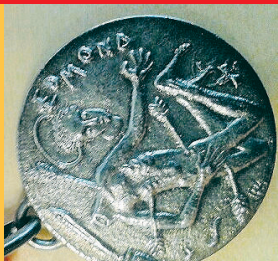




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School celebrates a double blessing

There was a double decker celebration at St Thomas More Catholic Primary on Friday January 26 when Bishop Alan blessed the school's new library bus and officially opened and blessed an extended St Thomas More Catholic Nursery in Peterborough.

■ The red double-decker London bus was blessed by Bishop Alan as a new library space for the 420 children at the school, after a search to find one was organised and led by Deputy Headteacher Becky Dickson.

"It is really important to us to raise reading standards," said Becky. "We wanted a designated library space, but did not have enough room in school. We came up with the idea of having a big red bus. Year 1 read a book called Naughty Bus, which is about a big red London bus which goes on an adventure, as part of their work on Transport and Year 6 study London in their themed lessons, so only a big red London bus would do!"

Becky liaised with Terry Austin, Head of Engineering at Stagecoach London, who arranged to kindly donate the bus to the school. Wayne Allen, the Commercial Manager at Alexander Dennis Ltd, refurbished the bus to a high standard including seating, reading spaces and bespoke book shelves and astonishingly freely donated their time and services.



Bishop Alan opens the new nursery school.

Sovereign Recovery then towed the completed bus from London to Peterborough at no charge to the school

"We are really appreciative of the generosity of the companies involved. The long-awaited arrival of the bus on December 8 was a really special day for us," said Becky. "The children, who have been fundraising to pay for the base for the bus and for books to put in it since December 2016, cheered the bus onto the school site."

"The aim of the bus is to motivate pupils and encourage a love of reading. This combined with high quality teaching of reading will raise reading standards across the school," said Becky.

St Thomas More Catholic Nursery, which is run by manager Christine Kurys, has been extended and refurbished thanks to a £350,000 grant from

the Department for Education

Headteacher and Chair of the Nursery Committee, Anne-Marie McElhinney, explained "Helen Bates from the Diocesan schools' team helped us to bid for the DfE funds, which has helped us to completely refurbish the nursery and increase its capacity from a 9am to 3pm 75-place nursery to an 8am to 6pm 150-place nursery."

It was officially opened and blessed by Bishop Alan during his visit.

"Our school is a thriving and diverse community with 28 different languages. We are all just one big family from all over the country and all over the world and God meant us to be here in this place at this time and that is what we live by," said Anne-Marie.

"These two new additions will help secure good or better outcomes for our families and the additional opening hours of the nursery will support our working families."

As well as blessing and opening the bus and the nursery, Bishop Alan celebrated Mass at the school. In his homily, he told the children: "Just like the new nursery and the big red library bus, we each need to build our lives on solid foundations and the surest foundation we must have is that of Jesus Christ, his family and his church. If we have Jesus guiding us through our lives, whatever we do we will have a sure foundation and will be able to survive all the storms of life."

■ More pictures at www.rcdea.org.uk



Tanzanian health care worker Adelaida.

Surgeon asks for support in operation bid

■ A Catholic Norwich surgeon is appealing for support after agreeing to operate for free on a young Tanzanian health care worker to restore the use of her legs and give her a brighter future.

John Nolan, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and parishioner at St John's Cathedral in Norwich, was introduced to 23-year-old Adelaida during a recent visit to Tanzania by his uncle Francis who has been a Catholic missionary priest there for 50 years.

John said: "Adelaida was training as a healthcare assistant but is now unable to work or even walk very far as her hips have been badly damaged by Sickle Cell Disease. There is no suitable option for surgery in Mwanza and I have offered to replace her hips for free, here in Norwich."

"The Norfolk and Norwich Hospital has agreed to allow me to carry out her surgery as a privately-funded patient towards the end of May, and some of our wonderful Filipino theatre nurses, and two of my consultant colleagues, have offered to give up a Sunday morning in May, for no charge, to help me."

John needs to find some accommodation for Adelaida, ideally in a Catholic household, for part or all of her four-month stay, from the end of April to August, in or around Norwich.

He said: "Adelaida is charming but shy and does speak some English. I will be on hand to help with any issues throughout her stay."

John is also appealing for help in meeting Adelaida's hospital costs and anyone who would like to help on either count can contact him at: jfnolan@enterprise.net or donate at: <http://bit.ly/2BzNTV0>

news in brief

Southwold passion play is a first

■ An outdoor Passion play is set to be performed in Southwold during Easter Week thanks to Southwold & Reydon Christians Together and the Sole Bay Team of Churches.

Laurette Burton, Evangelisation Rep for the Catholic Southwold & Reydon Parish, is involved in promoting the play. She said: "It will be the first time a play promoting the Gospel is performed outside in Southwold. It replaces a Walk of Witness we used to hold."

"We have an experienced director, a professional actor playing Christ and also both professional lighting and sound systems. All denominations were invited to auditions for parts and other tasks. It promises to be an amazing event and witness to the Easter story."

The Southwold Passion will begin on St Bartholomew Green and move to the nearby St Edmunds Church. The audience will follow it on foot (apart from those who require seating).

It will take place on March 26 (7pm), March 27 (2.30pm) and March 28 (7pm).

Tickets for adults (£10) and for under 16s (£8) are available on 01502 722572 or from: www.ticketsource.co.uk/southwold-arts-centre

Meeting highlight

■ The highlight of January's meeting of Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association, a Ladies Night, held in the Refectory of the Great Hospital, was a fascinating after-dinner talk by Mike Prior who had just returned from a three-week holiday in China with his wife Annette.

Mike's talk, accompanied by pictures illustrating the scenes they'd visited in the country which has a recorded history of 4,000 years, covered subjects such as the various dynasties which had existed, the silk industry, the Great Wall which stretches for 5,000kms across the north, the unearthing in 1974 of the famous Terracotta Army, the Opium Wars and the founding in 1949 of The People's Republic by Chairman Mao in Tiananmen Square.

Catholic East Anglia

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

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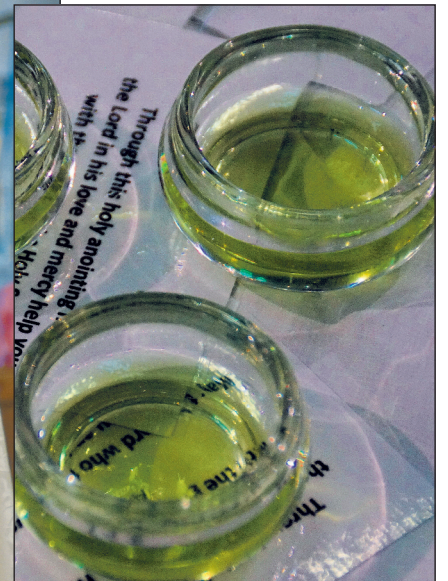
Articles and photographs for the next edition are very welcome and should be sent to the editor, ideally via email, by the deadline of Tuesday March 6.

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Sick anointed at Lourdes Mass



Left, Bishop Alan and Deacon John Morrill, anointing the sick with holy oil (above).

■ The Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes with the anointing of the sick was celebrated at St John's Cathedral in Norwich on February 17.

In his homily, Bishop Alan said: "As we celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick,

the same Lord who's Passion we share, comes amongst us to touch our lives deeply, to strengthen us and to give us hope.

"Through the prayer of the Church, through the laying on of hands and the

anointing with the Holy Oil of the Sick, may those of us to whom he ministers experience afresh God's healing power, his love and his mercy."

The Mass was followed by a soup lunch in the cathedral Narthex.

Lent prayer vigil at abortion clinic

A 40 Days for Life vigil is taking place outside the BPAS abortion clinic in Norwich during Lent as part of a co-ordinated international campaign and supporters are being urged to join it.

■ The vigil, from February 14 until March 25, will take part outside the BPAS abortion clinic on Bowthorpe Road, Norwich from 8:30am-4:30pm every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during Lent.

Fr Henry Whisenant, from St John's Cathedral, said: "It is not designed as a protest, it is a prayer vigil and witness. We will warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us. It coincides with the 40 days of Lent, which are significant in the Christian tradition as a time for prayer to God in an especial way."

"This vigil has been given Bishop Alan's blessing and support, and he joined us on the first afternoon."

"In fact, 40 Days for Life is an international initiative, which essentially calls on Christians of good will to come together to pray peacefully and to be a presence that shows our love for life."

"It's a way to invite people to reflect seriously on whether abortion is really ever in the best interests of



Fr Henry Whisenant and supporters at the 40 Days for Life vigil outside the Norwich BPAS Abortion Clinic.

individuals, families or society. We also hope that our witness reaches out to those women who are coming to use the clinic and who may feel constrained to make this decision, to show them that we are there for them, and that there is another way."

Norwich vigil supporter, Katy, said: "It is an unfortunate reality that many women who opt for abortion feel like

they have no other choice but termination. There are many organisations out there which seek to help women in crisis pregnancies, for example offering temporary accommodation, to prams, to professional counselling and so on. The 40-day vigil endeavours to provide information on the alternatives at that last crucial moment when it all becomes reality

before they enter the clinic, whilst also observing silent prayer and witness.

"By holding this campaign, we aim to help promote a culture of life and ultimately make it known to the women in our community, that their babies and themselves deserve better than abortion."

You can find out more at 40daysforlife.com/norwich or email: 40norwich@gmail.com

Pancake race fun at cathedral

■ Pancakes were being eaten, decorated, flipped and raced with at St John's Cathedral on Shrove Tuesday (February 13) at a Family Pancake Day.

The event, which was attended by around 150 people and coincided with half-term, saw families enjoying pancake races in the gardens and pancake decorating and eating inside the Narthex.

The day was to raise funds towards the sponsoring of the GoGoHares sculptures supporting Break charity. One of the sculptures will be heading for the cathedral in June.

Fr Henry Whisenant and Deacon Andrew Eburne both joined dozens of children in the races, which were even recorded by a Sky Sports cameraman as well as the local press.

Fr Henry said: "The Pancake Day is a way of getting families together and to remind people on a deeper level that we are entering into Lent. Shrove Tuesday is not just about getting rid of the clutter in your cupboards but also to get rid of the clutter in your soul in preparation for the season of Easter."

Jo Graham and a young team from the cathedral youth group cooked over 100 pancakes for visitors to enjoy.



It was only the second time such a day had been held and the previous one also coincided with a half-term

holiday.

■ See a full picture gallery at www.rcdea.org.uk

Bishop expresses thanks for Religious

Bishop Alan expressed his gratitude for the generosity and witness of the Consecrated and Religious of the Diocese of East Anglia at a Candlemas on Friday February 2.

■ The day, at St John's Cathedral in Norwich, was attended by around 60 Religious of the Diocese with a Candlemas procession and solemn Mass followed by lunch in the Narthex.

The Mass was a celebration of Consecrated Life held on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

It is a particularly important feast day for men and women living the religious life.

In his homily, Bishop Alan said: "In putting God first in your lives, by being passionate in living and proclaiming the Gospel in



The Candlemas for the Consecrated and Religious at St John's Cathedral.

your lives, you display that the Kingdom of God is already present and active in our world.

"What a wonderful vocation you have been given! Never be afraid to speak about your calling. One short conversation may sow the seed of vocation in someone.

"Take advantage in your parish or in your work to speak about vocation. This is the year when the Synod of Bishops in October in Rome will be discussing: Youth, faith and vocational discernment.

"On behalf of the Diocese, I would like to express our gratitude to you all for your

generosity and witness, both in the past, now and all you will do in the future. Please pray for us and may God continue to bless you in every way," said Bishop Alan.

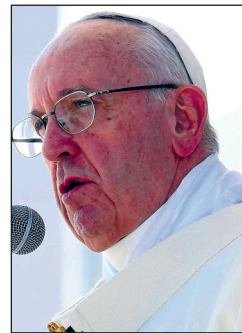
The feast is known as Candlemas as candles are often blessed on this feast to be used throughout the year.

news in brief

Aldeburgh talks on Laudato Si

■ During Lent, Our Lady and St Peter in Aldeburgh will be running three talks on Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si (Praise be to you), which asks 'What kind of world do we want to leave our children?' LS:160.

"The question does not have to do with the environment alone, it leads us to ask about the meaning of existence, the values at the heart of our society and what the world needs of us," said Chris McElhatton. The talks run on Friday February 23, March 2 and March 9 in the Presbytery, 15 The Terrace, Aldeburgh from 4-5pm.



Justice and peace

■ Norwich Justice and Peace Group will meet in the Narthex at St John's Cathedral on Thursday March 1 at 7.30pm. Sarah Eblewicz said: "After a time for prayer, the group will discuss current projects – support for Wendy Kelfs, the Outreach Worker for the homeless, the Welcome Rucksack Project and Tambogrande our twinned parish in Peru. Discussion will also focus on how we could promote the work of Community Chaplaincy Norfolk following Rev Susan Carne's recent talk. All are welcome to come." More details from Colin Allen colin.allen42@gmail.com

Latin Mass celebrated

■ A Latin Mass in the Extraordinary Form (Old Rite 1962 Missal) will be celebrated throughout the spring at St John's Cathedral in Norwich.

It will be held on the first Sunday of the month at 4pm, plus the following dates: Thursday March 8, 6pm, Low Mass, St Felix; Monday March 12, 6pm, Low Mass, St Gregory; Monday March 19, 6pm, Sung Mass, St Joseph; Sunday April 1, 4pm, Easter Sunday; Monday April 23, 6pm, Sung Mass, St George; Monday April 30, 6pm, Low Mass, St Catherine of Siena; Friday May 4, 6pm, Low Mass, English & Welsh Martyrs; Wednesday May 16, 6pm, Low Mass, St Simon Stock; Monday May 28, 6pm, Sung Mass, St Augustine of Canterbury

To book one of these Masses for a particular intention, email Fr Henry Whisenant at henry.whisenant@rcdea.org.uk

Musical concert

■ A fundraising concert for the Welcome Rucksack Project will be held on Sunday March 4 at 3pm at The Octagon Chapel, Colegate, Norwich. The varied musical programme, including works by Mozart, Elgar, Cole Porter and many more, will be provided by Wind in the Willows, a woodwind quintet and other musicians. Tickets £8; concert £7.

Lenten soup lunches

■ Lenten Soup lunches will be held on Fridays throughout March in the Narthex at St John's Cathedral Norwich from 1pm after Stations of the Cross devotion. Donations for the health worker fund in Tambogrande Peru. All are welcome.



To read the latest Diocese of East Anglia news as it happens, sign up for our enews bulletin at rcdea.org.uk

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NEW EVANGELISATION

Campaign makes faith come alive

The Alive in Faith campaign has raised pledges of £6.5m across the Diocese of East Anglia to help fund parish projects, social outreach, clergy pensions and seminarian training. One project already in action provides accommodation for the homeless in Sheringham. Fr Denys Lloyd reports.

■ Parishioners from Our Lady and St Joseph, Sheringham and Cromer raised a magnificent total of around £185,000 in pledges over five years through Alive in Faith and a proportion of that money comes back to us to fund our own parish projects.

For us that means the ongoing maintenance of our buildings, but primarily the provision of accommodation and care for the temporarily homeless at Canaan House, in Holt Road, Sheringham.

The seven-room house is owned by an Evangelical Christian Trust. Its original purpose was to provide very low-cost holiday accommodation; but latterly the demand for this accommodation more or less



Social worker Joey Garande.

petered out.

The Trust has allowed us to rent Canaan House – in the name of the North Norfolk SVP (St Vincent De Paul) Conference, which is based in our parish.

We have a first-class social worker, Joey Garande, who oversees the whole process of admissions to the house. All potential residents are referred to us by local authorities and Joey has been very successful

in obtaining relevant Social Security Benefits for them. Out of this money, rent is paid to the Trustees of Canaan House.

Through the Alive in Faith funds, we are able to pay Joey's salary, as well as, on occasion, providing one-off financial assistance to residents as needs arise. As parish priest, I see Joey regularly and I have been most impressed by his professional and business-like approach to the project.

Joey has now very nearly achieved his goal of making the house self-financing (through Social Security Benefits).

There is also a paid caretaker, who lives in a static caravan on site and is always available to help the residents and sort out day-to-day issues.

Normally there are about 12 residents in the house at any one time using a family room and both double and single rooms. Any room left vacant is normally almost immediately occupied again. On one occasion earlier this year there was a total of 22 men, women and children in the house; but such a number is exceptional.

The house is safe and peaceful (potential residents have to show that they are not addicted to alcohol or drugs). The average stay is between 12 and 16 weeks: that is, the time taken for suitable, secure and permanent accommodation to be found for residents.

Clothes for Calais refugees

■ Parishioners from Sacred Heart North Walsham have organised a collection of clothing and blankets for refugees stuck in Calais.

The move is part of their efforts to gain a CAFOD LiveSimply Award and live in 'solidarity with the poor'.

Clare Hardie said: "Parishioners have been extremely generous and we have collected 30 full bags of assorted clothing and blankets. The sorted bags will now be taken to Calais for us by the Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group. Their next convoy to Calais is over the weekend of February 23-25."

The clothes are intended for refugees stuck in Calais, who are being supported by Seeking Sanctuary and the Refugee Community Kitchen.



"During Advent parishioners once again supported the 'Reverse Advent Calendar' initiative and we were able to donate over 70 boxes of food to the Norwich and the Cromer Foodbanks," said Clare.

"We also encouraged parishioners to buy CAFOD World Gifts once

again this year. Three of our parishioners are making a visit on behalf of the Parish to our twinned Parish of St Francis Xavier in Svay Sisophon, Cambodia, in ongoing support and friendship."

Pictured are members of our LiveSimply Steering Group sorting the bags of donated clothing.

Day of prayer for victims

■ Friday March 23 has been designated as the first day of prayer for victims and survivors of abuse in England and Wales.

Pope Francis, through the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, has asked each Bishops' Conference around the world to designate a day for prayer and reflection for the victims and survivors of abuse.

In England and Wales this will be the Friday of the 5th Week of Lent and the Prayer of the Faithful for Palm Sunday should include an intention for this cause.

Safeguarding Administrator, Rebecca Bretherton, said: "For many years in East Anglia we have prayed for victims and survivors and those working in our parishes to keep people safe. Bishop Alan celebrates Mass at our annual Safeguarding event with this intention. The Day of Prayer gives everyone an opportunity to pray for all those affected by abuse."

JOE WALSH TOURS
PILGRIMAGES

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Pupils remember the Holocaust

■ Pupils at St Mary's School in Lowestoft have marked Holocaust Memorial Day with a prayer service and postcards written and sent to a Holocaust survivor.

A parishioner of Our Lady's Parish told staff and pupils at the school that a tree in Kensington Gardens, next to the school, had been planted many years ago in remembrance of the Holocaust.

After a search of the park, a plaque was found lying broken on the ground next to a tree. After cleaning it, the pupils were able to read that the tree had been planted in 2002 to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. The pupils were not happy that the sign had broken and fallen to the ground and decided to take action.

Pupils in Year 5 and 6 began to learn about the Holocaust. This led to the discovery that children from the Kindertransport travelled to Lowestoft



Some of the St Mary's pupils with the broken Holocaust Memorial tree sign.

in 1938. They also learnt about survivors and took part in a project to write and send postcards to them.

The pupils organised a prayer service on January 29, held by the tree and invited local residents and representatives from local churches. At the service they sang 'Shalom my friend', said prayers and made the sign of peace.

The newly-formed Friends of Kens-

ington Gardens, have kindly offered to make a new sign to remind visitors why the tree is there and why we must not forget.

When asked what they had learnt from this experience, one child said: "We need to remember the mistakes of the past, so that we can learn how to live together in peace today."

You can find our more details at: stmarysrcps.com/historyholocaust

Medals boost for altar servers team

■ The large altar servers team at the Parish of St Peter and All Souls and Our Lady of Lourdes (OLOL) in Peterborough has been boosted with the award of one silver medal and six bronze medals, reports Head MC Clive Sheridan.

St Stephen's Day is a very important day for altar servers and in December we received a new member of the Silver Guild of St Stephen, we re-blessed two other silver medal holders and gave out six bronze medals.

Cameron Smith has served at Our Lady of Lourdes for over 10 years and is now MC at the parish with his brother Tyler Smith. Cameron is currently at university in Nottingham, and has continued to serve at Nottingham Cathedral while there.

He is very willing to get involved and very good at helping the younger servers. When he is visiting his parents in Peterborough, he serves diligently and is always a great role model.

Myself as Head MC and my brother Luke Sheridan have



The altar servers team at St Peter and All Souls in Peterborough.

also had our medals re-blessed, which was important for both of us. We have held our silvers for three years each and serve every week. I have served for 17 years and my brother for 15 years, and together with Cameron we hold over 40 years of experience under our belts. We all train servers and we are also

responsible for looking after them while on the altar.

At St Peter and All Souls and OLOL we have a large guild of servers with a range of experience. We are very lucky to have four servers currently holding silver medals, which in some parishes is unheard of. We also have a large number of

bronze medal holders which is where they are received into the Guild after the MC deems them to have passed their probationary period.

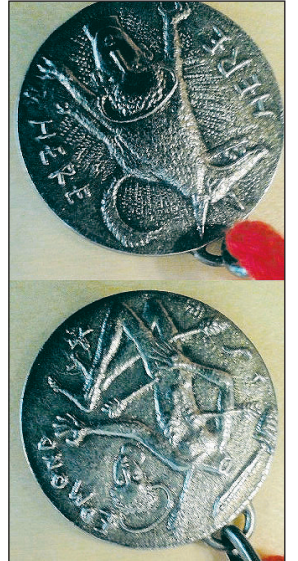
At All Souls and also OLOL, we will continue to provide a good serving team and offer continuous training and we are always looking for new and upcoming servers.

news in brief

Appeal to solve saintly mystery

■ An appeal has been made to help solve an historic mystery relating to the martyrdom of St Edmund in Suffolk.

John Saunders, Chair of St Edmund's History Group, explains: "A friend of mine is in possession of a medallion (pictured right) showing the martyrdom of St Edmund; the obverse depicting the legend of the wolf and his head and



the words 'here, here'. It was given to her in the 1960s and would appear to have been produced around that era.

"I have instigated enquiries amongst local and national historians/institutions, religious contacts, museums in England, France and Italy but no one has as yet been able to identify its origin or is aware of any other copies of the medallion.

"I wondered therefore if anyone from the East Anglian Catholic community has another copy or could help unravel the mystery."

You can contact John at: 3 Hutton Close, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 3GY or on: jes767894@btinternet.com

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New mission an

St John Fisher Catholic High School in Peterborough has a new mission statement and a student chaplaincy team following a visit to the school by Bishop Alan Hopes on January 26. Keith Morris reports.

■ School lay chaplain Luke Turner has been working on a new mission statement over the last year, which went to school council, then the governors. It was formally commissioned by Bishop Alan during his visit, in front of the school student council, with the help of Head Boy Glenver Miranda and Head Girl Vanessa Abankwa.

The mission statement says that St John Fisher: "Is a learning community striving to live the gift of life that God gave us. Everyone is a loved creation of God and every person has a lesson they can teach someone else."

Bishop Alan told the school council: "You have a fantastic school here, with an excellent head and staff who are here to help you discover your objectives in life and your vocation and to support you in them – which is what Catholic schools are all about."

The Bishop also met the student chaplaincy team, which is made up of students from each house and year in the school and presented them all with small crosses to formally commission their work.

Lay chaplain Luke co-ordinates the team and said: "As I felt more comfortable in my role here, it seemed the next natural move was that the students step up and start making the decisions themselves."

"It makes sense that it is they that come up with the ideas and set the lead on things. Ideas around liturgies and charity things we might do around Lent come from them and they are the ones who really push it - they take ownership."

"I meet with the chaplaincy team, every week and we have lunch together and pray and discuss what's going on in the school and the things that are close to their hearts."

www.stjohnfisherschool.org.uk



Pictured above is Bishop Alan with the student chaplaincy team at St John Fisher and, right, blessing the school's new Mission Statement. More pictures at www.rcdea.org.uk

Bishop opens Norwich conference



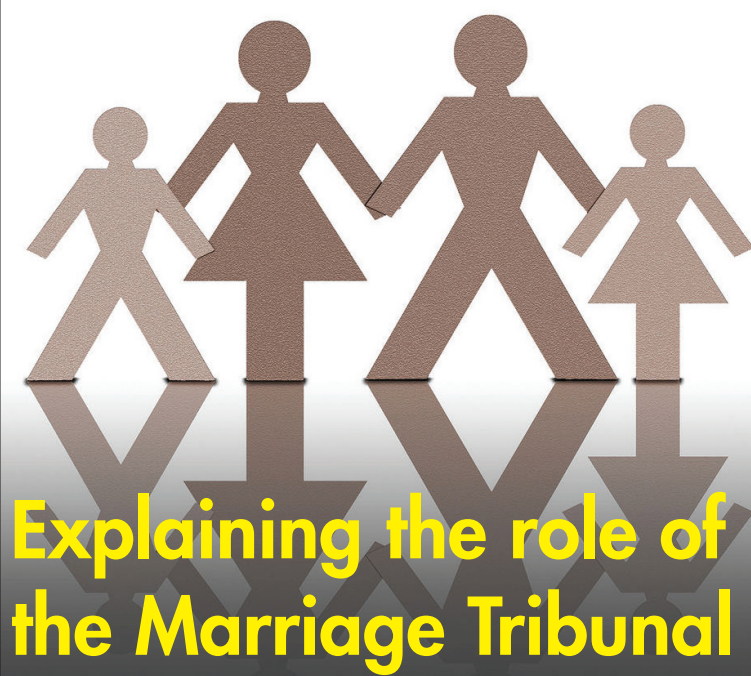
Pictured are Bishop Alan, Cllr Alan Waters and Bishop Jonathan Meyrick at the conference.

Bishop Alan Hopes has opened a conference which brought together over 170 faith and secular social justice practitioners and organisations from across Norfolk at the King's Centre in Norwich on January 29. Keith Morris reports.

■ Opening the conference, Bishop Alan said: "To love and serve our neighbour is a Christian commandment but it seems to me that this principle holds good for men and women of faith and of none. For the foundation of this principle is the dignity of the human person. It is a dignity that we are born with – and for people of faith it comes from God himself."

"Those who are homeless, those in prison, those who are being trafficked, the elderly, the mentally sick, the

d chaplaincy



As a new national guide to the annulment process is published, Judicial Vicar Rev Simon Blakesley explains the work of the Marriage Tribunal in East Anglia.

■ “But how can my marriage be null? I meant every word that I said....” I have met this puzzled and slightly angry reaction many times when starting to talk through a situation where a Catholic has been trying to make sense of the fact that their marriage has broken down. It is no exaggeration to say that the complexities provoked by marital breakdown and second or even third marriages has been the greatest challenge for Catholic parish communities over the last fifty years.

The way in which ‘The Church’ has reacted is most often experienced by individual conversations of those whose lives have been affected with their local priests. Needless to say these conversations have gone in a variety of different ways, and I hope that many will have ended by the priest referring an individual or a couple to speak to someone from the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal.

I am also aware, however, that some have not and people who could have been helped were never referred, and indeed many people do not think it is even worth having the conversation for fear of being told that there is no hope, or even worse, being given a telling off for the situation in which they have found themselves, often through no fault of their own.

The ‘Church’ has responded to this widespread pastoral challenge by establishing more effective and (I hope) pastorally astute Marriage Tribunals. In 1983 the Code of Canon Law was completely revised to recognise the developing needs and there have been two subsequent more minor revisions as well in order to make the Marriage Nullity process as straightforward as possible. Does this mean that the Church has ‘gone soft’ on marriage and divorce? In fact, quite the opposite, we have come to recognise the true nature of marriage, its essential properties and obligations, the centrality of fidelity, permanence and openness to the gift of children.

You may be aware that the Church does not recognise the marriages of those baptised Catholics who have married ‘outside the church’ either in a Register Office or in another church without a dispensation. If the lack of ‘outward formalities’ invalidate a marriage, it stands to reason that a lack of ‘inward intentions’ can also have such an effect.

It is true that it is hard to know what was in a person’s mind and heart on the day that they exchanged their marriage consent, but there are often strong indicators, both before and after the wedding day, that such inward discrepancies may have emptied the words said of their meaning.

Consent is a complex human reality and it is the task of the Marriage Tribunal to investigate all the circumstances of a broken marriage to establish what the quality of that consent was. It is also important to realise that if just one of the party’s consent is lacking then the consent of the other party, no matter how sincere, cannot compensate for that lack. It is like a £20 note, cut it in half and sellotape it back together again and you have a valid note. If you were to take half a counterfeit note and tape it to half of a valid one, it cannot make the whole note valid, it is not even worth £10!

The most important thing for people whose lives have been affected by a broken marriage, or those who wish to marry someone who has been married before, is that the Church will always listen and do whatever is possible to remedy the situation, although, sadly, this cannot always be the case. There is every reason though for talking through the complexities of these difficult human histories and it is often therapeutic in and of itself to experience, as someone recently said to me, the relief of ‘being listened to and believed’.

The Marriage Tribunal exists to first and foremost, listen.

Email: tribunal@rcdea.org.uk or ring (01508) 495168

■ **The National Board of Catholic Women has just produced an updated guide to the annulment process, which is available at: www.nbcw.co.uk/publications.html**

to tackle social injustice

migrants, those on low incomes, the disables, the refugees, those who are poorly housed – all those who are vulnerable, powerless or disadvantages – they can never be a burden on us, they are our brothers and sisters, they are our responsibility.

“But there is more – this principle to love our neighbour demands that not only should we seek to help those who are in need, but we should also address the causes of destitution, vulnerability and poverty. This means constantly bringing the needs of those who are marginalised or vulnerable to the attention of those who have political power and calling for radical changes which will make such a difference to people’s lives.”

The Rt Rev Jonathan Meyrick,

the Bishop of Lynn, said: “We should care for those who are less fortunate than ourselves because it is built into the Christian faith and many of the world’s faiths and religions.”

Alan Waters, leader of Norwich City Council outlined the situation Norwich finds itself in today.

He said that Norwich is a young city (average age of 33.7, compared to 40 for UK as a whole), it is a working city with 81% employment, though a third of working residents are on the National Living/ Minimum Wage (£7.50, £7.83 from April).

It is also an unequal city with child poverty at double the English average (14.4%) at 29% and pensioner poverty at 22.8% (England 12.9%). It is the 47th most deprived of 426 UK areas and the

30th lowest for social mobility. Healthy life expectancy (ie years lived without serious ill health) ranges from 55 in Mancroft to 71 in Eaton.

Cllr Waters said that the council is a Living Wage employer, provides social housing, has a digital inclusion programme, campaigns against loan sharks and has rough sleeping initiatives. He also provided reassurance that the various Norwich soup kitchens will be allowed to continue.

Following the keynote speakers, conference delegates from faith and secular social justice projects across Norwich and Norfolk heard from seven speakers who each addressed an area which would be focused on by discipline-based work groups during the afternoon session.

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

Counter-cultural message

Cambridge students have been urged to be “counter cultural” by Bishop Alan Hopes during a visit to St Mary’s Catholic School on January 23.

■ The school was celebrating Mary Ward Day – marking the birthday of the school’s foundress and welcomed Bishop Alan to join the celebrations.

Bishop Alan spent time with the school’s Mary Ward scholars and students championing CAFOD’s Power To Be campaign through its Young Leaders Programme; visited Junior School, Senior School and Sixth Form students in lessons; and celebrated Mass at the Senior School in honour of the school’s founder, in which he called upon students to be, like Mary Ward, “counter cultural”.

Bishop Alan encouraged the congregation: “In a society which tells us that the only things that matter are wealth and power and fame – be counter cultural! In spite of all the challenges and difficulties that will come our way, your vision is worth pursuing to transform a world which has lost its way in many areas – be counter cultural!”

“Make a difference to people’s lives in your choice of vocation and especially to the poor, the homeless, trafficked men and women, migrants and refugees – be



Bishop Alan, Sixth Form Mary Ward scholars and CAFOD Young Leaders, and Headmistress Charlotte Avery.

counter cultural!”

Ms Charlotte Avery, Headmistress, concluding the Mass, said: “Thank you to Bishop Alan for joining us today to mark our foundress’ birthday, and for sharing such a clear and captivating call to arms. Of course, we honour Mary Ward

through the year and the Bishop’s message to be counter cultural is something we strive to live out every day in our school, for the greater benefit of the wider community.”

During the afternoon, groups of Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 students performed a

number of sketches as part of a Witty and Wonderful Mary Ward Show.

Ms Avery said: “This year has been another superb celebration of our foundress – her vision to educate women, her perseverance against resistance, and her attitude of being counter cultural.”



Bungay pupils raise charity cash

■ Mini Vinnies from St Edmunds’ Primary School in Bungay have been raising money from various charitable events.

They challenged pupils to start collecting one and two pence pieces in jars for the different school houses and raised £35.30.

They also set up a stall at the school Christmas fayre and the breakfast club created Christmas cards, bookmarks and other Christmas-themed items which proved very popular. A parent also donated some knitted elves in hats. The Mini Vinnie stall raised £82.60 from the hand-made crafts.

Future fund-raising events planned include a Mothers’ Day tea.

Busy time for pupils at St Joseph’s School

■ Pupils at St Joseph’s Primary School, Sudbury, have been busy with charity activities, a visit from the Ignite team and a maths competition win.

The Mini Vinnies’ group is now well-established since its formation in September. The group has been active packing harvest food, running a charity day for the homeless, where all activities and bric-a-brac the children collected was 20p and they raised £127.80. They also visited the local care home to give the residents cards they had made.

Other children in the school collected toiletries for the local Foodbank because they felt that the people using it over Christmas would like to feel pampered and special.

A visit from the Ignite team was enjoyed with an energetic and uplifting liturgy at the end of the day.

Packed houses for Christmas productions and carol services were



enjoyed as was a visit from Coco the therapy dog to calm everyone down just before the end of term.

In January, the school was proud of its maths representatives, Olivia and Darcy, who came first in the

maths competition, organised by St. Benedict’s School involving all the Catholic schools in the area.

YOUTH MATTERS

Join Ignite events

The Ignite Team will be travelling throughout the diocese this spring and summer leading retreats in schools and parishes. You can join them at a special Easter retreat, the Ignite Festival and Celebrate East Anglia.

■ The team are excited to be offering 'Mysterium' - an Easter retreat for those age 18 - 35. During the retreat, participants are invited to journey through the Easter

Triduum as a community of young adults, in the intimate surroundings of Dowry House in Walsingham.

The retreat will begin at 3pm on Holy Thursday and conclude with lunch on Easter Sunday.

■ The Ignite Youth Festival (May 5 & 6) takes place in the grounds of Sacred Heart School in Swaffham and Confirmation candidates are especially invited to attend. For further information please see www.ignitefestival.co.uk

■ Celebrate East Anglia (June 2 & 3) is a charismatic Catholic conference for the whole family from age 0 - 99. There is the

full programme for young people and the Ignite Team are running the programme for teenagers.

For further information, please see www.celebrateconference.org

■ The Ignite Team is also available to work with First Communion groups, Confirmation groups or to help run a youth Mass or retreat day.

They are fully booked throughout Lent but there is some availability after Easter. Catherine, the Team Leader can be contacted directly by email: igniteeam@rcdea.org.uk or ring 07769 315031.



Peterborough brothers win essay-writing competitions

■ Two Peterborough brothers and altar servers have won essay-writing competition awards from the Knights of St Columba.

Brothers James and Thomas Gigy, who are altar-servers at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Peterborough, both received awards certificates and cash prizes for their winning entries in the KSC essay-writing competition.

James wrote an essay on Faith which came first in the East Anglia Provincial Round for his age group of Key Stage Three.

Thomas wrote on Social Responsibility which was highly commended by East Anglia Province, though he was still technically too young for the KS3 competition then.

However, both entries were sent to the national finals for adjudication and - surprise, surprise - Thomas was judged the national winner. By then he was at High School, the right age for the competition.

Thomas received a prize of £75, a trophy mounted on a stone plinth with his name engraved, and earned his church and parish a Knights' donation of £200.

At the end of morning Epiphany Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes, Brother Christopher Brooks, Past Provincial Grand Knight of East Anglia, congratulated James and Thomas on their achievements to the applause of the congregation.

The Gigy brothers were presented with their typed essay entries; Thomas given his trophy and the celebrant, Fr Adam Sowa, Parish Priest of St Peter and All Souls received the parish cheque.

Details for a 2018 Easter Scene Painting; Essay Composition and Prayer Composition, will be available in February, and East Anglia KSC are hoping for a good crop of entries.

The 2017 Primary Schools Nativity Painting Competition, which is currently being judged, attracted many good entries from Notre Dame Prep School Norwich, St Francis of Assisi School Norwich and St Mary's Primary School Lowestoft last Christmas.

■ Pictured above are James and Thomas Gigy, Peterborough altar servers, with their family, Fr Adam Sowa and Bro Chris Brooks.



World Youth Day deadline

■ The deadline for bookings for the East Anglia party visit to World Youth Day in Panama in 2019 is the end of February. For more information visit www.rcdea.org.uk/youth

Key 2018 dates

■ 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. All ages welcome

■ June 2 - 3: Celebrate East Anglia Family Conference, Bury St Edmunds. Details at: www.celebrateconference.org

■ 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, for those aged 16+

■ August: Summer Camp (location and dates to be decided), for those aged 8-14

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

Youth contacts

Tel: 01508 486236

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/



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nick@cathcom.org



Get involved with Easter pilgrims

This Easter, groups of pilgrims will once again embark on a Holy Week pilgrimage from all over England to Walsingham carrying a large wooden cross with them. Laura Mitcham from Student Cross explains how people from the Diocese of East Anglia can get involved.

■ The Student Cross pilgrimage has taken place every year since 1948. The name reflects the origins of the pilgrimage, which now involves students, as well as many more experienced participants, from newborns right through to pensioners. Eleven groups will each carry a cross from different starting points, arriving in Walsingham on Good Friday.

Each group collectively carries a large wooden cross as a witness to the people that they pass, crossing fens and gently rolling hills on the way to Walsingham. The pilgrims are welcomed, accommodated and fed by kind-hearted churches and individuals along the route, as they live out their Christian witness in this special way. Many parishioners in the Diocese have been supporting Student Cross groups for a number of years as they pass by.

Archbishop of Liverpool, Malcolm McMahon, walked Student Cross in the 1980s. Recently he spoke about his experiences of the pilgrimage: "You meet yourself, that's the person you don't expect to meet, and you meet Jesus in your fellow pilgrims and those you meet on the way. It was a wonderful thing to do and I recommend it to everybody."

Student Cross is different each time you walk, but always meaningful and enjoyable. The physical journey culminates in the arrival in Walsingham on Good

Friday, where the whole pilgrim body celebrates Easter together.

José Pedro Vieira, who walked from Kettering in 2017, said: "Student cross is unlike anything you've seen before. Filled with moments of pure fun and of deep spiritual experiences, it is a most wonderful way to live the Holy Week!"

The pilgrimage is a chance to celebrate Easter in a unique way, by living Holy Week in community, celebrating liturgy and tangibly walking with Christ towards the joy of the Resurrection.

Megan, who walked for the first time in 2017, said: "We talked, we laughed, we ate cake, we sang, we shared amazing moments together and became a family through the simple act of walking along winding lanes together."

Those interested in joining the 2018 pilgrimage can find out more and register at www.studentcross.org.uk or contact Laura on 07891464066

Those walking invite you to pray for them as they make their journey and hold the communities they pass in their prayers.



Pilgrims on a previous Student Cross pilgrimage to Walsingham during Easter week.

Book will help couples preparing for marriage

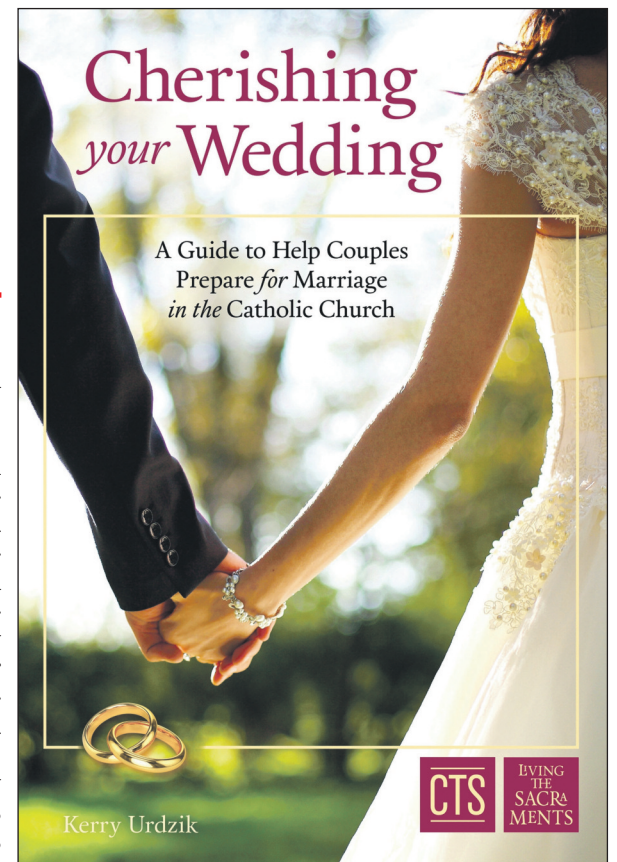
A brand new resource to help couples discerning and preparing for marriage has just been published by the Catholic Truth Society.

■ The author is Diocese of East Anglia marriage and family life coordinator, Kerry Urdzik. She said: "The book was written in response to a need identified by CTS. It is a comprehensive but accessible resource which should be an invaluable companion for couples, and a very useful complement to our diocesan marriage preparation programme So Great a Mystery."

Inspired by the many questions and concerns engaged couples express as they move towards their wedding day, *Cherishing Your Wedding* talks the couple through their wedding promises to be sure they understand the nature of the relationship into which they are about to enter.

As well as an exploration of marriage in the Church, it contains answers to frequently asked questions such as the requirements of mixed marriages.

It includes chapters which guide the couple as they plan a beautiful wedding



liturgy, and advice on how to prepare for married life thereafter.

Each chapter contains a 'to do', 'reflection' and 'prayer' section, helping the couple prepare both spiritually and practically. Appendices at the end include a 'wedding countdown' checklist and suggestions for suitable readings and music. *Cherishing Your Wedding* has a nihil obstat and an imprimatur. Copies are available from CTS, at £7.95. www.ctsbooks.org

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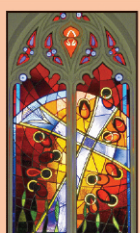
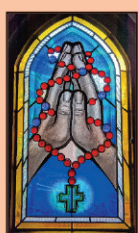
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BUILDING BRIDGES

Colombian visitors praise support

■ Cambridge parishioners have been visited by Colombian aid workers who spoke about projects which are transforming South American communities, helped by East Anglian fundraising

On Saturday February 3, Colombian partners of CAFOD came together with over 20 volunteers and supporters at the Margaret Beaufort Institute in Cambridge.

Colombian Fr Sterlin Londoño, community worker Bernardino Mosquera and translator Ulrike Beck spoke to parishioners about the support needed and the importance of CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal.

They explained to the volunteers the situation on the ground in Chocó, Colombia and what the local Catholic diocese is doing to help.

Parish Volunteer, Frances Massey, said: "To realise just how much the work of CAFOD is valued by the people who receive the monies is very powerful."

Across the country CAFOD volunteers and supporters are preparing for Family Fast Day on Friday February 23.

Money raised from the appeal will be used by CAFOD's partners around the world to help communities living in poverty.



This Lent, CAFOD is working to combat malnutrition in Zimbabwe by providing seeds and farming training to facilitating the livelihood development of vulnerable communities.

The funds will reach an estimated 245,000 people in Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Eritrea and enable communities to grow a better future by providing safe water, supporting communities to plant vegetable gardens and teaching them about good nutrition and hygiene.

In an added boost, all donations to CAFOD's Lent Appeal, up to £5 million, will be doubled by the UK government up until May 12 – meaning every donation will make double the difference.

Donate to the appeal at cafod.org.uk/lent

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

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DECLARATION

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Signature:.....
Date:.....
Please send to: Building Bridges, 21 Upgate, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7SH
Registered charity no 278742

Jamaica mission for East Anglian group

A group of nine volunteers from across the Diocese of East Anglia accompanied Fr Michael Johnstone on a sixth annual trip to Jamaica to work with the Missionaries of the Poor in Kingston for up to three weeks during January.

■ In all, the Brothers run six residences in Kingston, each with 70-120 residents. There is a further residence for babies, Holy Innocents, run by the MOP Sisters, who were founded just eight years ago.

Frances Taylor, from the Cathedral parish in Norwich, said: "It was an amazing experience. The trip offers those of us who are not medically trained the opportunity to help the Brothers, we can feed people, cut and paint nails and lotion people's skin, let alone bathe and change nappies.

"Those who do have some medical training are made very welcome. Amongst our group we had a theatre nurse and a physiotherapist, they could both have stayed twice as long and not have run out of jobs using their particular skills. Above all, what the Brothers and their residents needed was our prayers and our unconditional love and friendship."

Fr Michael said: "Volunteers who visit - mostly from the USA - live in a monastery,



Pictured back row, left to right, are: Moira Selvage (Gorleston), Lydia Grown (Hunstanton), Fr Michael, Mary Burr (Bury-St Edmunds), a resident, Frances Taylor (Cathedral), Ciaran Losasso (Cathedral and Ignite team), Ava Solano (Bury St Edmunds); front row Myles O'Hanlon (All Souls Peterborough), a resident, Tony Chapman (Cathedral) and two residents. Not in the picture is Josephine Mulligan (Cathedral).

sharing the prayer life and general routine and simple style of life of the Brothers, of whom there are over 200 in Kingston - most in formation. There are another 400 in ten different missions around the world, in the Caribbean, East Africa and the Far East. It is from these countries that vocations come.

"The residents, looked after by the Brothers, assisted by the volunteers, range from babes-in-arms to the extremely old. None of them have their own means of support and there are no social services in Jamaica."

The nine East Anglian volunteers can be seen in the picture above, helping at lunch time at "The Lord's Place" – a residence for women, run by the Missionaries of the Poor in Kingston.

If you are interested in joining the next visit, you can contact Fr Michael at: fr.mcjohnstone@gmail.com

News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese



■ The marriage season at All Souls, Peterborough has begun with 21 engaged couples preparing to get married in the Catholic Church in 2018.

The Marriage Course, under the supervision of Marriage and Family Life Co-ordinator Kerry Urdzik, comprises four evening meetings exploring Marriage as the Sacrament, as a Covenant, as a lifelong Vocation and its Unity

and Sexuality.

Fr Adam Sowa said: "Thanks to the contributors of the course it will be a thrilling experience for couples getting ready to marry here or abroad. Contributing will be myself Deacon John Bedford with his wife Patricia, Deacon Claudio Chiappinelli with his wife Joanna and Dr Monika Golinska. Indeed, we follow 'So great a Mystery' by reading, listening, praying and sharing."



■ A Gorleston couple had a wonderful surprise when they celebrated 25 years of marriage and renewed their vows on January 21 during the Sunday mass at St Peter's church.

Joseph and Regeena Madathil were marking their silver wedding anniversary, with Fr Anthony Nwan-Kwo and Fr Arockiya Seelan celebrating Mass. But it was made extra special for them when Bishop Alan was also there to bless their marriage.

Joseph said: "It was a great surprise when we found out that Bishop Alan would be there. We like to think that it was a 'divine plan' because the bishop was supposed to visit Gorleston at the end of last year but it got cancelled."

The couple were married at St Mary's Church, Parel Kotaym, Kerala in South India on January 18, 1993. They have three daughters, Jerlin (aged 24), Jeslin (22) and Christina (18).



■ A surprise "Birthday Party" was thrown after the 10.30am Mass at St Benet's Minster, Beccles, on January 28 to mark the 80th birthday of Deacon Tony Felton.

Rev Dom Martin Gowman, announced Tony's special birthday and he invited all parishioners to meet in the parish hall after Mass – where cakes would supplement the usual tea, coffee and biscuits.

Fr Martin said he knew all parishioners would want to congratulate Tony on reaching this personal "milestone". However, Fr Martin added that he also wanted to pay tribute to the 22 years' service Tony had given to the Diocese as a Deacon – especially in his commitment to St Benet's, as well as to the administration of St Edmund's Fund, for Caritas East Anglia, on behalf of the Diocese.

The photograph shows Rev Tony and Dom Martin with a group of well-wishers enjoying the impromptu celebrations. Picture by Terry O'Brien.

■ The Diocese of East Anglia has adopted the national Safeguarding posters which are now displayed in every parish. The poster allows parishioners or visitors to the church to find useful contact details quickly and confidentially.

Rebecca Bretherton, the diocesan safeguarding administrator, said: "By adopting the national poster we hope that it will be easy to find when needed. The Catholic Church in England and Wales is committed to using the same policies, procedures, standards and systems in relation to safeguarding. This poster is part of this One Church approach."



Pictured is Tony Waumsley, representative at Lowestoft, with his parish's poster.