

Bringing Rwanda CAFOD links to life in parishes

CAFOD staff travelled between Rwanda and East Anglia this Autumn, exchanging messages of hope and solidarity.

In September Camilla Storrie, executive assistant to CAFOD's director, and Fionuala Murray, who has worked for CAFOD in different parts of Africa for 11 years and has a detailed knowledge of CAFOD projects, went on a trip together to the CAFOD Connect2 community of Musha in Rwanda. During their visit they presented the community with cards, gifts and a short film they had made and collected in parishes across our region of East Anglia.

The two travellers visited East Anglia to share their unique experience with us, give a presentation on Connect2 Rwanda and show us a short film they made in Musha. One weekend in October Camilla came to Poringland and St George's in Norwich. In November Fionuala visited parishes in Beccles and at Norwich Cathedral. All gave them a very warm welcome.

"Gloria Irons, parish contact from St George's where we enjoyed a wonderful fundraising dinner, told us there were 57 people present for the dinner, it was enjoyed by everybody and a tremendous success, with £400 raised for Connect2! The general feeling was how wonderful it was to get feedback like that. The parishioners now feel close to the ladies in Musha," Camilla said.

Mary Pitt, the parish contact from Poringland, where a Fairtrade breakfast was shared, said: "This was important for our parish, people here give very generously to CAFOD and it is great to get this kind of feedback from the people we supported. I think we gained a lot from it; we'd seen pictures of these women but to hear Camilla had met them, connected with them it was lovely to share. It was both moving and humbling really to see how courageous the women of Musha are."

At Norwich's Cathedral Fionuala's talk was followed by an African lunch, helped by expert advice from parishioner Illuminée, who comes from Rwanda. Joan MacInnes said: "It was a very nice parish event, and people really appreciated hearing from Fionuala – first hand - what has actually been happening in Rwanda. We raised £360 for the event which brings our total for Rwanda now to more than £10000!"

After the talk in Beccles, Brigid Rawlinson said: "We were delighted to have Fionuala speak to us at St Benet's, about her recent visit to Rwanda and to give us an insight into the lives of real people, the people we support through Connect2Rwanda. She made these people's lives seem more real to us. We started our evening with a short service celebrating 50 years of CAFOD through prayer, CAFOD facts and music, remembering the words of one of the first Fast Day organisers, Elspeth Orchard, that CAFOD is not just about giving but also about praying"



People in Musha reading messages from East Anglia, above.



Baby Innocente in Musha wearing a little jacket knitted by Joan herself, below, and a Fairtrade breakfast at Poringland, left.



Everyone enjoying Camilla's parish quiz on Rwanda to raise funds, below left.

Camilla and Fionuala both deeply valued meeting supporters and volunteers. Camilla said: "It was wonderful to meet the lovely and extremely committed Connect2 Rwanda supporters of East Anglia. It was a huge privilege to be able to exchange their messages and gifts of solidarity with the community in Musha on their behalf. It is unwavering support of parishes such as these that has helped our friends in Musha in their recovery process.

"We thank our parishes for this opportunity to connect and share, our parish contacts and parish priests for their precious help in spreading the word and helping make these events a great success. Through this experience we made a real connection."

You can view the two films mentioned in this article by visiting <http://cafodeastanglia.wordpress.com>

LEARNING TOGETHER in the Year of Faith

Everyone is welcome to the next modules for the diocesan adult religious formation programme.

Saturday 26 JANUARY
Mgr Tony Rogers:
Sacrosanctum Concilium.
The Council and the Sacred Liturgy
Parish Hall at St Mary's in Ipswich
322, Woodbridge Road Ipswich, Suffolk. IP4 4BD

Saturday 23 FEBRUARY
Sr Gemma Simmonds.
Glimpses of the Divine.
Developing a personal spirituality
St Luke's Church Benyon Grove Orton Malbourne PETERBOROUGH PE2 5XS

Saturday 16 MARCH
Dr Oonagh O'Brien,
Lumen Gentium. The Council on the Church.
The greatest of all challenges to us all to be the living Body of Christ
MARGARET BEAUFORT INSTITUTE,

Grange Road, Cambridge (jointly held with the Institute)

All study days are free. Registration and coffee from 10.30am with the session starting at 11.00am and finishing at 3.00pm. Please a packed lunch, tea and coffee will be provided.

Booking by phone on 01223 741039 or email: mbitadm@hermes.cam.ac.uk

Rome pilgrimage brings Year of Faith to life for confirmation group

Susan Mathewson, from Notre Dame High School in Norwich, reflects on a Year of Faith pilgrimage with young people to Rome.

A group of young people from the Parish of Poringland and Loddon travelled to Rome in October as part of their confirmation preparation but also to mark the start of the Year of Faith. A very important part of the pilgrimage was to attend the audience with Pope Benedict. Despite waiting almost two hours in the rain this was considered the highlight of the trip and was a great moment for us all.



Pope Benedict teaches at his weekly General Audience

In his address to us, Pope Benedict asked the questions:

“Does faith have a solely personal, individual nature? Does it concern only myself? Do I live my faith alone?” While acknowledging that the act of faith is an eminently personal act he went on to stress that we do not build a personal faith in a private dialogue with Jesus, because faith is given to us by God through a community of believers – that is the Church - and projects us into the multitude of believers, into a kind of communion rooted in the eternal love of God who is in himself the communion of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, it is Trinitarian Love. Our faith is truly personal, only if it is also communal: it can be my faith only if it dwells in and moves with the “we” of the Church, only if it is our faith, the common faith of the one Church.

The recognition of the importance of the Church and the Church as a means to faith became very tangible for the group. In the space of three days Mass was celebrated in English in the church of St Clement, an 11th century church built over a 4th century church, in turn built on the remains of a 1st century house church; in Italian at the invitation of the Sant Egidio community and then in Latin in St Peter’s. The ‘we’ of the Church was evident in the very distinct, yet familiar, liturgies. The confident young people joined in the singing and responses in all of the languages wherever they could.

The Sant’ Egidio community welcomed us to the centre where they daily welcome the poor and hungry to meals, feeding up to eighty people. Mainly young themselves, their work is rooted in prayer, communicating the Gospel and the fundamental and daily service to poor people, lived as friendship. They don’t do their work out of duty or pity - but as a response to God in faith and love. Meals are served at the tables, café style. They open their lives, give themselves in a radical way - not just time and money, but love and friendship. Annarita summed up for us their work ‘They need food, yes, but they more importantly need relationship.’ Sant Egidio were an example to our young pilgrims of God’s unconditional, communal, yet personal love.



Pope Benedict also said: **“At the start of the Christian adventure, when the Holy Spirit descends with power upon the disciples, on the day of Pentecost — as we read in the Acts of the Apostles (cf. 2:1-13) — the early Church receives the power to begin the mission entrusted to her by the Risen Lord: to spread the Gospel to every corner of the earth, the Good News of the Kingdom of God, and thus to lead every human person to the encounter with Him, to the faith that saves.”**

We visited remains of St James & St Philip at the Basilica of the Holy Apostles, St Paul on the Via Ostia and of course, St Peter in the Vatican. This had a double effect on our group.

Firstly the sense of connection to the very early church and these people who knew Christ, the early Christians entrusted with His mission. One person commented that this was ‘scary’! When asked why, she said, ‘these people knew Christ!’ With the celebrity culture of the day there is much comment on how few steps we are in relationship from any famous person, so to be one step away for the incarnate Word was a very ‘scary’ moment, to be so close to God himself.



In the atrium of the Basilica of St. Paul-Outside-the-walls

However, this same person, on reflecting on her time in Rome, said that ‘there is a lot of evidence here, which of course can give us confidence in our faith’ but also bring us closer to our cultural and religious roots. St Paul’s outside the walls is a very beautiful place, initially in the countryside but now by a busy road. In explaining something of St Paul to the young travellers the question about his persecution of the early Christians arose – how can this man be a Saint? Here was an awesome monument to a man who stood by at the martyrdom of St Stephen. Of course, Christ is the subject of the monument, as with all the amazing art and architecture. Paul is honoured in leading us towards him and guiding us with his writing and witness. Inside the church there is a chapel dedicated to St Stephen; a moving reminder to our own human fallibility and God’s love.

The second effect was the way two thousand years melted away as we walked among the Roman ruins and in the steps of the early Christians. This idea was reflected in the words of Pope Benedict: **“And so began the journey of the Church, the community that bears this proclamation through time and space, the community that is the People of God founded on the New Covenant thanks to the Blood of Christ.”**

Whilst in Rome we visited the Venerable English College where English and Welsh priests have been trained since the Reformation and saw a plaque dedicated to the priests of the college who returned to England to continue their mission and who were martyred under Elizabeth I and James I. East Anglian names like Robert Southwell and Henry Walpole stood out. While our own pilgrims are unlikely to face the particular hardships of this time, their mission brings its own challenges captured here in a sentence from the Pope: “Today’s widespread tendency to relegate faith to the private sphere contradicts its very nature.”

This is a challenge for us all in this Year of Faith. Porta Fidei quotes Matt 5: 15: **“No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lampstand where it shines for everyone in the house. In other words, the fact that whoever had and lived the faith in Christ Risen were called to become a point of reference for all others, setting them in this way in contact with the Person and the Message of Jesus, who reveals the face of the Living God.”**

We need the Church in order to confirm our faith and in order to experience the gifts of God: his Word, the Sacraments, the support of grace and the witness of love. And this holds true also for us: a Christian who lets himself be guided and gradually shaped by the faith of the Church, in spite of his weaknesses, his limitations and his difficulties, becomes like a window open to the light of the living God, receiving this light and transmitting it to the world.’



We were also lucky to meet Deacon Henry as he travelled to Rome and he joined us for a meal and invited us to his ordination next summer.

Since their return the young people have celebrated reconciliation and confirmation (where they received their own copy of YouCat) and would like to offer particular thanks to their families and parishes who have helped them on their journey to Rome and their continuing journey of faith. Particular thanks to Father Mark Hackeson who was our guide.


We’ve been very lucky to have been able to follow the advice of Pope Benedict and the Bishop’s Conference of England and Wales in properly celebrating the Year of Faith. In the first month, we’ve had the opportunity to make a declaration of faith, go on pilgrimage, find out about Saints, understand more about the Church and feel more a part of it, understand the importance of the Catechism and devote greater attention to the Mass. Let’s hope the rest of the year brings such joyful experiences and opportunities to grow in faith.



Arriverderci Roma!

In a world in which individualism seems to rule personal relationships, making them ever more fragile, the faith calls us to be the People of God, to be Church, bearers of the love and communion for all mankind (cf. *Pastoral Constitution Gaudium et Spes*, n. 1).

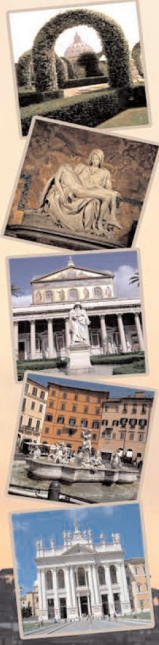
BOOK NOW - Fr David Jennings said there are still places available of the Year of Faith Pilgrimage to Rome but people should book quickly as it may fill up.




DIocese of EAST ANGLIA
‘Year of Faith’
 Pilgrimage to
ROME
 16th - 20th September 2013

£699 PER PERSON

For further details and a full itinerary please contact Pax Travel Ltd





152 - 156 Kentish Town Road, London, NW1 9QB
 Tel: 020 7485 3003 Fax: 020 7485 3006 E-mail: info@paxtravel.co.uk
www.paxtravel.co.uk

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

Group making music at Sunday evening Masses

Pupils and staff of St John Fisher Catholic College are making their presence felt in both the local parish of St Peter and All Souls as well as in their local community of Peterborough.

A number of exciting initiatives aimed at encouraging young people to play a more active role in local welfare are now up and running.

Fr David Paul (PP) and Fr Michael Collis who have always been devoted to youth ministry in Peterborough have joined forces with Head of RE and a number of pupils to assemble the Church's first ever youth folk group that sings at the 6pm Mass every second Sunday.

To foster a more meaningful relationship between school and parish, the group makes renditions of hymns both old and new.

School chaplain Fr Michael plans to run a youth pilgrimage to Taize in France for 30 Students.

Fundraising events are being planned to help offset the cost of the trip and a small number of

places have been allocated for people outside of the parish.

Headteacher Sean Hayes hopes that in time the event might become a permanent part of the spiritual life on offer for pupils at the school.

In another initiative dubbed "Year 13 gives back" pupils and staff are preparing for a sponsored 24-hour Christmas fast in aid of two local charities.

It is hoped that the effort will not only raise much needed funds for each organisation but will bring vital awareness to their cause.

Pupils will spend the duration of the fast over night in school. Once the event is over, 6th form pupils will then go into other local schools showcasing their work in the hope of inspiring similar initiatives.

People wanting to show their support for any of these projects can contact Miss C O'Connor (Head of RE) directly on 07530364117.

Mr Hayes, the students and the staff of St John Fisher Catholic High School, wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas and a successful New Year.



Fr Michael Collis and Fr David Paul with some of the music group from St John Fisher School who play at Sunday Masses



Over 1500 staff and students of Notre Dame High School in Norwich taking part in an annual sponsored walk in aid of charity - a five-mile trek down to Whittingham Broad and back. The public were treated to a colourful fancy dress procession of animals, super heroes and even Count Dracula but the heavens defied the forecast and soaked them all. The sponsored walk is one of their most important events in the school's calendar. It not only helps them to reflect on the lives of others less fortunate than themselves, it enables them to put their faith into action and the total raised to date is £14,406.08.

Remembrance day marked with cemetery silence

Student from St Felix Primary School in Haverhill walked to the town's cemetery for a service of remembrance on 9 November.

After looking at the graves of local people who died as a result of war they laid crosses of thanksgiving and were joined by Fr Michael Teader who led them in prayers for peace. At 11am all stood in silence for two minutes around the War Memorial.

Mrs Stewart's Year 1 children led the service to begin Advent on 30 November. The children built up a human Advent wreath as they explained the significance of the evergreen ring and its five candles. Torchlight and candle flames helped to remind everybody that Advent preparations herald the birth of "the light of the world" at Christmas.



Pupils welcome Advent at St Felix school hall



Sue Rapley alongside St Mary's Junior School art scholars during the exhibition

Artist returns

Cambridge-based painter, Sue Rapley, returned to her old school – St Mary's Junior – for a one-day exhibition.

Sue, a member of Cambridge Open Studios said: "I was absolutely thrilled to receive the invitation from such a talented group of budding artists.

"From an early age, creativity and the arts have always played an important part in my life and I think it's fantastic to be able to talk to the girls about my experiences as an artist along with my fond memories of being a student at St Mary's."

Christopher Hald, head of juniors, said: "The girls were very excited when they discovered that such an inspiring artist once went to the same school as they attend now.

"We were delighted that Sue accepted our invitation to display her work alongside our own scholars and the girls have very much enjoyed learning all they can about different techniques and styles to assist them in their future pieces."



The service to welcome Mr Day the new headteacher at St Bede's Inter-church School in Cambridge was led Bishop Stephen and Mgr Peter Leeming. The many guests and visitors heard music provided by two choirs and the worship band. Year 7 sang an African greeting and students were involved in presenting the new head with special gifts and leading prayers.



Egyptian lessons

Year 6 pupils from St Louis Middle School wholeheartedly embraced their Egyptian Day challenge.

All, including staff and helpers, were suitably dressed and entered enthusiastically into the spirit of the day.

Students were shown powerpoint slides explaining many aspects of life in the ancient civilisation before enjoying a carousel of workshops which involved being asked to design and build a moving shaduf. That was a machine used for centuries along the Nile to lift water from the river and transfer it into the irrigation ditches around the fields.



All then pupils entered into the spirit of the day



Art and RE project celebration

St Edmunds Primary School in Bury St Edmunds celebrated St Edmunds Week with an art and RE project.

The school is having some new cloths made for class holy tables and decided to use them to commemorate The Year of Faith 2012.

All pupils visited St Edmund King and Martyr to make small sketches of something in the church that they liked or found interesting.

The sketches were brought back into school and small printing blocks were made using their designs.

The pupils printed their designs on the border of a large class cloth which then had, "The Year of Faith 2012," printed onto it, see the picture left.

The activity was something that every child, regardless of their age, could take part in. The school said it was very pleased with the results.

The Diocesan Youth Office,
The White House, 21 Uppgate,
Poringland, Norwich, Norfolk
NR14 7SH Tel: (01508) 494833
Mobile: (0781) 2004934 Email:
dys@east-angliadiocese.org.uk
Leave a message if no answer.

YOUTH MATTERS (Oh Yes We Do!)

Diary dates 2013

February Half-term

Deanery Events

We hope many deaneries will organise events for their young people, with practical support from the Diocesan Youth Service.

March 17

A Taste of Taizé

Brother Paolo from the Taizé Community is coming to our Cathedral in Norwich to lead and evening of discussion and prayer around the cross.

All young people welcome.

April 13 - 14

Celebrate Family Conference

May 5

Walk to Walsingham

A sponsored walk to Walsingham joining with the Diocesan Pilgrimage

June 29 - 30

Ignite Youth Festival

July 5 - 7

Invocation

A weekend for those age 16 – 35 looking to deepen their relationship with Christ and develop their understanding and discernment of God's will for their lives.

Held in Staffordshire but a minibus will be going from East Anglia.

July 16 – 30

World Youth Day Pilgrimage

Joining millions of other young people in Rio for Mass with Pope Benedict.

July 26 – 29

World Youth Day at Home

With guest speakers, catechesis, live bands and a satellite link up to Rio. For those who can't make it to Rio, this is the next best thing.

At Aylesford Priory, Kent but transport will be arranged from East Anglia.

August 3rd - 12th

Young

Adults Pilgrimage to Taizé.

Our annual pilgrimage to Taizé. For those aged 17+.

August 23 - 30

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Young People aged 17+ welcome.

August 22 - 26

Youth 2000 Prayer Festival

Joining Youth 2000 for their annual prayer festival in Walsingham. For those age 16+.

August 23 - 26

Diocesan Summer Camp

Faith, Fun and Food in the heart of the Norfolk countryside. For those age 8 – 14.

Faith Story to be discussed

For parish youth leaders, parents, catechists, young leaders and concerned parishioners, the National Catholic Youth Ministry Federation is holding the national congress on March 16th focusing on the Year of Faith.

Hamish MacQueen said the Diocese of East Anglia Youth Service

is part of the federation which is organising the congress.

"In this Year of Faith when we reflect on the call to hand on the gift of our faith to our young people, the Congress takes as its theme 'The Faith Story'.

"Speakers include the engaging Bishop Looy, Bishop of Ghent and Christopher Pilkington, executive producer for TV company Endemol who make programmes such as *Deal or No Deal*.

"The last Congress was held in London

but to fairly reflect the involvement of every diocese throughout the country, this one is going to be held in Newcastle.

"It's a long way to go but I'm sure it's going to be worth it!"

"If anyone from East Anglia would be interested in going, please do get in touch with the Diocesan Youth Service – we would like to fund a small group to go and represent East Anglia and can organise travelling together."

For more information see www.cymfed.org.uk/congress

Preparing in silence

As part of preparing for the Pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Rio, the group spent a day learning about and taking part in silent prayer with Magdalen Houlihan who runs 'Be still' days all over East Anglia.

"We learnt how to find that special place deep down where God can speak to us without the normal distractions.



"It was very powerful and a very different way of praying compared to what I'm used to. I'd like to do it more regularly" said one of the participants.

Answering Pope's call

Young people across the diocese have been taking up Pope Benedict's invitation to 'rediscover the gift of faith' by taking part in the activities for The Year of Faith.

National Youth Sunday in November took the Creed as its theme with several activities and resources available for helping young people explore what Catholics believe.

The Diocesan Youth Council has planned two particular events in 2013 in response to the suggestions by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for the Year of Faith.

These are the Celebrate Family Conference on April

13-14 in Bury St Edmunds and the Ignite Youth Festival on June 29-30 in Swaffham.

"It also hoped that during February half-term, there will be Deanery Events for young people to help celebrate the Year of Faith.

Hamish MacQueen said: "Celebrate is a lively faith filled weekend for the whole family.

"There are age appropriate streams for children and young people as well as adults, so because young people are a major part of it, we are really pleased to be working closely with the Diocesan Service Team to put Celebrate on.

"There will be talks and

CYMFPED
CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY FEDERATION
Forming and serving Youth Ministry in England and Wales

The Faith Story

National Congress In the Year of Faith

Guest Speakers
Bishop Lucas van Looy, SDB
Bishop of Ghent, Belgium
Christopher Pilkington
TV Producer, Endemol Youth Programming

About the Congress
In this Year of Faith, when we reflect on the call to hand on the gift of our faith to the next generation, the Congress takes as its theme 'The Faith Story'. The theme will be explored by a range of speakers including Bishop Lucas Van Looy, the Bishop of Ghent and Christopher Pilkington, Executive Producer for Endemol Youth Programming.

About the Venue
Set on the banks of the Tyne at Gateshead Quays, The Sage commands stunning views of the River Tyne and is situated centrally for the hotels, restaurants and shops of Newcastle.

Saturday 16th March 2013
THE SAGE GATESHEAD
[Newcastle upon Tyne]

Time: 10.30am - 3.30pm
Conference Fee: £12
Bookings: T: 01207 592244
E: congress@ymt.org

Nearest Transport Services
Newcastle Central Station
Newcastle International Airport

Congress sponsored by:

www.cymfed.org

workshops from the team responsible for the Café resources that many parishes use, and mime from Steve Murray, who many young people know from retreats in

diocesan secondary schools.

"Everyone is welcome but numbers are limited so early booking is recommended.

"Ignite is our Diocesan Youth Festival with talks, workshops, live music and much more.

"We are particularly pleased to welcome Fr Christopher Jamison as our keynote speaker.

"He is known for the TV programme The Monastery and is regularly heard on national radio. He is also the author of two books Finding Sanctuary and Finding Happiness."

Please see the website catholiceastanglia.org/youth, which has a new look, for more details of all our events and links to resources for young people on the Year of Faith.

New Year Epiphany Candlelight Mass

Followed by refreshments, a bonfire and fireworks
For all young people across the diocese

6pm - 8pm Saturday 5th January 2013
at The White House, 21 Uppgate, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7SH

Please bring a wrapped gift up to the value of £5 to go into a lucky dip

NEWS

from

THE
CATHEDRAL
OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

Friends thanked for support

Dean Fr James Walsh paid tribute to the work of the Friends of the Cathedral at their annual general meeting.

He also thanked them for their "on-going support for the Cathedral and the efforts to make it a more worthy and comfortable place to worship God".

Friends secretary Pat Walter said that a new guide book would be in the shop by Easter and would emphasise the beauty of our historic stained glass."

Before the AGM Fr James celebrated a Sung Mass for the intentions of the Friends.

Also, Friends who had died during the year were remembered and these included Brian Crowson of Southwold, Christopher Jackson of Cambridge, Mary Parish of Norwich and David Rogers of Arundel.

Chairman Brian Lewis welcomed 52 members of the Friends of the Cathedral to the AGM and luncheon in the Norfolk Room of the Narthex where treasurer Brian Dowler presented the accounts for the year.



The St Nicholas Fair at the cathedral was a great success with people flocking in to buy Christmas presents for family and friends including jewellery, cards, cakes and a host of other items. Dora Cowton was offering copies of her book on the Holy Land which is raising money for Palestinians and is still available in the Narthex shop



New trust to help fund church and narthex

A new Trust is to be established to take over responsibility for the fabric and running costs of the cathedral in Norwich, the Narthex, house and garden.

The St John the Baptist Cathedral Trust will support some of the costs of the diocesan mother church.

Diocesan Administrator Fr David Bagstaff said: "Although work is well in hand for the new organization, there are still a number of financial arrangements to be decided.

"It is absolutely essential that everyone involved is satisfied that the new provisions are fair and transparent.

"The new Trust will be responsible for the financial management, maintenance and improvement of both the Cathedral and the Narthex for the benefit of the whole Diocese as its Mother Church whilst preserving the interests of the parishioners of the cathedral as a parish church."

Cathedral Dean Fr James Walsh said:



"The cathedral parish will still need to find the money to pay its bills through the Sunday collection

"There are a number of income streams which relate to the cathedral rather than the parish. These will help to finance the new Trust.

"In the event of a shortfall the diocese will guarantee to subsidise it.

"The parish will also pay a 'rent' for the use of the church, as well as providing its proportion of the running

costs on a pro-rata basis.

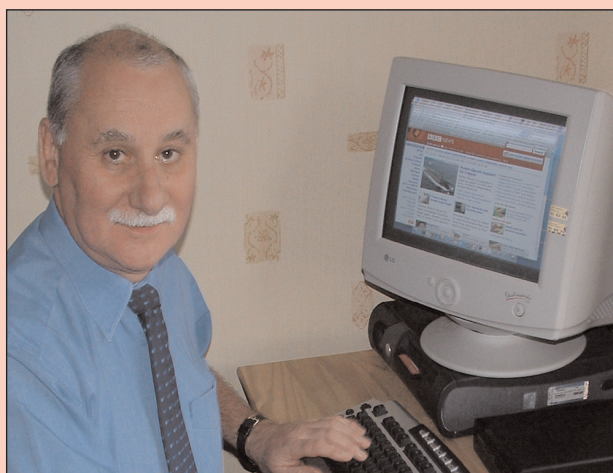
"In recent years, as St John's has grown more fully into its status as the Mother Church of the Diocese, it has seen increasing numbers of visitors, diocesan events, cultural activities and a higher profile in both the city and diocese. Costs have grown and need to be addressed.

"The Trustees of the Diocese have now agreed to set up the new trust for this purpose."



Parishioners who share St Mark's church also took part in their Christmas fete

Ways to contact the editor



Thanks to everyone who sends in material most of which is used but please send pictures as files and do not include them inside documents.

Please give documents a descriptive name rather than just labelled diocesan article or news.

The current newspaper can be read online now at <http://www.bellcourt ltd.co.uk/>

Send material to Patrick Byrne
The Editor, Our Diocesan Family,
The White House, 21 Uppate, Poringland, Norfolk NR14 7SH.

Tel: 01603 627409 and email:
patrick.byrne5@virginmedia.com

Deadlines: Our Diocesan Family is bi-monthly and printed early in the month before publication.

Material this time must arrive by 28 January for the MARCH 2013 issue.

The Secular Carmelite Order has recently set up new communities in response to a surge in interest. Secular Carmelites are women and men, married or single, lay or clerical whose vocation is to follow in the footsteps of the great Carmelite reformers St Teresa of Jesus and St John of the Cross. They live out their heritage through daily life, scripture, the sacramental life of the Church, and contemplative prayer. Members of the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham have helped with the formation of St Teresa and St Hugh in Peterborough, and Mother of Carmel and St Henry Morse in Quidenham.

Anyone interested in Secular Carmelites should contact: at Walsingham - Jane Nicholson on 01485 570082, at Quidenham - Mary Gledhill on 01362 693266 and at Peterborough - Vic Burton on 01733 566079



Fr Tony Sketch at Our Lady Star of the Sea at Lowestoft

Priests recall life of Fr Tony Sketch

Fr Anthony Sketch had an eventful life which showed pastoral care, devotion to his calling and great diplomatic skills.

Fr Tony died aged 75 at Lowestoft after completing more than 50 years in the priesthood.

He was rural dean of six parishes in the Yarmouth and Waveney area when he retired from active ministry after 16 years at the Our Lady Star of the Sea, Lowestoft.

When he became a priest at the Church of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Bury St Edmunds, in June 1962, he became the first Roman Catholic priest to be ordained in the town for more than 450 years.

He worked in Luton for several years before taking charge of the joint parish of Swaffham and Dereham.

At Swaffham, where he was also a keen member of the town’s Rotary Club, he guided the rebuilding of the sanctuary and installation of a new altar at the Station Street Church.

In October 1974 he was appointed to the parish of Swaffham. There was a difficult situation in Downham Market, where the previous parish priest had refused to accept the required changes to the Mass and the authority of the Bishop.

This had caused great distress in the community. The Bishop had had to close the parish and its care was handed over to Fr Tony at Swaffham.

When Fr Tony arrived, he spoke calmly to all concerned, both inside the Catholic community and beyond it, and was able to bring about a resolution of the problem, reconciling division and restoring harmony.

Fr Henry McCarthy said: ‘Fr Tony handled the whole episode with great sensitivity and helped defuse a very nasty situation without ever a cross word with Fr Baker.’

He earned the gratitude of Frs Henry McCarthy, Tony Seely and Peter Brown who followed him as parish priests at Downham Market.

In April 1977, after three-and-a-half years, Fr Tony moved to St Mary Magdalen in Ipswich and went to Lowestoft in 1982.

He was instrumental in setting up the Christians Together group in Lowestoft as well as doing ground-breaking work at Blundeston Prison.

His sense of humour and welcoming ways endeared him to all whom he met and he became a popular and well-loved figure in the Lowestoft area.

He was appointed rural dean in February 1992 by Bishop Alan Clark and, although he retired in 2008 as a result of ill health, he continued to celebrate Mass regularly in the parish. He later moved to a care home in Oulton where he died peacefully.



Daniel Grist gave the tribute amusing the congregation with family stories and episodes from Fr Ben’s life



The choir of students from St Laurence’s, above, and a view of the large congregation around Fr Ben’s coffin, below



St John the Baptist Cathedral was crowded for the funeral



Wymondham parishioners enjoying their meal



Fr David Bagstaff presided at the funeral attended by diocesan clergy, students and staff from Oscott College and many others



Fr Ben Grist

Cathedral crowded for ‘goodbye’ to Fr Ben

A hymn written by Fr Ben Grist’s niece Florence, sung by children from Years 5 and 6at St Laurence’s school in Cambridge and led by headteacher Jan Southgate, summed up his funeral with the words “No one should be sad”.

St John the Baptist Cathedral was crowded with Fr Ben’s family, friends, fellow students from Oscott College, school colleagues, students and parishioners.

All shared memories of Fr Ben during his short life of 37 years and these will be retained because the boy, man and priest had such an impact on them.

He suffered cancer while studying for a vocation he dearly wanted to fulfil but his illness brought inspiration to many as bravely and spiritually borne.

Diocesan Administrator Fr David Bagstaff recalled being at St Mary’s College at Oscott for the Diaconate Ordinations and Ben’s ordination as deacon and priest in the afternoon.

At his funeral Fr David said: “Today we have listened to the same gospel that was read that June afternoon and read by the same deacon, Henry.

“You know how it is said: certain people; events; places and dates stay with you? Well Ben and his ordination will be such for me and I’m sure for many.

“As Vocations Director I came to know Ben well over the past few years.

“He was first accepted by the diocese some seven years ago, but didn’t immediately take up the invitation to start his training and instead went into teaching. I

“It was some five years ago now that he approached me with a view to asking whether he

could re-apply for training as a priest of our diocese.

“Ben was very keen to remind me on the last time I saw him, that asking was the right thing, he could not presume. Everything is gift!

“Ben didn’t find it easy to settle into seminary life and he would be the first to admit that – he wanted to be out amongst the people.

“College was a means to an end. Ben’s own description of that first year at seminary was: “it was a complete car crash”!

“I would say that those first three years at seminary were a time when he had to truly take into himself those words of Jesus: “unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies it yields a rich harvest”.

“Earlier this year, when cancer was diagnosed, there was need for a further realization of what Jesus’ words meant for Ben - facing the REAL big questions: of faith; of dying; of sickness and pain; of disappointment in not being able to be that priest that he felt God was calling him to be.

And then following a discussion between Monsignor Mark Crisp and myself, the Call to Ordination was given.

“Fr Mark Hackeson asked Ben, would he like to be ordained a priest? And with tears in his eyes he said “There is nothing I would like more”.

“Ben would never have asked – he knew Ordained Ministry was a gift and a call of the church and therefore not his by right; but he generously accepted the call.”

Fr Ben’s funeral began with a lone harpist playing quiet melodies before the coffin in front of the altar and the Mass opened with the entrance hymn “At the Lamb’s high feast we sing praise to our victorious king”.

The theme was carried through the readings - “There is a time for everything”, from Ecclesiastes; “I saw a new heaven and a new earth”, from Apocalypse and “If a wheat grain dies

it yields a rich harvest”, from John’s Gospel.

The response to the psalm also had a message - “For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, My God”.

The congregation learned of Fr Ben’s boyhood, school days, journey of conversion and his calling.

Items from his pastoral placement in Cambodia were on the altar and in the order of service for the Requiem Mass a picture of Our Lady of Inclusiveness was shown revealing her son while protecting children under her veil. One is holding a book, another a flute symbolising learning and culture, a boy in a wheelchair and girl victim of landmines and an able bodied child embracing them - referring to the destruction of war especially in Cambodia.

After the Mass Fr Ben was buried at St Edmunds church in Bungay.

Fr David summed up the life and times of Ben and said: “ Some say there are no characters around today. For those of us privileged to know Ben we would say that is not true.

“Some of us will hold memories of him at Oscott, sitting outside in the sun with a floppy hat on him; or walking around the cloisters with a mug of coffee; or cooking breakfast in the kitchen on his corridor; or being late for something; or extending a warm welcome to those visiting the college; or his enjoyment of his placement at Bridge School – a local school for children with special needs, and who on the day Ben was leaving Oscott sent down pictures done by the children; or his farewell speech to the domestic and ground staff at Oscott on the day he was leaving.”

“But others of us will have equally special memories. Yes, Ben was a character – of that there is no doubt!

“He was one who allowed the grace of God to work on him – and those of us here today were able to see that and especially the grace of priestly ordination.

“May Ben Rest in Peace.”



Ann Marie and Mark with paralympian Sarah Storey

Family lived on £1 per day

Two parishioners from St George’s in Norwich have volunteered for the international charity RESULTS UK who lobby government and international organizations like the United Nations to ensure that the most vulnerable people in society are included in aid programmes.

The Pointer/McConnell family took part in ‘Live Below the Line’ where for five days they spent no more than £1 per person per day on food. It was a really interesting experience’, said Ann Marie Pointer.

“Living on the international poverty limit meant feeling hungry a lot of the time and eating very plain and stodgy food but taking part as a family was a lot of fun and a great bonding experience.

“We had to weigh and calculate how much everything cost – down to the last flake of porridge! It made us very aware of how much food is wasted in this country and gave a valuable insight into how 1.4 billion people have to live day in, day out.”

The family raised over £1,500 from parishioners at St George’s, Our Lady’s and St Boniface in Norwich.

Mark Pointer said: “The London Paralympics

New look for website so log in and see

The diocesan website has undergone a transformation and is more attractive, lively and informative.

The site is one way the diocese can open the door to all and welcome them as people seeking faith, better understanding of faith or simply searching for information on the life of the Catholic Church in East Anglia.

Details of Sunday and daily Mass readings, the Holy Office, the Year of Faith, diocesan groups and commissions, clergy, the Ordo for the current year, the parishes and much more is available.

The website will continue to be developed and will be regularly updated with news and information.

Diocesan Administrator Fr David Bagstaff has written an introduction and also makes a personal note on the wait for a new bishop.

He said: “We had hoped our new bishop would have been named during the past year, but hopefully we shouldn’t have to wait too much longer.

“In the meantime I would like to again thank everyone who has ensured that the day to day life of our diocese has continued and for all the

was the best opportunity we had in a generation to make a difference.

“Disabled people face stigma in many developing countries and are excluded in education programmes but you and I can change this.

“David Cameron is chair of the United Nations committee which will set new Millennium Development Goals for the next 10 years or so.

“One of these goals is universal Primary education but there is no guarantee disabled children are included.

“We need people and/or groups to write a simple letter to the Prime Minister and tell him that in the light of the London 2012 Paralympics, disabled children must be specifically included in this goal.

“This will not cost the UK economy any more but will ensure money already allocated will include the most vulnerable.”

The charity also has an online petition which you can sign at Avaaz Community Petitions – disability.

If you would like more information on the campaign please contact Ann on misericordia@btinternet.com

support that you have all given to me personally during this past year. Please continue to pray for the appointment of a new bishop: for the man who is chosen and for those responsible for the process of discernment and appointment.”

He also said a few words about the Year of Faith and its importance to the diocese over the coming year.

“From conversations with other people it would appear that the Year of Faith has captured the minds and imagination of many Catholics.

“It was certainly heartening at the meeting of our own Diocesan Council of Laity in November 2012 to see that parishes across the diocese have drawn up plans for a whole variety of celebrations, events, pilgrimages and discussions during this coming year.

“There was also the wish expressed that at least some of our special events should be done together with other Christian Churches.

“We believe that our faith is a priceless treasure that should never to be kept stored away for no one to see it – but it is to be lived and shared. It is the love of Christ that fills our hearts and impels us to evangelise.”

The website - www.catholiceastanglia.org



The outdoor space at Notre Dame High School

BUILDING BRIDGES in Cambodia

Why a couple from St Mary’s parish in Ipswich keep going back

At the end of the Khmer Rouge period, in 1979, Catholics were among the several hundred thousand who lived in the refugee settlements along the Thai border. These tiny communities of Catholics grew through prayer and ministry and organised their lives around their faith. John Cassidy of St Mary’s parish in Ipswich here tells of how Bishop Kike came to be working among them and why people from East Anglia work so hard to support his ministry.

One of the missionary Jesuit priests who lived and worked along the border providing intense formation to these refugee Catholics was Enrique Figeredo from Spain. After the war he worked in a technical school for the handicapped and landmine victims. Because of his active commitment and presence to the Cambodian people the Holy See appointed him Bishop of Battenbang, Cambodia’s second largest city. It was only since 1990, that Catholic communities were given permission to worship freely in Cambodia.

For the past 20 years Mgr Enrique Figerdo, known as Bishop Kike, has set the priority of everyone working in his diocese to become witnesses of the force of love, mercy and compassion so that his people may be restored after the cruel experiences of the war. One of the properties still intact after the war was the former hospital, once run by the Providence Sisters. The diocese was able to buy this back and Bishop Kike turned it into an important pastoral centre.

Buddhism is the predominant religion (95%) of Cambodia. Islam and Hinduism are the other main religions, while Christianity forms just 0.2% of the 13 million population. For Bishop Kike the work of the diocese transcends religion, race, denomination, wealth, geographical distance, and anything that separates man or woman from his or her kind. His diocese of Battambang needs support. It receives help from communities and parishes in different parts of the world especially from Spain, Australia, and Korea and Japan.



Bishop Kike encourages Cambodian traditions

East Anglia has supported communities and parishes throughout the Battambang diocese. As a result: a kindergarten has been built, new classrooms have been added to learning centres, roofs have been put on churches, roads and bridges have been made passable, a cemetery has been restored, a bamboo church is under construction and a huge reservoir, as large as a swimming pool, has recently been built. These projects are just the highlights of what has been achieved by the

fundraising of just three parishes. At St Mary’s in Ipswich, Suffolk, the partnership with Battambang goes way beyond fundraising. I met with Mike and Marie-Madeleine Kenning who have visited Cambodia six times in as many years. They are passionate about raising money because they now know that as Bishop Kike said: “A little money goes a long way in Cambodia.”

They have seen the delight on the faces of the children as they arrive laden with toys and goodies from St Mary’s and the joy of the teachers of the kindergarten as pure clean water flows from the new reservoir for the benefit of their 700 children. They speak at Mass, visit classrooms, put notices into the newsletter, write in the parish magazine and deliver presentations. They tell of the huge bottles of water that had to be bought at great expense before the reservoir. They amaze the schoolchildren with pictures of floating churches and delight all with a variety of food tastings of typical Cambodian dishes.



Bishop Kike with Fr Pedro who recently visited East Anglia Mike said: “We get far more than we give.” Cambodia has a very large number of physically disabled people, due to millions of still unexploded landmines and cluster bombs. Mike and Marie-Madeleine visited the Arupe centre - set up by Bishop Kike and named after a former Superior General of his Jesuit order - a home for young children with disabilities and teaches them manual skills.

“We were a little nervous but then the youth converged on us, some in wheel chairs, others on crutches to greet us “chum reap sur”... soon they performed a series of dances - an amazing display... among the group was one boy was without arms and a girl with a prosthetic leg.” Bishop Kike passionately believes in the importance of keeping young people in touch with their culture and traditional dances, with their stunning costumes and native music give them joy and an identity. He has taken groups (including some dancers from the Arupe group) on tour to his native Spain and many of the dances have been seamlessly woven into the liturgy.

Cambodia has one of the youngest populations in the world and education is considered essential to future development. English is an important subject on the curriculum. The aim of the diocese is to give its young people new horizons and new dreams, so Mike and Marie-Madeleine roll up their sleeves and deliver some English language teaching!

One of their visit stories The Wedding and the Funeral encapsulates parish life in Battambang. The wedding was a huge celebration. Fr Totet , the parish priest and all the village were involved in traffic- stopping processions, present giving, parent visiting, garland wearing and finally eating. This was just the first of two days of celebration and had elements of Khmer culture, Buddhist rituals and Catholic hymns and prayers. The second day was more formal with all the ladies in wonderful dresses for the marriage and Nuptial Mass followed by a Cambodian style full wedding breakfast, rounded off with dancing. Amidst the celebrations word was whispered to the priest that a woman in the village has died. Marie-Madeleine said: “The bereaved man’s house had only



Part of the work is trying to ensure the pupils get a meal three sides with nothing much inside - just the man sitting with a few neighbours. When Fr Toted hugs him the man sobs and sobs. There is no national health in Cambodia so the widower could expect no help from the state. Fr Totet said the parish will step in to help to support the family as the deceased wife and mother was the breadwinner. The fact that the bereaved man was a Buddhist puts no limit on that support.”

I asked the couple: “Why do you keep going back - year after year travelling 6,220 miles to north western Cambodia, arriving on a rickety boat at a makeshift jetty and spending a few weeks at 30 degrees C The answer was the bishop, priests, adults, young people and children are now part of their family.”

CAN YOU HELP?

Our two ‘Building Bridges’ projects this year are supporting Fr Manoj’s work to rebuild the church of St Andrew in Nikum, and restoring the parish cemetery at Kerak in Jordan.

Would you like to support these projects? Cheques should be made payable to the ‘RC Diocese of East Anglia’.

First Name.....

Surname.....

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, etc)

Address.....

.....

.....

Postcode..... Amount enclosed.....

Anything you give will be divided equally between Cambodia and the Holy Land, unless you indicate below by ticking one or other that all your money should go to that project:

CAMBODIA (Nikum church)

HOLY LAND (Kerak cemetery)

GIFT AID DECLARATION (if appropriate)

I wish the RC Diocese of East Anglia to reclaim tax on this donation. I have paid an amount of UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the tax amount claimed by all the Charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) to whom I have donated in that tax year.

Only tax arising from Income or Capital Gains applies to Gift Aid. Other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.

Signed.....

Date.....

Please send to:

‘Building Bridges’, 21 Ugate, Poringland,
Norwich, NR14 7SH
Registered charity no. 278742



Irene Gray, a parishioner at Holy Apostles at West Earlham, Norwich, has received the Bene Merenti Medal in recognition of her devotion to the Catholic Church, her neighbourhood and the wider community. The 76-year-old parishioner is pictured here with Fr Laurie Locke and Deacon Ian Hatfield.

Huntingdon celebrations

It has been a year of celebrations for St Michael's parish in Huntingdon where the 140th anniversary of the building of the first Catholic Church in the constituency once represented by Oliver Cromwell was marked.

Parishioners also attended the ordination to the priesthood of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham of Fr Ivan Weston who is now frequently seen assisting parish priest Fr Nicholas Kearney.

Fr Nicholas also had his own celebration of a Silver Jubilee of ordination which was a special Mass concelebrated by eight priests, two deacons and a full church of relations, friends and parishioners.

Parishioner George Aldridge paid tribute to the group of ladies who helped in the success of festivities with their "excellent" catering.



George Green has retired as a full member of the SVP at St George's in Norwich after 34 years fundraising and helping the less fortunate members of the community. To mark the occasion he was presented with a certificate and silver medal for long and loyal service from SVP spiritual leader Deacon Nick Greef at their regular Tuesday meeting. George said he had enjoyed his time with the SVP and would continue as an auxiliary member.

Marriage support plea

The National Executive Team for Worldwide Marriage Encounter in England and Wales have asked for people in the diocese to celebrate National Marriage Week 7-14 February.

They said: "At a time when our Catholic understanding of marriage and family life is being widely questioned, Marriage Encounter offers married couples a valuable resource for supporting their commitment to each other in love."

At the same time Sarah Green from the Wymondham parish has asked for everyone to continue contacting their MPs about the legislation redefining marriage which is due to go through Parliament this month.

Learning to welcome visitors

Churches Together on the Broads and North Norfolk District Council are arranging a conference on 9 February 2013, at Acle Methodist Church, entitled Welcoming Communities.

The aim is to develop a deeper appreciation of the benefits of belonging to a Welcoming Community especially in an area which experiences a high level of tourism.

Those taking part should have a greater understanding of how important personal friendliness is to visitors, residents and tourists alike by the end of the conference.

Deacon Ian Hatfield said. "The

Olive trees planted in memory of Bishop

Cambridge Justice and Peace Group have begun a project in memory of the late Bishop Michael that aims to link his concern for the environment with his untiring efforts to further peace in the Holy Land.

The first step has been to contact Olive Aid, an organization instigated by Bethlehem University, and promoted by Bishop Michael as a diocesan project.

Former prior at Clare elected Augustinian Provincial

Fr Paul Graham OSA, who became the first Englishman to head the Augustinian Order in Britain since the Reformation when fellow-friars chose him as their Provincial in 1997, will take up the post again in April next year.

He will succeed Fr David Middleton OSA, a member of the Clare Priory Community in Suffolk, who has been Augustinian Provincial for the past seven years and is currently president of the Order's Conference of European Provincials.

Father Paul, who was Prior of Clare when he was first elected Provincial of

conference will also look at how good signposting and information technology can contribute towards achieving such a community."

The event will be chaired by the Archdeacon of Norfolk the Venerable Steven Betts and Henry Cator, the High Sheriff, will be a keynote speaker.

There will be other contributors and speakers. More details are on the Churches Together on the Broads website together with details of how to register to attend via a downloadable application form - please go to churchestogetheronthebroads.org.uk.

The deadline for the receipt of applications to attend is Friday 25 January 2012.

Churches Together on the Broads is an Ecumenical grouping with which both Fr David Bagstaff and Deacon Ian are involved.

Olive Aid help mitigate the ravaging of Palestinian olive plantations by developers: they plant or replenish trees in safe locations.

Justice and Peace have donated enough for two trees to be planted in memory of Bishop Michael.

Olive Aid have gladly agreed to do this, replying that "Bishop Michael was a wonderful support to us when we

Deacon Ian said: "It is a local part of the national network of Christian ecumenical bodies who work under the auspices of Churches Together in England.

"This body was set up many years ago by the leaders of all the major Christian Churches in this country, Cardinal Hume was a major influence in its formation. All the local Christian churches in the 'Broads' area are members

"Many Catholics in many areas of the diocese are involved in the tourist industry one way or another, as are many of our parish churches and their clergy.

"Anyone who wants to take part now has the opportunity to do so and can get the information they need.

"Tourism is a major part of the regional and local economy."

began our project in 2008".

In future it is hoped that children from local schools can be encouraged to take an interest in the project, and plant an olive tree themselves, in memory of the late bishop.

To enquire about/support Olive Aid see or write to Olive aid, 72 Beaumont Road, Purley, Surrey, CR8 2EG.



Fr Paul Graham OSA the Augustinian Order, at the age of 49, has been parish priest at St Monica's Priory, Hoxton Square, London, for the past seven years.

He is currently a member of the seven-man international commission preparing for the Order's six-yearly

chapter in Rome in August-September 2013, which will be attended by Augustinian friars from more than 40 countries around the world.

Fr David said: 'Next year marks the 60th anniversary of the friars' return to Clare, and will see the completion of a major extension to the church.

"It was in Father Paul's time as Provincial and Prior at Clare that the planning for the church started, 13 or 14 years ago, and it has taken all these years to get it under way.

"So I am sure he will have a keen interest in the realisation of his hopes when he visits Clare as Provincial."

Pictured at the Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association annual Clergy and Ladies Night in November are Fr Roger Spencer, Fr Simon Blakesley, Fr David Bagstaff, Fr Matthew George and Fr Mark Hackeson with John McLean, president, and his wife Sadie.



*A Blessed Christmas
and New Year to all
our readers*



The new library at the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology in Cambridge, has been named after the married couple, Professor Nicholas Lash and his wife Janet Lash who have given them so much support since the college's opening in 1993.

At a packed gathering of staff and students, past and present, Sr Bridget Tighe, former principal of the college, spoke warmly of how influential the couple had been in establishing the first Cambridge Catholic College specialising in women's theological education.

Pictured at the unveiling of the Lash Library plaque are Susan O'Brien (former principal), Professor Nicholas Lash and Janet Lash.