holy Family Church celebrated by Bishop Alan with pupils, staff, parishioners, parents and others

with a connection to the school filling the church to overflowing.

A school choir led the singing and pupils participated in all elements of the Mass.

In his homily, Bishop Alan spoke about how the school, along with families and the church and Catholic faith, gives pupils the chance to build solid and sure foundations to their lives.

"All these things are shaping your lives, just as 60 years ago this school was shaped into being," said Bishop Alan. "If you build your life on sure foundations you can be sure that you will be in the right place, doing the right thing because God will have brought you there with the best of foundations, who is Jesus Christ."

The celebrations moved to the new school extension and after some songs from the school choir, Bishop Alan was joined by Mayor of King's Lynn and West Norfolk Carol Bower and senior officer of Norfolk County Council's Children Services, Chris Hey, to cut a ribbon and pronounce the

building open.

Inside the new school hall, headteacher, Aidan McGovern thanked all involved with the school over the last 60 years, including those who had made the extension possible. He also spoke about the school, its history and what it means to him today: "As staff, we continue to strive to be the best that we can be, so that our children, who we serve, can be the best that they can be."

"All of my four daughters came to this school and I feel a deep and profound sense of belonging to St Martha's. I hope I will leave a legacy for those who come after me."

Pauline McSherry, one of two original teachers at the school 60 years ago, helped Aidan cut an anniversary cake.

The day's celebrations continued with a display of dancing through the decades from all the school's pupils, followed by an international food festival staged by parents, stalls and games, rock climbing, a giant slide and other activities well into the evening.

■ More pictures on centre pages.

Catholic high schools help students show real progress

■ Four Catholic High Schools in East Anglia have achieved impressive results in the recent GCSE Progress 8 figures which shift the focus of school league tables from attainment to progress of students and added value.

Notre Dame in Norwich came top of the table for schools in Norfolk in the GCSE results with 87% of students achieving Grade 4+ in English and Maths while posting a Progress 8 score of +0.44.

St John Fisher High School in Peterborough was named in the top five schools nationally which made the biggest jump in the Progress 8 results, by education magazine Schools Week, with a score of +0.39.

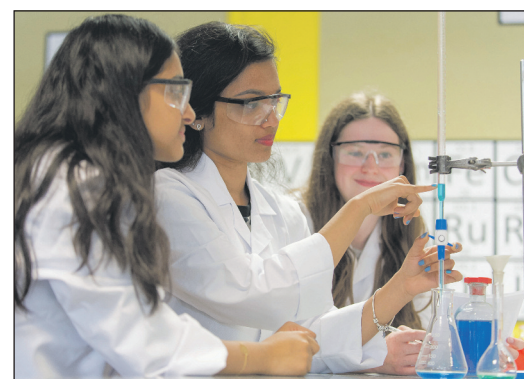
St Bede's Inter-Church School in Cambridge scored +0.52 in Progress 8 along with an 81% GCSE score and St Benedict's in Bury St Edmunds scored +0.49 in Progress 8 alongside a 74% GCSE score.

The new Progress 8 measure, which came in last year, compares the progress of a school's students with the progress of students nationally with the same prior attainment data from primary school.

Notre Dame Head of School, Neil Cully, said: "We were delighted with our summer exam results. They were among the best results we have ever had."

"Our Progress 8 score for this summer's GCSE results is +0.44. This means that our Year 11 students made almost half a grade better than expected progress across their best eight GCSEs compared to students across the country who had achieved similar results to our own in their SATs at the end of Year 6. Our disadvantaged students also did very well as indicated by their Progress 8 score of +0.36."

St John Fisher head teacher, Sean Hayes, said: "The move to judging schools on the progress each individual student makes is one that we very much welcome as it takes into account the actual prior attainment of each student. The previous system merely took their raw exam results with no regard to prior attainment. We are not surprised that this has caused a dramatic change in how we are ranked as a school, and I would suggest that this highlights the flaws in the previous system."



news in brief

Church secures £250,000 grant

■ The Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart in Southwold has been awarded a Heritage Lottery grant of £250,000 to repair and restore the church tower and to improve the heating and lighting, subject to satisfactory progress with initial development work on the proposed work.

Recent structural surveys revealed that the church tower was in danger of collapse unless urgent work was carried out.

Built at the height of WW1, the church is a unique example of the work of priest and architect Fr Benedict Williamson, who built around 30 churches in the years from the late 1890s to the early 1920s, mostly in and around London.

It is built in the Late Gothic style and is a significant feature of the Southwold landscape. The view from the tower is outstanding taking in the whole sweep of Sole Bay and the River Blyth out to Halesworth.

Parish Priest Fr Roger de Lacy-Spencer said: "This grant will ensure that the Church can continue to welcome both parishioners and visitors. It is very much part of the Southwold scene and I hope that this grant will enable more people to come and share it with us."

Work will start in the next few months to ensure that the building is safe to use whilst the complex structural works are planned. Nicholas Warns Architects of Norwich have been engaged to advise on the works and it is anticipated that the project will also help interpret the Church building as well as enhance access to the view from the tower.

Parish project manager, Cedric Burton, said: "We are absolutely delighted and extremely grateful to have been awarded this grant which will help us both preserve a unique piece of architectural history and enable more people to understand why churches are built as they are."

Total costs of the project to repair the structural defects and improve heating and lighting as well as providing interpretative displays is likely to be around £320,000.

Catholic East Anglia

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

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Articles and photographs for the next edition are very welcome and should be sent to the editor, ideally via email, by the deadline of November 17.

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New prior named at Clare Priory

■ A new Prior has been appointed as head of the Augustinian Community at the historic Clare Priory in Suffolk.

Fr Stefan Park OSA, who has been Prior and parish priest at St Joseph's Augustinian Priory in Edinburgh, Scotland, for the past two years, has arrived to take on the role.

He succeeds Fr Ian Wilson OSA, who became Prior at Clare in July 2015, following his return to the UK after more than ten years as a member of the Augustinian community at San Gimignano in Tuscany, Italy, close to the area where the first friars of St Augustine had originated in 1244. Father Ian has now taken up his new position as Prior at St Joseph's in Edinburgh.

Fr Stefan, a Glaswegian, worked in IT for many years before joining the Augustinian Order of friars in 1992. His father was Ukrainian and his mother Polish. "I moved away from the faith as a teenager," he said, "reconnecting again in my mid-thirties."

"I worked as an IT specialist for many years before making a rather abrupt life change after rediscovering the reality of God, after being introduced to the charismatic dimension of Christian life through the Community of the Risen



Fr Stefan Park OSA.

Christ in Glasgow, and then the Antioch Community in Acton."

He was ordained a priest in Edinburgh in 2001. He has previously served in Augustinian communities at St Mary's, Harborne, Birmingham, at St Augustine's in Hammersmith, London, and at Austin Friars in Carlisle. He has

also worked as a parish priest in Ireland, at St Brigid's church, Co Cavan.

In autumn 2008, Fr Stefan moved to London to establish the UK Augustinians' first vocations discernment community. This ran for five years, and produced 16 candidates for religious life and priesthood to the dioceses as well as a variety of religious orders.

"As Vocations Director I travelled widely," said Fr Stefan, "connecting with young people all over the UK, and giving talks and retreats in the UK, Ireland and Europe."

Fr Stefan is currently Chaplain for the Medjugorje Apostolate for England and Wales, for Cor Christi Trinitate, and to Heriot-Watt University Catholic Society.

Father Stefan was at a shared outdoor lunch at Clare Priory on Sunday August 27 after the 10.30am Mass. The shared meal was to mark St Augustine of Hippo's feast day and to thank parishioners and friends for their work.

Parish Priest at Clare Priory, Fr David Middleton OSA, said of the lunch: "Our parish and priory community has so many reasons to be thankful. Today's Mass and shared lunch have given us all the opportunity to say thank you to God and each other."

Dowry House is open

■ Dowry House Retreat, the new retreat facility for the RC National Shrine in Walsingham, has been officially opened by Bishop Alan.

He celebrated midday Mass at the Basilica on September 9 and, after lunch, officially blessed Dowry House, in the presence of locals, visiting pilgrims and benefactors Peter and Diana Hoyer.

Both Bishop Alan and Shrine Rector, Mgr John Armitage, thanked Peter, the original owner of the building who generously made it available for the Shrine through the setting up of the Society of Our Lady Faithful Virgin and Mother of Mercy.

Sr Camilla Oberding, from the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham which runs the retreat centre, said: "Peter's vision of a retreat centre run by a praying and believing community of sisters has now been realised. His joy at the transformation of the property was palpable and evident to all."

Guided tours of the building for small groups were offered to those who hadn't seen the rooms before and the whole day concluded with light refreshments and a celebratory cake cut by Peter and his wife Diana. Those who weren't too tired joined the sisters for evening prayer.



The opening ceremony and blessing at Dowry House Retreat.

Bishop Alan said in his homily: "We need a Sabbath day in our lives - or a week, or even a month when we allow ourselves to be refreshed and renew - a time of holy restfulness - a time when as St Augustine put it so beautifully: 'We

shall rest and we shall see, we shall see and we shall love, we shall love and we shall praise'."

Visit www.dowryhouse.org.uk for further information and to join the sisters for one of the events taking place there.

Pilgrimages to Portugal and Belgium

■ Spaces on two Diocese of East Anglia pilgrimages to Portugal and Belgium are still available, if booked soon.

At the end of April 2018, the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1, Fr Tony Rogers and Fr Paul Maddison are leading a Diocesan pilgrimage to Flanders on behalf of Bishop Alan to remember all the fallen from across our diocese.

Travelling by coach, pilgrims will visit several of the places associated with soldiers from the diocese as well as laying a wreath at the Menin Gate in Ypres.

The cost of the five-day pilgrimage is £650 and more information is available from Pilgrimage People on 0800 6123423 or email: office@pilgrimagepeople.org quoting tour code ANGL07. Places are limited and need to be booked by around the end of October.

Bishop Alan will lead a pilgrimage to Fatima in Portugal in September 2018.

The provisional itinerary with the Pilgrimage People trip includes a guided tour of the Basilica of Our Lady of Fatima and the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, also guided visit to sites associ-

ated with the shepherd children and the apparitions.

The final day is spent in Lisbon where flights to and from Stansted are included.

The price, including travel and accommodation in 3* and 4* hotels, is £850 per person sharing a twin/double room on a half-board basis. Single rooms are available at a supplement of £180.

A deposit of £250 and completed booking form is required by November 10.

More details from 0800 612 3423 or office@pilgrimagepeople.org quote ref ANGL06



Picture courtesy of Channel 5.

The Swaffham Sisters with their five guests from the TV series Bad Habits.

Norfolk convent opens its doors to reality TV

The Daughters of Divine Charity in Swaffham are set to feature in a new high-profile four-part TV documentary on Channel 5 called Bad Habits when five “party girls” are sent to the Norfolk convent for two weeks.

The documentary is reported to be the first time in a decade in which programme-makers have been allowed to film inside a Catholic convent.

During their stay, the five girls gave up their smartphones, alcohol and make-up and helped the Sisters with their community outreach duties.

Sr Francis Ridler from the convent, who is also headteacher at the associated Sacred Heart School, said: “It is all about five girls who are not satisfied with their lifestyle, drinking, spending too much money on make-up and the good life as it were.

“They were told they were going on a

spiritual journey, but not told where. They were brought to Swaffham one by one. When they found out it was a convent they were very surprised.

“We tried to involve them in the life of the convent, in our prayers and community activities. It is a very down-to-earth film and although there were some scary moments, we feel it is an honest portrayal and good for the church.

“When one of them went out and brought a bottle of vodka back – we told them it not appropriate and after discussing it with us they took the vodka and poured it down the sink. I was as concerned about the waste as about them bringing the vodka back, which surprised the girls,” said Sr Francis.

“I am happy with the film as entertainment and we think it will bring the lives of the Sisters into people’s homes

and help them to understand better what we do and are all about. I think that the producers edited it for an audience that is not used to religion and spirituality,” said Sr Francis.

“I can honestly say we felt we made a difference to their lives.”

Series producer Elaine Hackett said: “It is a real privilege to be granted access to a convent and to nuns who were willing to share their world.

Channel 5 factual commissioning editor Guy Davies said: “It’s not a finger wagging exercise at young millennial women. Bad Habits is a really popular and entertaining way of asking some serious questions about how we live our lives.”

Bad Habits, Holy Orders started on Thursday October 19, 10pm on Channel 5 for four weeks.

<http://fdc-sisters.org.uk/about-us/>

Food for soul from pop-up restaurant

■ Nuns from the Daughters of Divine Charity in Swaffham served free soup at NUNdos, a three-day pop-up restaurant in London’s Shoreditch, to launch the Channel 5 series Bad Habits, Holy Orders.

As well as show publicity, the totally free restaurant opened in response to research studies that show that people under the age of 35 are at the greatest risk of suffering from anxiety.

To avoid the distractions of Instagram and Facebook, diners will be encouraged to leave their phones in a bin, and collect them when they leave.

For dessert, the Sisters served a takeaway treat as a reminder to diners to nourish the soul beyond the walls of NUNdos.

Picture by Joe Pepler/PinPep.



news in brief



James settles into seminary life

■ East Anglian seminarian James Hernandez is settling into seminary life well in Valladolid, Spain. At a Mass of induction on September 24 (pictured above), the first Sunday Mass the whole college community attended, the Rector presented all new seminarians with a crucifix.

James reports: “The days do go quick but it feels like I have been here for a lot longer than I actually have. The Rector soon gave me a job on arrival – as one of the refectorians. And I’ve been doing the readings at Mass every day. Soon I am going to help out in a soup kitchen which I am looking forward to. I have just finished a run of five hour Spanish lessons – tiring but enjoyable.

24-week Bible study

■ A 24-week course of Bible study sessions on the Gospel of St Matthew by Jeff Cavins is set to be run at St George’s church in Norwich in early November.

There will be both Day and Evening Sessions. The Day Sessions will start on Monday November 6 at 1.30pm and the Evening Sessions will begin on November 9 at 7pm. This is a follow-up of The Bible Timeline: The Story of Our Salvation by Jeff Cavins.

Organiser Charles Carver said: “For me there is no better way in becoming committed personal intentional disciples of the Lord than by understanding, knowing and living the Word of the Lord, the Sacraments and the Catechism of the Church in and through prayer, study and sharing. We could add to that personal directed retreats.

“This study will help us to understand how Jesus fulfils the Old Testament and also give us a deeper knowledge and more knowing, personal encounter with him.

Contact: carvercharles46@aol.com

TV station opens

■ International Catholic TV network EWTN has opened its first studio and office in the UK in a converted house in Walsingham. The formal dedication took place on August 29 in a ceremony attended by EWTN Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer Michael Warsaw; Shrine Rector Mgr John Armitage and Bishop Alan, who said the facility: “will certainly be a centre for evangelization.”

A harvest hamper

■ A hamper packed with harvest foodstuffs to be distributed to those in need, was presented to Canon David Paul at St John’s Cathedral in Norwich on October 8.

The hamper, from the Norwich Catenian-Circle, was presented by its registrar, Lee Coomber and prepared by his wife, Natalie.

NEW EVANGELISATION

Come home for Christmas

Come Home For Christmas is an initiative of the Catholic Church which aims to offer a seasonal welcome to Catholics who, for different reasons, no longer or rarely attend Mass. The message is: Whatever your story or journey, the door's open for you. Rebecca Bretherton explores the possibilities.

■ Building relationships at Christmas

Buy pretty much anything for Christmas and the store will try to build a longer relationship with you. A voucher for January or an opportunity to give feedback online: ways to make us long term customers. Share a festive meal with friends and as you remove your party hats to leave you will probably make arrangements for your next get-together. The meal was good but the longer friendship is more important.

Come to Mass this Christmas as a stranger and it may be a different experience. We know our Christmas Masses will be full of folk we never normally see. Visitors may be warmly welcomed on Christmas Day but do we make any attempt to build lasting relationships? The sad answer is that sometimes we do not consider that it is worth trying. We can even be a little judgemental about people who only come to church 'once a year' and a bit cross when they take our favourite seats. We expect that we won't see them again until next December. It's a shame that we miss this golden opportunity to get to know them better.

More importantly, this is our chance to help them to grow into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Do we even consider that they might want to get to know Him better?

■ To start a relationship we need to want to know someone.

Christmas reminds us that God wants a deep relationship with us so much that he sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to live with us so we could know Him better. That is what we are celebrating and is what makes Christmas a perfect



The Posada Journey starts on Advent Sunday, December 3. Why not make your parish's Posada Journey more missionary this year: How can you include people who haven't been involved before? If you are hosting a Posada evening, invite your guests to Christmas Mass. They have joined you to pray with the Posada statue so may be open to another invitation.

As a parish, add some invitations for your Christmas season to the Posada pack as it travels around the parish.

A good leaflet for people who might be considering returning to Mass is called *Catholic and Lost Touch*. It is available as a Pdf for you to print as many as you need from the resources section of the www.comehomeforchristmas.co.uk website.

Don't forget to take a photo of people with your Posada for your Facebook or Twitter and don't

forget to send us a copy for publication in Catholic East Anglia.

Resources to prepare for the Posada include a poster, a rota for the journey and prayers. These have been sent to your parish.

'Posada' is a Mexican tradition. A young couple from the parish are selected to dress up as Mary and Joseph and then spend the days of Advent travelling from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling their hosts about the imminent arrival of Jesus at Christmas.

Modern day Posada uses a statue of Mary and Joseph and the donkey instead of a young couple to travel from home to home. Posada provides an opportunity for hospitality and a sharing of our Christian faith with family and friends. By hosting the statue we can join this simple but effective form of evangelisation.

time to propose this Good News to others. We believe we have a mission at Christmas: to share the message that God is longing for that deep relationship. This Christmas is part of His plan to draw us all into Himself.

If we really believe that our mission is to bring God's Good News to people, we must understand that when someone comes to church at Christmas, it may be the start of a longer journey back to Church or they may be actively looking for God in our parish.

We cannot expect that anyone coming to our parish Masses at Christmas for the first time or

after many years away from the Church is ready to be a disciple. Nostalgia for carols or a family celebration may bring someone to Mass but it is unlikely that they will be ready to commit to more. They may have many questions to ask or obstacles to deal with before they can believe we would want to share our lives with them. If we don't show that we want to help, who will?

The Christmas season is a busy time but with a little Advent preparation we can be ready to welcome visitors, not just for Christmas, but to a full life with Jesus Christ and His Church.

■ How can I use Christmas to help others encounter Jesus Christ?

■ Reflect on what Christmas means in your own Christian life. We cannot share what we do not have ourselves. Then:

■ Simply invite someone to come to Mass this Christmas: 'I'm going to church, would you like to come with me?' Be prepared for them to say no; it won't be a wasted invitation. They will know that you thought they were worthy of the invitation. They may gladly accept your offer.

■ Speak to the person sitting next

to you at Mass this Christmas. Tell them you hope to see them again soon.

■ As a parish, invite people back for January. Highlight your New Year's Day Mass and Epiphany in the notices and in your bulletin. While it's obvious to regular church-going Catholics that there will be Mass next Sunday, visitors may need an invitation.

■ As a parish, consider having a well-advertised evening in January to provide an opportunity for church-going Catholics and others to ask questions about being a Catholic. Advertise this at Christmas in your notices, your newsletter and the noticeboard.

■ Make sure all your regular activities are displayed on your notice boards at Christmas, especially RCIA or Journey in Faith courses. It's important that visitors see that we want them to join us.

■ Advertise how someone could have confidential questions answered in the parish.

■ Plan to come to the Creating Missionary Parishes event in Newmarket on January 13, 2018.

Whilst the Coming Home For Christmas resource has been created to offer a seasonal invitation and welcome, the journey back into the Catholic Community can, of course, happen at any time.

Here are two helpful websites to look at:

www.comehomeforchristmas.co.uk and www.catholicscomehome.org

■ Prayer for Returners

Jesus, send your Holy Spirit into my heart in this moment.

I need to experience You afresh and receive Your healing and forgiveness.

Enter my heart now.

Many different memories, emotions and experiences lie hidden there.

Please come with Your light.

Thank you that You are near.

Give me the courage to respond to the invitation

which is being given to me.

Amen



Learn about creating a missionary parish

■ Creating Missionary Parishes is a day to help those who need a practical framework to create or refresh a parish mission team, explains Rebecca Bretherton.

We will be joined on Saturday January 13 at Newmarket parish centre by members of the Diocese of Plymouth New Evangelisation team. Their inspiring but very practical presentations will explain

how their successful programme has created over 38 parish mission teams in their diocese. They use Sherry Weddell's influential book *Forming Intentional Disciples* to bring small parish groups to an understanding of what is possible for them.

Across Cornwall, Dorset and Devon, more than 400 parishioners have taken part with great effect and extraordinary

results. The programme takes people on a personal journey of exploration into their own faith, seeking to give a fuller sense of personal discipleship and to equip them to discern ways of evangelising with a wiser and deeper empathy for the person they encounter and where they may be in their spiritual journey. Two groups in East Anglia are already using the programme

to support their local missionary work.

We are delighted to be hosting this opportunity for Catholics in East Anglia. The day will include Mass and an opportunity for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Please speak to your parish priest if you are interested in attending the event. For further information, please email rebecca.bretherton@icloud.com



Part of the Our Lady of Peñafrancia fiesta, picture by Maria Veloso-Taylor.

Peñafrancia fiesta on Norfolk Broads

The seventh annual Pilgrimage and Fiesta in honour of Our Lady of Peñafrancia, on the Norfolk Broads, proved a great success, reports chairman Al Garchitorena.

■ Around 600, mainly Filipino pilgrims, from all over East Anglia, Lincolnshire, and Hertfordshire took over the Broads Tours fleet for the Fluvial Procession (river cruise) followed by a Mass in the grounds of St Helen's Catholic Church in Hoveton on September 17.

Our Lady is the Patron of the Bicol region in the Philippines, and vener-

ated as a protector from typhoons: in a stormy week the weather was very kind to us! There was a bit of a shower before the Mass started but "no matter what the rain pilgrims remain".

The Procession from the boats to the church with the pilgrims singing and reciting the Rosary is one of the largest public demonstrations of the Christian faith in East Anglia, and never fails to stop Sunday shoppers in their tracks.

This year the head of the Procession was arriving at St Helen's just before the tail of it had crossed the bridge.

Tribu Bicolandia, the organisers of the Pilgrimage, especially wish to thank St Helen's Catholic Church, the Police, the pilgrims (from Louth,

Lincoln, Boston, King's Lynn, Bury St Edmunds, Cambridge, Stevenage, Colchester, Fleggburgh, Gorleston, North Walsham, Wells next-on sea and Norwich) and local residents for making this very special and much-loved event possible each year.

It also marked a 'first' for St Helen's in being the very first 'open air' Mass celebrated there. It was conducted by Fr Claro Conde V Conde, a Filipino priest from the Diocese of Portsmouth, concelebrated by Rev Bill Dimelow of Our Lady & St Walstan's Church where the Our Lady of Peñafrancia resides in Norwich.

Next year's celebration will be on September 16.

Port chaplain commissioned at AoS Mass

■ A Mass in honour of Our Lady Star of the Sea was held at St John the Baptist Cathedral Norwich on September 26, organised by Apostleship of the Sea (AoS).

Mass was celebrated by Bishop Alan and attended by AoS port chaplain, volunteers, supporters, head office staff and local parishioners. AoS East Anglia port chaplain Patricia Ezra was commissioned during Mass (pictured right).

In his homily, Bishop Alan reminded those present how Mary is the special patron of all seafarers who turn to her as they face the difficulties and frustrations of working at sea, away from their loved ones for such long spells.

"Many seafarers are Catholic and I've seen your work in the ports of Felixstowe and King's Lynn in East Anglia. It's a service that has touched and continues to touch the hearts of so many seafarers," he said.

"You befriend them, you respond to their immediate needs, connect them with their families, provide them with assistance to go to Mass and through the local priests assist them in their spiritual needs so their faith is



renewed and strengthened."

He added that AoS brings to seafarers a sense of community where they feel loved and supported, so they know that they are more than just a drop in the huge ocean.

"Seafarers welcome the humbling strength of your prayer and love. This is your proclamation of the Gospel, of

God's love – all carried out under the guidance of Mary, Star of the Sea. Thank you for all that you do," said Bishop Alan.

Martin Foley, AoS National Director, said, "I would like to thank Bishop Alan for leading our celebration and the Diocese of East Anglia for its ongoing support for our work."

news in brief



An historic first Catholic Mass

■ A first Catholic Mass in living memory was celebrated at the Anglican Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul in Wisbech on August 9.

Catholic parish priest Fr James Fyfe and a number of his parishioners celebrated the Mass. While Fr James and his predecessors have celebrated Mass in most of the village churches around the town this was the first time in living memory that the priest in charge had invited the Catholic Congregation to have a eucharistic celebration in his church.

Canon Matthew Bradbury, the recently installed Anglican priest who enjoys an excellent relationship with Fr James, said: "I am so pleased to welcome you all."

Former mayor of Wisbech, Ann Purt, who is a prominent member of the Catholic church, also conveyed her delight at the happening. Ann is no stranger to St Peters as she is the lead flower arranger for the town's annual Rose Fair. Pictured above are, from the left, Fr James Fyfe, Ann Purt and Canon Matthew Bradbury.

Inter-parish walkers

■ An inter-parish walk organised by the Cambridge Justice and Peace Group, including reflections from Laudato Si' took place around the city on September 2.

Around 15 people from the three city parishes joined in with an age range of nearly 70 years.

Bernard Shaw said: "After prayers and reflection at St Philip Howard, drawing on St Francis of Assisi's Canticle of the Creatures, we walked through a quiet residential area and around Cambridge Biomedical Campus.

"We then followed Vicar's Brook towards the city centre. Reaching Our Lady and the English Martyrs, we were welcomed by some non-walkers and all joined in prayer, asking for the intercession of Mary the Mother of Creation, followed by lunch."

The walk also took in the Peace Garden, Parker's Piece and Midsummer Common and concluded at St Laurence's, again welcomed by non-walkers who joined the group in prayer.

Vigil for vocations

■ A night prayer vigil for vocations was held at St Dominic's in Downham Market on Friday August 18, from 10pm. It finished with a Mass for vocations on the Saturday at 4.30pm. The Mass was promoted by the St John Vianney Mission in East Anglia and was concelebrated by Dom Martin Gowman OSB, Parish Priest of Beccles along with Fr Erico de Mello Falcao.

news in brief

Media workshops make headlines

■ A series of free Media Workshops across the Diocese have now been completed with over 40 people receiving tailored training in how to be more effective in communicating the Catholic faith through the media.

Workshops were led by Diocese Communications Director Keith Morris and New Evangelisation Co-ordinator Rebecca Bretherton in all seven deanery areas.

They were held in Beccles, Cambridge, Norwich, Swaffham, Newmarket, Peterborough and Ipswich over the past 18 months.

Dozens of news stories have come out of the sessions with items appearing in the national Catholic press, local newspapers and on BBC local radio stations.

Keith said: "Each session was different and was tailored to the needs of those who attended. The main aim was to help equip people to find and write lots of good news stories about their local church and Catholic community and then to disseminate them to a wider audience using print, web and broadcast media."

Rebecca said: "We have been given the Good News of the Gospel to share. Keith showed us practical ways to use the media to share stories of our lives as Christians and to tell people of God's love for us all."

If you have any ideas of topics, skills or resources you would like to learn more about in future workshops, please email keith.morris@rcdea.org.uk

Cathedral lives simply

■ St John the Baptist in Norwich has become just the second Catholic cathedral to be awarded the CAFOD Live Simply Award, following a year of hard work and commitment from the parish community.

There are three key strands to the award which demonstrate living simply, living sustainably and living in solidarity with the poor.

Achievements during the year included creating a small garden of contemplation to provide some peace and quiet in the city; volunteers growing food in the Cathedral garden that is used in the Narthex cafe, waste from the cafe goes to make compost for the garden; a sponsored water walk, which raised over £1,000 for Malawi and Peru; children's summer camps, where they learnt about climate change and caring for creation; a Lampedusa cross liturgy, using the cross and CAFOD prayers in Lent where they wrote messages of hope for refugees; putting together rucksacks of toiletries and cleaning products for refugees coming to Norwich and changing most of the lights in the Cathedral to LEDs, saving energy in lighting.

CAFOD Campaign Engagement Manager, Sarah Hagger-Holt, said: "I was really impressed by how outward-looking this parish is, which is clearly shown in the way in which they have involved the whole parish and have worked together with so many different groups and individuals in the area. They have also looked further afield, generously supporting communities living in poverty overseas, and at their own lives, identifying ways that they can reuse resources, care for the environment and provide a warm welcome to all those who come into contact with the Cathedral."

St John's Live Simply group chairper-



The Live Simply team from St John's Cathedral.

son, Joan MacInnes, said: "Working towards the award has been so good for the parish, because it has got so many different people involved. If you give a group or an individual an opportunity to do something, they will respond. It's been good fun too, for all ages, especially the children's summer camp. We will definitely keep going."

"We had our Recycle Sunday in April, and people are continuing to use the

recycle bins. Our support for refugees locally will continue. New groups, like the parish walking group, have been set up to continue some of the activities we've started this year. It's been a really positive exercise for us and has touched every aspect of parish life; from the garden, where volunteers work together to grow food for the cafe, to young people's groups learning to care for creation, to the visitors who come to the Cathedral."

■ CAFOD has a new Community Participation Coordinator after Stephen Matthews left to train as a secondary RE teacher after almost five years in the role.

Jane Crone, who has replaced him, is now working with volunteers in schools and parishes across the diocese. Jane recently moved to Clare in Suffolk and attends Mass at Clare Priory. She is an ex primary school teacher and has been both a parish and a school volunteer in Brentwood Diocese. She has an MA in Pastoral Theology from Heythrop College and



works from the CAFOD diocesan office in the Margaret Beaufort Institute in Cambridge.

"This exciting job gives me an opportunity to play a part in CAFOD's work of standing by people in poverty, through prayer, fundraising and campaigning," said Jane. "We are lucky to have a dedi-

cated and inspiring team of volunteers working in parishes and schools across the diocese and are always on the look out for new volunteers."

Contact Jane at jcrone@cafod.org.uk

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Pro-life pilgrimage

The annual Pro Life Pilgrimage to Walsingham saw 1,000 pilgrims gather on September 17, in the 50th year since the passing of the Abortion Act in 1967. Janet Baker reports.

■ It is sobering to recognize that powerful groups within the medical profession and outside, continue to campaign for our abortion laws and end of life rulings to be made even more liberal than they are at present.

But it was not in a spirit of dejection that nearly 1,000 pilgrims descended on Walsingham to pray and make reparation for this situation. They came from the dioceses of Northampton, Leeds, Brentwood, Westminster, East Anglia and Southwark in hope, in joy and in expectation to this England's Nazareth to ask Our Lady for her help and intercession.

The pilgrimage was blessed by the Miraculous Image of the pregnant "Our Lady of Guadalupe" and queues of people were visible throughout the day waiting to make their veneration.

Bishop Robert Byrne, Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham led the pilgrimage and spoke encouragingly of our coming to Walsingham in a spirit of optimism, knowing that our witness can be a powerful sign. He added that maybe people are not yet ready to listen to us, but that one day they will see that God's way is the only way. God alone knows how to deal with the attacks on family life which have led to the chaos of our broken society and the destruction of his order.

He said that Christ has given us two com-

mands – one is to love and the other is to forgive, and that love and forgiveness are what makes life precious. They enable us to become the people he wants us to be. He spoke of Our Lady as our guide and protection. Hers is a life lived for God to its full potential and through her we can enjoy that source of life and grace in Christ which is there for every human being.

At the end of the Mass, Shrine Rector Mgr Armitage spoke of the decision by the Bishop's Conference to re-dedicate England as the Dowry of Mary on the Solemnity of the Annunciation 2020. He referred to the recently published Novena in Honour of Our Lady of Walsingham to be used as preparation for that event. The intention on Day 3 of the novena is "for the protection of all life from the moment of conception to natural death" and "that a culture respecting the sanctity of life, marriage and family may once again prevail in our country and communities."

The pilgrimage offered intercessions for life during the Stations of the Cross and prayed the Litany of Life during Eucharistic Adoration. A feature of the pilgrimage is the Silent Walk into the village spiritually carrying the Cross with Christ in reparation for sins against life.

Our final destination was the Priory grounds where the original Holy House stood and here we completed the Sorrowful mysteries of the Rosary and prayed the Prayer for England.

The pilgrimage this year was supported by the Friars of the Renewal, also Lord David Alton with his wife, and Ann Widecombe.

See www.prolifepilgrimage.org for further information and contact details.

Pictures by Keith Morris.

Fatima statue visits Norwich



The Fatima Pilgrim Virgin statue and saints relics visited St John's Cathedral in Norwich on September 23 and 24, with hundreds of people turning up for a programme of Masses, services, prayers films and talks.

■ The visit to the Diocese of East Anglia was part of a nationwide tour of cathedrals to mark the centenary year of Our Lady's apparitions in Fatima, Portugal in 1917. Earlier this year, shepherd children Francisco and Jacinta, who witnessed the visions, were canonised at Fatima by Pope Francis, and became the first children in the history of the Church to become saints during the ordinary course of their family life.

The highlight of the weekend was Mass said by Bishop Alan with a post-

communion Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Mass was preceded by the enthronement and crowning of the National Fatima Statue, and was followed by veneration of the Relics of Saints Jacinta & Francisco, and enrolment and investiture of the Brown Scapular.

In his homily, Bishop Alan said: "One hundred years ago, the visions to three poor shepherd children quickly became an international story and have remained so ever since.

"May we all learn from Our Lady's message to be confident in the love and refuge of her Immaculate Heart in times of trial. May we also learn from the simplicity and humility, from the trust and childhood virtue of our two saints – so that we too may prepare well for our journey to heaven and so leads others there by our prayer and sacrifices."

From September 25 to 27, the statue and relics visited Walsingham at a Pilgrimage Retreat, led by Fr Simon Chinery, priest of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham.



Bishop Alan crowns the Fatima statue.

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DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

Schools celebr

Around 700 pupils and teachers from 25 Catholic schools across the Diocese of East Anglia gathered at St John's Cathedral in Norwich on September 20 to mark the start of another school year. Keith Morris reports.

■ They all took part in a Schools Mass, which was celebrated by Bishop Alan and organised by the seven schools from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Everyone then enjoyed a huge picnic in the cathedral gardens next to the

Narthex centre. Sean Hayes, Headteacher at St John Fisher High School, Peterborough, said: "The theme was Children of God with the intention that it is very much a children's Mass with them doing the readings prayers and singing. "For a lot of pupils they take away the experience of coming to the cathedral, to see the Bishop in his cathedral seat and to understand that they are part of a larger diocese. It is just a great time to all come together."

In his homily, Bishop Alan said: "The day of our Baptism is the most significant and important day in our lives, because it is the beginning of a very special friendship we have with God that will last for the whole of our lives and continue after we die.

"Through our Baptism we also become children of God – brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ – an awesome claim. We also become members of God's worldwide family - the church.

"If we are faithful to our friendship with God it will help us to live beautiful lives without selfishness, it gives us purpose in life and we can make such a difference to the world in which we live."

Each school present received a special plaque of the diocesan crest from Bishop Alan to take back to school as a memento of the occasion.

■ Full picture gallery to download at www.rcdea.org.uk



Tears of joy from Lesley

■ Teaching assistant Lesley Carter was reduced to tears of joy when she was presented with a Papal Blessing to mark the end of her 23-year career at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School in Peterborough at a ceremony on September 20.

Lesley was presented with the blessing from Pope Francis by Bishop Alan at the end of a Diocese of East Anglia Schools Mass at St John's Cathedral in Norwich on September 20 in front of a group of adoring pupils.

School Headteacher, Anne-Marie McElhinney, said: "Lesley has been at our school for 23 years as a general teaching assistant, a

teaching assistant and a high level teaching assistant. She is part of the backbone of our school and we love her.

"We had great celebrations at the end of term but we wanted something really special to mark the occasion of the end of her career at our school and we thought a Papal blessing was the way to do it."

An emotional Lesley said: "I just can't believe it, it's wonderful. My time at the school has been an absolute joy - it does not feel like work at all. It is such a community, a family and I can't believe that they have given me this just for enjoying my work."



ate at start of year



Pictures by Keith Morris.



Pictures from the Schools Mass and picnic at St John's Cathedral.



St Martha's celebrates 60th anniversary and new building opening

Pictures from the St Martha's celebration on September 25. Full story on page one. Pictures by Keith Morris.



news in brief

Fens church with link to former Pope

■ Fr James Fyfe said Mass in the Anglican parish church in Tydd St Giles, which claims a link to the only Englishman ever to have been elected as Pope.

Fr James celebrated the Harvest festival Mass on September 25 in an impressively decorated church whose choir sang and provided refreshments afterwards. "Rector Sandra Gardner made us all very welcome," said Fr James.

"Interestingly, there is a local belief that Nicholas Breakspeare was a curate there before going on to better things in Rome - he is the only Englishman to have been elected Pope as Adrian IV from 1154 - 1159."

Website accolade

■ The Diocese of East Anglia website has been named as among the Top 100 Best Catholic Blogs on the planet. It comes it at number 74 as the only English diocese to make the list and joins other websites such as the Catholic News Agency (No1), Catholic News (No 3), the Catholic Herald (No 11) and Catholic Church for England Wales (No 69).

blog.feedspot.com/catholic_blogs/



Pictured left, Bishop Alan prays at the grave of Leonard Cheshire (above).

Mass marks start of cause for Suffolk hero

A Memorial Requiem Mass to celebrate the life of Suffolk humanitarian and philanthropist Leonard Cheshire took place on September 7, in his home village of Cavendish on the centenary of his birth. Keith Morris reports.

■ The Mass, which was celebrated by Bishop Alan, also marked the start of a campaign by the Diocese of East Anglia to promote his Cause, the first step to canonization as a saint, and was attended by his two children, Jeromy and Elizabeth.

Leonard, who died in 1992, is best known for his work creating hundreds of homes around the world to care for disabled and vulnerable people, much of it with his wife Lady Sue Ryder. He was also an outstanding war-time leader and pilot who was awarded the VC. He converted to Catholicism at the age of 31.

Giving the homily at the Mass was Fr Barry Clifford OSA, who knew Leonard and Sue personally when he was their parish priest at Clare Priory, near Cavendish, in the late 1980s.

He said: "Leonard was certainly a very holy man, a great man. At his memorial Mass in Westminster Cathedral in 1992 I spoke with Bishop Alan Clark and said then that I thought that Leonard should be canonized. I have always believed that and a lot of people did. His faith was very intellectual but he was very holy and down-to-earth. The great quest and commitment of his life was for peace."

Fr Barry spoke of his personal memories of Leonard including one day soon after the great storm of October 1987 when he saw Leonard and Sue climb through the branches of a fallen tree to get to Mass.



Pictured after the memorial Mass are Leonard Cheshire's children Jeromy (left) and Elizabeth with Bishop Alan and Fr James Fyfe.

After the Mass, daughter Elizabeth Cheshire said: "It was an absolutely lovely and really moving Mass and a very nice and personal homily from a priest who knew Dad in his last few years."

"He would have been very surprised and humbled by the canonization process. He was a really good man and was always motivated by a desire to do what was right and do the things that needed to be done. He was also a truly spiritual person and had a very deep faith. He lived his life through his faith and everything he did in the years that I knew him was guided by that faith."

Fr James Fyfe, who is promoting the Cause of Leonard, explained: "It means to begin to try to collect any evidence for sainthood from among the faithful. There is a prayer card which invites people to pray to Leonard for a particular reason. If the prayers are answered then evidence is collected, examined and presented. This does not mean that we already think he is a saint - that part is a

very long way off and it may be 50 or 100 years hence - it is a discovery process.

"Bishop Alan and the Diocese are embarking on the process because Leonard lived in Cavendish. But he is a world-wide figure and many people will be praying for the success of the Cause and we shall reach out to them. However, we shall begin in East Anglia first because there are people here who knew him and remember him and who may have something to tell us."

Before the Mass, which took place at St Mary the Virgin parish church, Bishop Alan prayed at the grave of Leonard Cheshire in the nearby church graveyard.

Anyone interested in the cause, or wanting a prayer card, is invited to contact: Fr James Fyfe, 69 Queen's Road, Wisbech, PE13 2PH.

Details of answered prayers should be sent to Leonard Cheshire Cause c/o The White House, 21 Upgate, Poringland, Norfolk, NR14 7SH.

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Parish gets on bikes for Panama

■ Parishioners and clergy from St Peter and All Souls Church in Peterborough got on their bikes to raise money to send a group of young people to World Youth Day 2019 in Panama. **Susanne Myall reports.**

The sponsored bike began at Peterborough Cathedral and followed a ten-mile route via the River Nene, Orton Mere and the Nene Valley Railway to the Water Sports Centre at

Ferry Meadows and back again.

Over £700 was raised by the July 8 event and coordinator, Gianni Bavetta, said: "It was nice to see the young and young at heart take part in our parish fundraising bike ride. This bike ride not only benefitted our youth by raising funds for World Youth Day – Panama 2019, it has also brought our Parish community together."

Also in the group was Deacon David Kucaba, a member of the La Salette Seminary in Kraków, Poland, where he is training for the priesthood. Over the last month he had been assisting the clergy at St Peter and All Souls.

His last Mass before returning to Poland was on August 1.

At the end of the Mass he was given a very appreciative round of applause by all.



The Dowry of Mary pilgrimage at Walsingham

Pilgrims from world church

Around 3,000 pilgrims, representing the universal Catholic Church, gathered at the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham on Sunday September 10 for the annual Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage. Keith Morris reports.

■ Led by Bishop Alan, the day of pilgrimage began with a colourful parading and reception of national flags and banners including from Sri Lanka, Trinidad, Ghana, India, Ethiopia, Latvia, Philippines, China, Congo, Ireland, Nigeria, Vietnam and across England and the Hail Mary was said in around 20 different languages.

Welcoming all pilgrims, Bishop Alan said: "It is good to see so many different countries represented here today. We are truly the universal Catholic Church here in Walsingham. We think particularly of those people who are being caught in the storms and hurricanes in the Caribbean, Cuba and the United States."

The Bishop of Brentwood, the Rt Rev Alan Williams, gave the homily. He said: When God asked her to be the mother of his son, Our Lady Mary lived in an anxious, troubled and unsure world. We also live in an anxious, troubled and unsure

world ourselves.

"Mary said yes to God 'let it be as you have said'. Those who say 'yes' to God are filled with the grace of God and the joys of God and Mary is full of grace and is full of joy.

"'Remain in my love,' said Jesus. For those who remain in the love of Jesus, great things are possible, they have all that they need," said Bishop Alan.

"We are in a safe place here in the home of Mary in the Nazareth of England. One thing that you can be sure of is that when you go to Mary's house you are very welcome indeed, no matter where you have come from. Here we are Mary's guests, Mary's children. We follow Jesus by following Mary."

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

After picnic lunches, pilgrims processed, many singing and dancing, along the Holy Mile between the Catholic Shrine and Walsingham Abbey where the bishops conducted a Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and said prayers at the original shrine site in the Abbey grounds.

The pilgrimage is named after the 14th century convention of England being known as the "Dowry of Mary" and is the principal pilgrimage in honour of Mary.

■ Full picture gallery to download at www.rcdea.org.uk

news in brief

Two new books from Suffolk priest

■ Retired Suffolk priest, Fr Anthony Foreman, has published two new books. 'Lidgate – 2000 years of a Suffolk village' records the story of Lidgate through the ages. Lidgate, near Newmarket was the birthplace of the poet monk John of Lidgate. The book is illustrated with many old photos, anecdotes, and details of former residents. The book may be purchased for £12 – including postage and packing from: Rev A H Foreman, 'Wheelwrights', Lidgate, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 9PR or e-mail at humph.foreman@btinternet.com.

The second book, 'Letters from the Trenches 1915 – 1917', is a collection of 17 family letters written by Lidgate young men who were killed in the First World War. They give a poignant glimpse into the horrors of those days. The original letters are lodged in the Suffolk Records Office. The cost is £6 including P and P.

Novena republished

■ A Novena prayer booklet, in honour of Our Lady of Walsingham, which marks the start of a national mobilisation of prayer for the Church and for the nations of England (Mary's Dowry) and Wales, has been republished by the National Catholic Shrine in Walsingham.

The nine-day prayer guide has been updated by Shrine Rector Mgr John Armitage and others and the hope is that through it, the emergence of a truly nationally-led Novena will happen across the dioceses of England and Wales.

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Tributes paid to Cardinal

Tributes have been paid to the former Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, who died peacefully on September 1, aged 85.

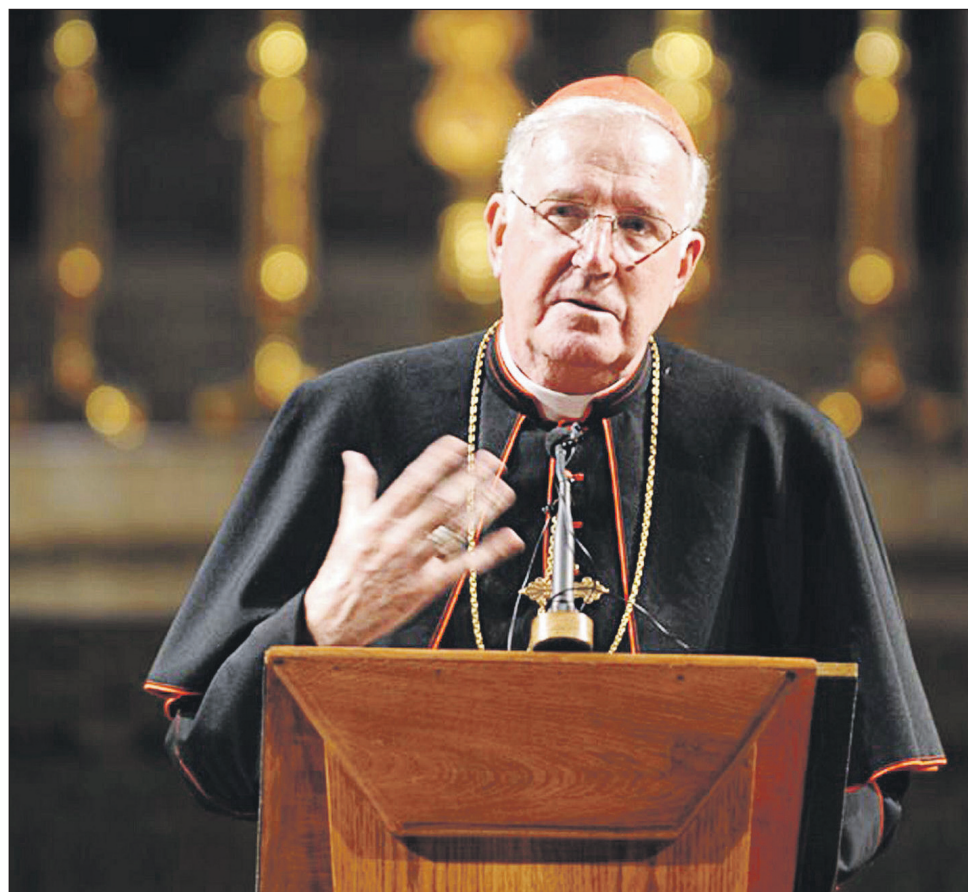
■ Cormac Murphy-O'Connor was born in Reading on August 24, 1932, the fifth son of Dr George Murphy-O'Connor and his wife Ellen. His parents originally came from County Cork.

During the Holy Year of 1950 he began training as a priest for the Diocese of Portsmouth at the Venerable English College, Rome, where he joined his two brothers, Brian and Patrick. While in Rome he gained licentiates in Philosophy and Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University and was ordained in 1956.

In 1966 he became private secretary to the Bishop of Portsmouth, Derek Worlock and in 1971 returned to Rome as Rector of the Venerable English College. The years following the Second Vatican Council were challenging ones to be a seminary rector, with much uncertainty about the future and the constant need, as he later put it, to "broker a peace between the people who want to change everything and the people who want to change nothing". He proved to be a steady pair of hands and hosted Archbishop Donald Coggan of Canterbury during his historic visit to Paul VI in 1977.

In 1977 Cardinal Cormac was appointed third Bishop of Arundel and Brighton. From 1982 until 2000 he was co-chairman of the Anglican and Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC), and ecumenism remained a cause close to his heart.

In 2000 he was appointed tenth Archbishop of Westminster, in



Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor © Mazur/catholicnews.org.uk

succession to Cardinal Basil Hume. The following year he was created a cardinal priest. As a cardinal, he was appointed to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, the Administration of the Patrimony of the Holy See, the Pontifical Council for the Study of Organisational and Economic Problems of the Holy See and the Pontifical Council for the Family.

Aware of the scourge of child abuse and having had personal experience of cases as Bishop of Arundel and Brighton,

he commissioned Lord Nolan to chair an independent review on child protection in the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

This was a landmark document and led to the establishment of an independent office to oversee the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

He enjoyed good relations with the Royal family and in 2002 read a prayer at the funeral of the Queen Mother and preached before Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip at the Sunday service

in Sandringham, Norfolk.

On reaching the age of 75, Cardinal Cormac submitted his resignation to the Holy See and he became the first Archbishop of Westminster to retire, all his predecessors having died in office.

He continued his work in Rome, taking up new posts on the Congregation for Bishops and the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples and he participated in the 2013 conclave as a non-voter.

Throughout his life, Cardinal Cormac kept up a keen interest in sport, especially rugby and golf, and music. He was a talented pianist and occasionally performed at charity events and celebrations. He will long be remembered for his personal warmth, humour and persuasive leadership.

Bishop Alan Hopes paid tribute, saying: "I was privileged to work with Cardinal Cormac in the Westminster Diocese, first as Vicar General and then as an Auxiliary Bishop. He ordained me as a bishop in Westminster Cathedral in 2003. A personal source of inspiration, he was also a source of inspiration for the Catholic Church in England and Wales which he led for ten years as the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster.

"His total commitment to the Church which he loved and served so well over a period of sixty years, his optimism and action in the face of adversity, his enthusiasm and his cheerful disposition, gave encouragement and support to clergy and people alike and spoke of his simple but deep faith and trust in the Lord. May he rest in peace.

Cardinal Cormac had strong links with the Diocese of East Anglia. He led the Chrism Mass during the inter-regnum before Bishop Alan was appointed and spoke at the University of East Anglia in Norwich last year as part of the Newman Lecture Series, on the Changing Faces of the Papacy.

101-year-old priest with a ruthless dedication to God

Monsignor Augustine Hoey, a priest of the Diocese of Westminster, who lived in Walsingham for some years to pray for and support the work of the Shrine and for unity among Christians, has died at the age of 101. He was a well-known and loved figure. Fr Denys Lloyd pays tribute.

■ The words of the Short Chapter at None, as Fr Augustine spoke them in the Community Church at Mirfield in probably 1962 or 1963, have been with me ever since: "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ."

I was then a student at the College of the Resurrection and those words have been a compass to my ministry ever since. I am sure it was then and always has been the depth of his prayer and closeness to God that again and again lent to Fr Augustine's words a penetrating power and authority.

When I was a member of staff at the College of the Resurrection – from 1969 until I was received into the Catholic Church in 1990 – I spent substantial parts of many college vacations at the 'House of Prayer' Fr Augustine established – first in a flat in Hulme, Manchester and then in a redundant vicarage in Sunderland.

Fr Augustine's remarkable, and in a sense quite ruthless, dedication to God showed itself in his attention to fine detail, not only in the creation of the carefully typed and indexed office books we used, but also in the very simple, but uniformly elegant décor of both the flat in Hulme and also the house – 'Emmaus' – in Sunderland. But that was achieved in Hulme by his first spending many days on his knees, scraping off



Monsignor Augustine Hoey.

from the sitting room floor a recalcitrant layer of chicken droppings – the previous owner having used the room as a run for his poultry.

Fr Augustine's manner of celebrating the Eucharist, spoke eloquently of his wonder and awe before the majesty of God. Occasionally, in the 1960s, he was invited to be the celebrant at the College Eucharist – every move, every gesture was done with a striking grace. Even in his old age, his back remained ram-rod straight when he genuflected. It was not for nothing that his mother had been on the stage.

And years later, when, as a Catholic, he was living

the 'life of prayer' in Walsingham and he was approaching his 100th birthday, he still concelebrated daily at the Church of the Annunciation in the village. When it was his turn to read the Gospel, it was evident that, without a shadow of doubt, for him this truly was 'the Word of God' – even though it did not go unnoticed by the congregation that, when he read, it added several minutes to the length of the celebration.

When I needed to find a new confessor, once Alan Williams became Bishop of Brentwood, Fr Augustine agreed to take me on. By then he was in his late 90s but no less searching than he had been when he used to hear my confession as an Anglican. "But are you really grateful to God?" he frequently asked. We often talked for quite some time and he was a mine of information about what was going on in the church and in the Diocese – partly because of the constant flow of visitors and penitents from all parts of the country.

Aged 99 he was given the title of Monsignor. A memoir, Trembling on the Edge of Eternity, by Antony Pinchin and Graeme Jolly, was published in 2015.

One of my last memories of Fr Augustine, like my first, is of how his words resonated with an extraordinary, penetrating power. What he said at the end of the Mass for his 100th birthday in the Reconciliation Chapel at Walsingham was his 'last word' on his passion for the restoration of Christian unity.

Before the blessing, he moved forward from his place as a concelebrant, and with a voice that seemed as strong as it had been when he preached parish missions in the 50s and 60s, he expressed his horror at the 'scandal' that shamed the place he loved so much – the scandal of separation and disunity at Walsingham: Mary still being honoured at two separate Shrines. "This scandal must cease! – we must pray..."

YOUTH MATTERS

Launch for World Youth Day 2019

■ The next World Youth Day will be in Panama City in 2019, a group from East Anglia will be going and there is a diocesan launch in Newmarket on November 26.

"It doesn't seem long ago that we returned from Poland after having an incredible time at World Youth Day 2016," said Hamish MacQueen, Youth Service Director.

"But we need to start early to give people a chance to prepare for the 2019 event. Part of this is about raising money but just as important is getting to know each other and reflecting on the theme 'I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)', which we will be doing in our preparation days."

World Youth Day was started by Pope



John Paul in 1984. It's much more than a day – usually over a week. It brings together young Catholics from around the world to celebrate their faith and learn more about it – it's an encounter of the young people of the world with the Pope and the Christian community of the host country.

Recent World Youth Days have been held in Madrid, Rio and Krakow. Young people who have attended from East

Anglia have not only found the pilgrimage enjoyable – it's also been incredibly faith nurturing and for some even life-changing.

"I felt this trip has definitely changed my faith for the better and has gone as far as to change my life," said Joseph Kalusza-Gilbert, St Ives Parish, talking about WYD 2016.

The World Youth Day Panama 2019 East Anglia Diocese Launch will take place at Newmarket Parish Centre, 14 Exeter Rd, Newmarket CB8 8LT on November 26, which is National Youth Sunday.

The afternoon starts at 1pm (bring a packed lunch) and will finish by 4:30pm after Mass celebrated by Bishop Alan

World Youth Day is for young people who will be 17 or older by September 1, 2018, and adult leaders.



The new-look Ignite team, from the left, Ciaran Losasso, Cat Williams, Hamish MacQueen, Fr Luke Goymour.

Ignite team grows

The Ignite Team – the Youth Mission Team of the Diocese of East Anglia – is growing.

■ Joining Hamish MacQueen (Director of Diocesan Youth Service) and Catherine, (Cat) Williams (Team Leader) is Fr Luke Goymour and Ciaran Losasso.

Fr Luke has been appointed full-time chaplain to the Diocesan Youth Service, and much of his ministry will be as part of the Ignite Team. He is particularly excited about visiting young people in their parishes.

"We are a Mission Team," he said. "That sense of being 'sent' to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ is central to our make-up. It's a real privilege to be sent into parishes and schools to share with the young people of our diocese the best

news ever – That God loves them, and wants to have a relationship with them!"

Also joining Fr Luke is Ciaran Losasso who comes from Norwich and became more involved in youth work in the Diocese after World Youth Day in 2016. He joined the volunteer 'Ignite Lite' team and from there became a full-time member as a 'gap year' after studying history at UEA.

"I feel that it is a great blessing to be given this opportunity to serve young people and the Church on the Ignite Team," said Ciaran when asked about taking on this new role.

"It is so special to be able to play just a part in helping others to encounter Jesus and the Good News that He brings, and that we all so desperately need in our lives. It is even more of a privilege to be able to do this among the people and places I grew up around."

As members of the Ignite Team, they will continue to spread the Gospel message throughout the Diocese of East Anglia working in both parishes and schools running retreat days, youth groups and Confirmation / First Holy Communion classes.

They will also continue to run events such as the Ignite Festival and other events they are planning to launch throughout 2017 and 2018. Having Fr Luke as part of the Ignite Team also enables them to offer greater availability of the Sacraments such as Youth Masses.

"We are really blessed to have such a strong team this year and I am so excited about what we are able to do in bringing the Gospel message to young people in East Anglia," said Hamish.

If you would like the Ignite Team to come to your school or parish, do get in touch.

Key 2017/18 dates

■ **October 27:** Vigil for Life

■ **November 25:** Flame Keepers, Norwich

■ **November 26:** World Youth Day 2019 Launch, Newmarket

■ **January 5 – 7:** Ignite Lite Weekend (venue to be decided)

■ **January 6:** Epiphany Candlelight Mass, Poringland,

■ **March 29 - April 1:** 'Mysterium': Triduum Retreat for 18-35s, Walsingham

■ **May 5 – 6:** Ignite Diocesan Youth Festival, Swaffham

■ **May 7:** Pilgrimage Walk to Walsingham

■ **June 2 – 3:** Celebrate East Anglia Family Conference, Bury St Edmunds

■ **July / August:** Youth Pilgrimage (location and dates to be decided!)

■ **July 30 – August 3:** New Dawn Family Conference, Walsingham

■ **August 24 – 31:** Pilgrimage to Lourdes

■ **August 23 – 27:** Youth 2000 Prayer Festival, Walsingham

■ **August:** Summer Camp (location and dates to be decided)

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

Youth contacts

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Email: Ignite Team enquiries

igniteeam@rcdea.org.uk

All other enquiries

dys@rcdea.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/igniteyea

Twitter: @igniteyea

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

Flame Keepers

*Celebrating
National Youth
Sunday*

*Talks, Worship
Sharing, Fun
and Adoration*

Calling all 12-25'ers

This is a mini-Ignite

*Festival to help keep the
flame of faith glowing!*

**IT IS TIME TO
GLOW!**

Where: The Narthex, St John Cathedral, Norwich

When: Saturday 25/11/17; 9.00am– 5.30pm

Cost : £10 per person (incl lunch)

*'For more info /book a place
please e-mail the Ignite Team*

igniteeam@rcdea.org.uk



Pilgrims visit wonderful Lourdes

The Diocese of East Anglia was, once again, well represented on the Catholic Association Pilgrimage to Lourdes (18-25 August) – taking more priests and more nurses than any of the groups that make up the Catholic Association. Deacon John Morrill reports.

■ East Anglia also takes more than our share of those who work in the Accueil (hospital), including the whole of the team responsible for the laundry. That said, our numbers were down by about a quarter from previous years, and particularly striking is that we are not taking any youth to help the assisted pilgrims get about. The reason for the drop in numbers can be in large part explained by the fall of the pound against the euro, and the increasing costs of flying those who need assistance.

So the trustees of the Catholic Association are exploring ways of keeping down the costs. For example from 2019 we may go slightly earlier and for one day less (this needs to be worked out).

It was not as hot this year as in some other years but there was more rain (and thunder!). None of this dampened the spirits of the 80 or so assisted (or sick) pilgrims, their helpers



Bishop Alan presides at the grotto Mass at Lourdes. Picture by Johan Bergström-Allen.

and pilgrims pure and simple. Lourdes is quite simply a wonderful place not only because of what happened there in 1858, but because of what happens now. Lourdes seems to me to be closer to the world as it is supposed to be than anywhere else. Here everyone is giving rather

than taking, and that very much includes the assisted pilgrims.

A highlight this year was that Bishop Alan, who led the East Anglia pilgrimage as he has every year since he became our Bishop, had the great privilege of being the presiding Bishop at the Mass in the grotto itself. As

usual there was Mass daily somewhere within the 'domain', the area on both sides of the river close to the Grotto; and there were liturgies of healing (reconciliation and anointing), and an opportunity to go down into the spring which miraculously appeared in the grotto as

Bernadette followed instructions from the Immaculate Mother of God. There were opportunities that some of us took to use the 'free day' to go up into the mountains or to the tiny and largely unchanged village of Bartres in which Bernadette spent two short periods of her life. The first was when she had to be wet-nursed by a woman who had lost her own child and when her own mother was unable to nurse her; and the second was when she was sent there to work at the age of thirteen, a year before her encounters with The Blessed Virgin Mary. The church where she worshipped offers a different way of getting close to her and her story.

For the past seven years, the diocesan pilgrimage has been directed and organised with great commitment and love by Deacon Clive Brooks of St Marks parish in Ipswich, but he has now stood down and handed over responsibility to myself. At the diocesan Mass midway through the pilgrimage, Bishop Alan thanked Deacon Clive for all that he had done, and presented him with a diptych icon of St Bernadette and of the Immaculate Conception. Clive will be a hard act to follow, but I will do my best to get more from our diocese to come to Lourdes. I am in Newmarket parish, at jsm1000@cam.ac.uk and on 07956 536140.



Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology

Catholic House of Cambridge Theological Federation

New Courses in 2018

Margaret Beaufort Courses

We offer:

- guided reading and imaginative discussion;
- expert teaching that links theory and practice;
- opportunities for enquiry, debate, prayer and friendship;
- a diverse and welcoming student community;
- mutual learning about issues that matter;
- a space for Catholic women to explore their vocation.

Lent Term: 18th January-8th March 2018

1. Matristics/Patristics (Dr Amy Daughton)
2. Biblical Women from Miriam to Mary Magdalen (Ms Rosalie Moloney)

Easter Term: 26th April-17th May 2018

1. Thomas Merton: Model of Discernment, Personal Care, Pastoral Presence, and Social Justice (Dr Melanie Prejean-Sullivan).

Fee £150 per module

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.

CCRS

The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) is managed and awarded by the Board of Religious Studies on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The course seeks to ensure that participants have at least a basic knowledge and understanding of the beliefs of the Catholic Faith. It also provides a basis for further study.

Who is it for?

- teachers in catholic schools
- parish catechists and other ministers in the Church
- anyone who wishes to develop their faith

The course is made up of eight modules taught over two sessions on Saturdays and is usually completed over two years.

You can dip in and out of the course as you need or prefer.

Costs:

Each assessed module costs £60
Each non-assessed module costs £45

Starting date:

September 2018



Spirituality, Religion and Ethics in Contemporary Prison Service

This new interactive 3-day course might be of interest to anyone working or volunteering in prison service. 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.

Wednesdays 9.30-4.30
7, 14 and 21 February 2018
Attendance Certificates will be issued at the end of the course.

Fee: £200 (Bursaries available; please contact Dr Anna Abram, Principal (aa2008@cam.ac.uk)).



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

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

Venue: 12 Grange Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DU, 01223 741039 Website: www.margaretbeaufort.cam.ac.uk

BUILDING BRIDGES

Pilgrims inspired by Holy Land visit

■ Some 37 pilgrims from across the Diocese spent eight days in the Holy Land visiting holy places and meeting with the Christians of the region in mid September.

In wonderfully warm weather the group travelled to Galilee and celebrated their first Mass on the shores of the lake. Led by Fr Paul Maddison and Deacon Andrew Eburne, the group reflected on the scriptures in so many beautiful places, visiting Capernaum, Nazareth, Tabor, Jericho, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Ain Karem.

Fr Paul said: "On Sunday we celebrated Mass with the parish in Beit Jala which was an inspirational event. After Mass we had coffee with the parishioners and learnt how difficult it is for them to live their faith in that part of the world. Fr Johnny, priest at Beit Jala, said how welcome we were and how encouraged the local community felt knowing that they had the prayers of our diocese



HOLY LAND

back in the UK.

"We also visited a refugee camp and met with the staff and students of Bethlehem University, giving us a wonderful insight into the work of the Catholic church in the Holy Land. One of our pilgrims summed up her experience by saying that not only had the

scriptures been brought to life but that she had also seen the faith and hope of the Christian community in the land of Jesus, which had strengthened her own faith.

Pictured above are East Anglia pilgrims renewing baptismal vows at the River Jordan.

Mass is celebrated in Cambodian-style

Over 100 people from 10 parishes across the Diocese joined together for the Cambodian Pchum Ben (Holy Souls) Mass at Sacred Heart, North Walsham on Friday September 22. Pauline Andrews reports.

■ The chief celebrant was Fr Peter Sok Na from Phnom Penh and eight other East Anglian priests concelebrated with him, including former parish priests of Sacred Heart, Fr David Bagstaff and Fr Peter Marsh.

Even Australia was represented by Fr Gavin Small, on vacation and supplying for Fr James Walsh. Fr David Ward (Costessey) gave the homily.

Representatives of the youth of the parish led the impressive opening procession, which was accompanied by a Khmer setting of the Gloria. This was followed by the offering of traditional gifts of food, flowers and incense at the Offertory and the strewing of rose petals at the Consecration.

In the Cambodian Church, it is customary to write the names of departed loved ones on a white paper cross which is displayed on a board and incense offered in their memory.

The crosses are then burnt to symbolise souls rising to heaven.

This very moving conclusion to the Mass took place almost as it would have been in Cambodia – except the burning took place outside on the piazza in deference to fire regulations.

As Fr Mark Hackeson (Bury St Edmund's) pointed out, this was a real 'diocesan family' celebration for what is,



CAMBODIA



Pictured above are young people at the Mass with Fr Peter Sok Na and, left, the burning paper crosses ceremony. Pictures by Gerald Fox.

in Cambodia, very much a family event. It was a particular and unique privilege for those present to have been able to

share this with Fr Sok Na. A beautiful and memorable occasion much appreciated by all who came.

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 ticking 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 taxpayer.

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

News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese



■ Ten confirmation candidates from St Edmund's in Bungay enjoyed a day of kayaking on the River Waveney on Saturday July 22, reports Andy Parris. In addition to learning kayaking skills from professional coaches, the day was designed to help develop confidence, teamwork and leadership and, above all, provide an opportunity for a bit of healthy fun in the fresh air and sunshine, surrounded by friends.



■ Bishop Alan visited St Mark's Parish in Ipswich on the weekend of September 2 and 3. He celebrated and preached at all the Sunday Masses at St Mark's and Holy Family Brantham, met with the catechists and members of the finance committee and visited some of the sick and housebound. He was enthusiastically received and welcomed by the parish. In a letter to Fr Christopher after his visit he said: "I think all is going well and St Mark's is a happy and vibrant community." Picture by Peregrine Bush.



■ A party of parishioners from the St Felix Parish, Felixstowe, walked together to 13 churches as part of the Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride event on Saturday September 9. They included Sr Mari Paz from Mexico who is currently staying at the Convent of Jesus and Mary in Felixstowe and Fr John Barnes. The Our Father was said in each of the churches.



■ The traditional Harvest Festival, or Onam, was celebrated in style this year by more than 100 Keralans in Sawston, including Catholics and Orthodox people on September 4.

Fr John Minh said: "Onam nowadays is more a cultural festival than a religious celebration. It is an opportunity for everybody to show their deep gratitude and great joy for harvests, from rice or potatoes in the fields to vegetables in their gardens.

"The symbol of the festival is a colourfully decorated floral carpet, called Onapookkalam, made up of several varieties of flowers, seeds, and vegetables. Children and their parents would wear new clothes and clean their houses for the festival. Their foods would be different from daily ones: there is a great variety of rice, vegetables, potatoes, etc prepared for the occasion, but no meat is allowed. The foods are served on banana leaves to enhance the taste and the agricultural spirit of the party.

"Deeply rooted in their traditions, the Keralans in Sawston would like their children to understand their culture, but it was also a special occasion for Orthodox and Catholic Keralans to celebrate together. Their presence in Sawston has enriched the cultural life of the village, and certainly to the spiritual life of the Church," said Fr John.



■ Notre Dame Prep School in Norwich was awash with colour on Friday October 6 when students and staff wore their "brightest" clothes for the day in aid of CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day - Brighten Up Appeal.

Children brought in donations of tinned and dry foods for Norwich Foodbank and donated £1 each to the Harvest Fast Day collection. Churches across East Anglia took part in the appeal over the weekend.