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Head of new primary school is named – page 8



The Historic England film crew at the St Mary's Great Yarmouth Mass. Picture by Brian Lafferty.



Icon of the Holy Family.

Families Mass at Cathedral

To mark the close of the Year of St Joseph, Bishop Alan Hopes will be celebrating Mass at St John's Cathedral on Saturday March 19 at 10am.

■ To mark the close of the Year of St Joseph, Bishop Alan Hopes will be celebrating a Families Mass at St John's Cathedral on Saturday March 19 at 10am. This Mass will include a special blessing for children.

Parishioners from around the diocese are warmly encouraged to bring all their children (big and small) to this Mass.

At the beginning of the special year of the family, Fr Luke Goymour created an icon of the Holy Family, which depicts St Joseph standing very slightly forward of Mary and Jesus. The image of St Joseph breaks out of the border and approaches at the bottom of the icon. This is to show that St Joseph is the protector of the family.

Over the year, the icon has been travelling from parish to parish across the diocese enabling congregations to participate in devotional prayers written for this year of the family.

The Mass on March 19 will see the icon returned to St John's Cathedral as its permanent home.

There will be cakes for the children after the final St Joseph Day Mass and the cathedral cafe will be open for adults. Please come and join Bishop Alan in celebrating with your family.

■ Continued on page four.

Film crews visit to mark funding boost

A film crew from Historic England visited St Mary's, Great Yarmouth at the end of January to share the story of the amazing impact that grant funding has had on the parish and the wider community. Historic Churches Support Officer, Eloise Limmer, reports.

■ St Mary's roof has been leaking for many years causing damage to the beautiful internal wall paintings. This has been devastating for the community to watch but the costs of renewing the roof was out of reach of the parish despite fundraising efforts.

However, over the last two years, St Mary's has been lucky to receive £446,730 in funding from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, which in turn received money from Historic England for urgent repair programmes under the Government's Cultural Recovery Fund.

After receiving funding in the first round, work began with re-roofing the chancel and side chapels, which was completed last summer. Late last year St Mary's found out they had been successful once again in gaining funding for the next phase of the project to ensure that this important historic building is watertight and to prevent further deterioration of the beautiful internal decoration.

The works will remove the existing concrete tile roof coverings from the roofs of the nave and side aisles and replace them with Welsh slate to match that installed

on the chancel and side chapels under the first round of works and should be completed by June 2022.

Historic England were so impressed with St Mary's story that they decided to showcase the works as part of their celebration of the grant scheme. A team from Bonfire Films in London have created a short video about the project that will be shared on Historic England's website and social media. You can view it at: www.youtube.com/c/HistoricEngland

The team interviewed Fr Anthony Nwankwo, Brian Lafferty (Chair of the Parish Finance Committee), Suzi Pendlebury (architect) and many parishioners, capturing inspiring footage of the large, multi-cultural congregation giving thanks amongst the scaffolding.

Mass was held underneath the internal scaffolding that covers the whole of the

Reconciliation and peace concert

■ Cambridge Catholic Gila Margolin will be staging a Spring Concert for Peace and Reconciliation at St Anthony of Padua Church in Fakenham on Wednesday May 11.

Gila will be singing her favourite selection of songs of the 60s, Jewish and Scottish music, with her guitar.

The concert takes place at 12 noon at 29 Wells Road, Fakenham, Norfolk, NR21 9EG. Admission is free but there is a retiring collection for the work of The Little Sisters of Joy, co-founded by Gila in 1999.

In 2004 The Little Sisters of Joy evolved into an ecumenical Foundation that reaches out to the 'known inhabited world', building bridges between Jews, Christians, Arabs and Muslims.

All are welcome and light refreshments will be available. For more details contact Fr Andrew Neate on 01328 853481 or at andrew.neate@rcdea.org.uk

Child food plea

■ The charity Mary's meals is encouraging people to create sponsored events to support its child feeding programmes.

Mary's Meals serves more than two million children with a nutritious meal every school day in 20 of the world's poorest countries, including Malawi, South Sudan and Haiti. The promise of a good meal attracts children to the classroom, giving them the energy and opportunity to learn, and the chance of a brighter future.

You can find out more at: marysmeals.org.uk/move-for-meals

Night carer

■ Montana Home for the Elderly in Great Barton, near Bury St Edmunds, is looking for a night carer who has the experience to work in a 16-bedded care home on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and some Saturdays from 9pm to 9am. If you are interested, please call Registered Care Home Manager Sr Thaya Moses on 01284 787321. Montana is run by religious sisters who work with lay staff of any denomination or none.

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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 Monday, March 7.

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Bishop celebrates ordination milestone

■ Bishop Alan Hopes has celebrated the 19th anniversary of his ordination as a bishop along with the Archbishop of Birmingham, the Most Rev Bernard Longley, who was marking the same milestone, at St John's Cathedral in Norwich on January 24.

Bishop Alan welcomed Archbishop Bernard to the Cathedral as they both celebrated the 19th anniversary of their joint episcopal ordination in Westminster Cathedral on January 24, 2003.

They served together as auxiliary bishops in Westminster until 2009, when Archbishop Bernard was named Archbishop of Birmingham. Bishop Alan was installed as Bishop of East Anglia in July 2013.

The duo concelebrated the morning parish Mass at St John's Cathedral in Norwich.

You can watch the Mass on the St John's YouTube channel.



Pictured right are Bishop Alan Hopes and Archbishop Bernard Longley at St John's Cathedral.

Key Lenten Mass dates confirmed across Diocese

Details of key Diocese of East Anglia services and Masses during Lent have been confirmed.

■ The Rite of Election will take place on Sunday March 6 at 3.30pm, at St John's Cathedral Norwich, for all Catechumens and Candidates being baptised and confirmed at Easter, to make their promises.

The following Lenten Station Masses across the Diocese will take place in each deanery at 5pm for Exposition and Confession and 6pm Mass, with Lenten Supper afterwards at 7pm:

Peterborough Deanery St – Peter & All Souls – March 15
Cambridge Deanery – Our Lady and the



English Martyrs – March 22

King's Lynn Deanery – Holy Family – March 24

Ipswich Deanery – St Mary – March 29

Bury St Edmunds – St Edmunds – March 31

Coastal Deanery – Our Lady Star of the Sea, Lowestoft – April 5

Norwich Deanery – St John's Cathedral, Norwich – April 7

The diocesan Chrism Mass on Tuesday April 12, will be at the earlier time of 12 noon at St John's Cathedral, Norwich. It will also be broadcast live online on the St John's YouTube channel.

Oils for the Sacraments are blessed and priests, deacons and people renew their commitment to serve.

Pictured above is a previous Chrism Mass at St John's Cathedral in Norwich.

Cathedral hosts ecumenical prayer

■ Participants from Anglican, Methodist, United Reformed and Catholic Churches, as well as the Salvation Army and Quakers, took part in an ecumenical chain of prayer.

The event, organised by the Denominational Ecumenical Officers of Churches Together in Norfolk and Waveney, took place on Thursday January 20 in the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity.

"Traditionally the Chain of Prayer has been held in the Anglican Cathedral," writes Laurette Burton from Churches Together in Norfolk and Waveney. "But as it is an ecumenical service, it was decided to rotate it annually through the churches of the different denominations. So, this year by kind permission of Canon David Paul, the venue

was St Joseph's Chapel in St John's Cathedral."

This ecumenical service is called a chain because ministers, joined by some of their congregations from different denominations in and around Norwich follow on, one from another, with 15-minute services.

Fr David Paul, an Ecumenical Canon of Norwich Cathedral, opened the day by offering the 10am Mass for Christian Unity. Parishioners of St John's, led by Fr Simon Davies then took the first 15 minute 'slot'.

Fr Simon read an extract from the Decree of the Second Vatican Council Unitatis Redintegratio: "There can be no ecumenism worthy of the name without a change of heart... We should pray to the Holy Spirit for the grace to be genuinely self-denying, hum-

ble, gentle in the service in others, and to have an attitude of generosity towards one another..."

"The words of St John hold good about sins against unity: 'If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.' So we humbly beg pardon of God and of our other Christian brothers and sisters, just as we forgive those who trespass against us."

"This change of heart and holiness of life should be regarded as the soul of the whole ecumenical movement."

The subject for services in this this year's Christian Unity week was written by people in the Middle East with the theme "We saw His star in the East," based on the visit of the Magi to the Holy Family in Bethlehem.

news in brief

Norwich event lifts the lid on modern slavery

■ Catholic parishioner Mark Little MBE is organising a conference in Norwich Anglican Cathedral to shed light on the scourge of modern slavery.

The Queen awarded Mark an MBE for his anti-slavery work in the 2022 honours list. He is a parishioner at Our Lady of the Annunciation, Poringland.

"Behind closed doors," writes Mark, "in remote places and right under our noses in plain sight, some 40 million people are held in slavery and servitude worldwide and one in four of these are children. Even in the UK it is estimated that over 130,000 people are living in slavery."

Mark became involved in 2001 after watching a documentary on modern slavery. Within a few months he had travelled to India to begin helping victims of trafficking, and he has since made visits to several other countries.

"My visits to child slave rehabilitation centres in India, Nepal and Thailand these last 19 years have made me realise that one of the great crimes of slavery is that it goes beyond servitude," he writes. "It goes to the point of eliminating the identity of the individual, and the younger someone is taken into slavery, the less likely they are able to repurchase their own identity."

Mark is organising the Conference on Modern Slavery on behalf of the Rotary Club of Norwich St Edmund. It will take place from 2.15pm to 5pm on Wednesday March 23 in the Weston Room at the Hstry of Norwich Anglican Cathedral.

The speakers will include an anti-slavery activist and author on modern slavery from the USA, a survivor of commercial sexual exploitation, and a former officer of the Metropolitan Police who was part of an anti-trafficking group. He now runs Bakhita House, a safe house in London operated by Caritas Westminster which provides rehabilitation for women and girls rescued from sex slavery.

The conference will cover the nature of human trafficking and slavery, where and why it occurs, what motivates the slave masters and how it affects the victims. It will also highlight the role of the Rotary Action Group against Slavery in raising awareness of and taking action against modern slavery. It will provide guidance on how to spot victims and discuss what to do when victims are suspected.

Entrance tickets (price £10) are available from www.leapinghare.org or 07802 701911. Proceeds and any donations to anti-slavery charities. Contact Mark Little on littlebmark@gmail.com



Mark Little with slavery survivors in Mumbai.



Pictured above are the couples on the Peterborough preparation for marriage course, with Fr Adam Sowa (right).

Dozen couples start new marriage course

A dozen engaged couples have started a preparation for marriage in the Catholic Church course in the Peterborough Deanery. Oliver Wessex reports.

■ Pope St John Paul II elegantly and beautifully described the sacrament of Holy Matrimony as an: "inexhaustible mystery of marriage and the family."

In Peterborough, three Polish La Salette Priests, one English deacon and one Italian deacon are continuing the wonderful example of the late great Pope.

With support from the Family Life Commission, an updated and renewed marriage booklet has been published to help guide Catholic young people to their vocation in marriage. At the Parish of

Saint Peter's and All Souls, 12 engaged Catholic couples have started using this booklet in preparation for their respective big days. The hosts of the course are married deacons of the parish – Rev John Bedford with his wife Patricia and Rev Claudio Chiapinelli with his wife Joanna.

During the first session, Fr Adam Sowa MS used a new introductory for marriage preparation, enrichment, and formation. Included was a definitive DVD on the beauty and the power of marriage, in which Catholic couples spoke about their married life. This allowed the present engaged couples to reflect upon their lives and go on to speak about their dreams, hopes and aspirations for their coming vocations in marriage. Several more of these sessions are to follow.

A highlight of the course, will be the Saturday Smart Loving Programme. On this programme, which includes lunch, a

wide range of detailed exercises will take place. All aimed at helping couples prepare for a wide range of marital responsibilities, such as: communication, household management, expectations, ways of loving, addressing the past, sacramentality, prayer, sexuality and more.

The Smart Loving programme is an education syllabus which has grown over two decades and been refined with knowledge and understanding from relationship psychology, Catholic doctrine and The Theology of the Body, the ground-breaking work authored by one of the Church's greatest authorities on marriage, celibacy and virginity, Pope Saint John Paul II.

The Smart Loving Saturday sessions are being used all over the Diocese of East Anglia, and Peterborough's next session will be held on April 30 at The Sacred Heart & Saint Oswald's Parish.

Filming marks funding boost

■ Continued from page one.

nave ceiling; with scaffolding poles placed amongst the pews, a constant reminder that the next phase of the long-awaited works was finally beginning.

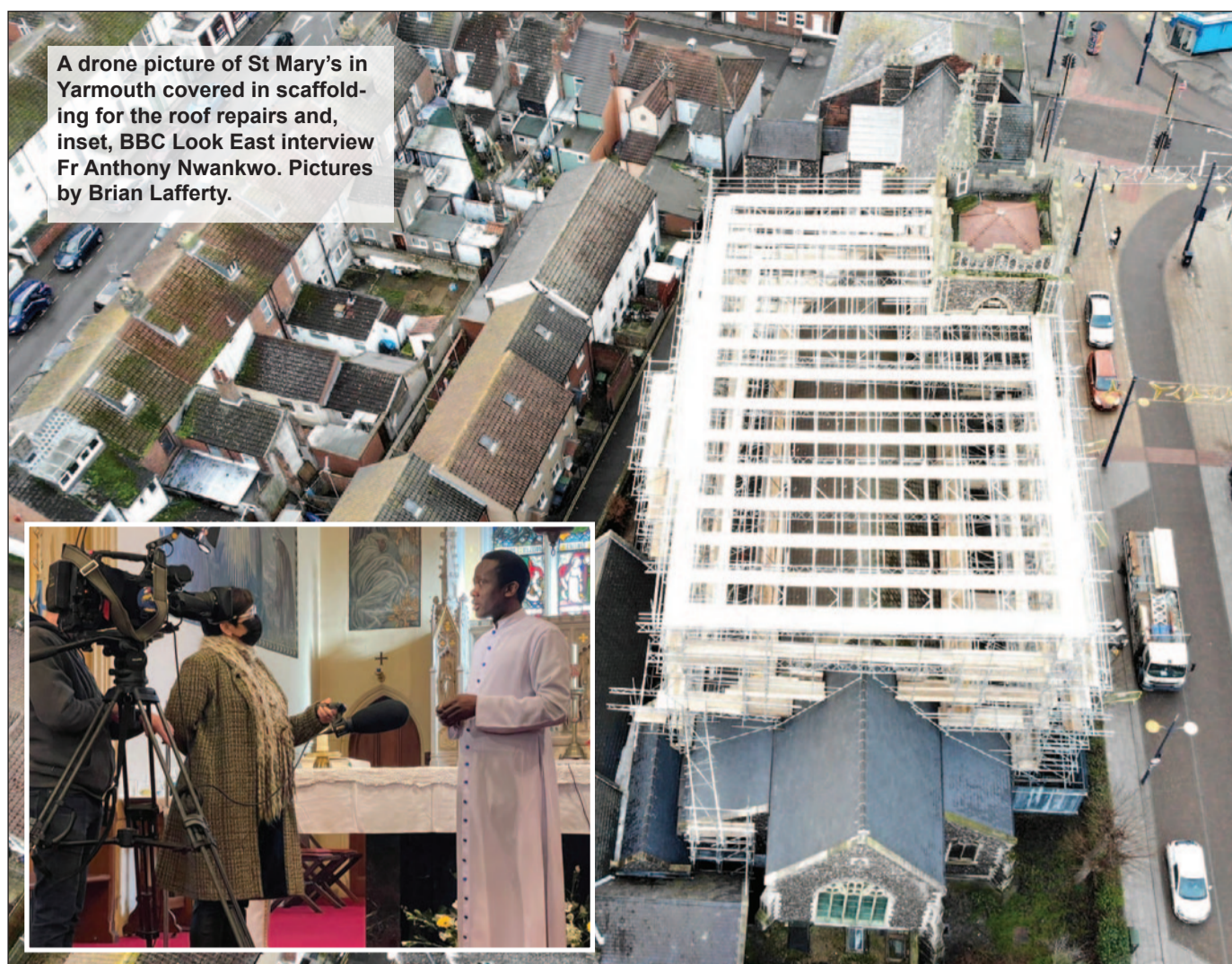
Fr Anthony led the congregation in a round of applause in thanks for funding and everyone gathered in the parish hall afterwards for tea and cake to continue the celebrations.

Once the church is watertight, the parish will be able to focus on other items on their 'wish list' the first of which would be to restore the mural of Our Lady of Yarmouth that has been almost destroyed by water from the leaking roofs. The parish also want to extend its outreach and renovate the parish hall so it can be used for a wide range of community uses.

As well as everything he does as Chair of Parish Finance Committee, Brian Lafferty is also a drone operator in his spare time and has captured the process of the scaffolding slowly covering the whole church www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtW4YhlVBCw

A crew from BBC Look East also attended Mass on Sunday January 30 and broadcast the story of the roof works and the work still to be done to conserve the internal paintings.

The clip can be viewed here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=WivEyKjh6Ro



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Count all your blessings

In the latest in his Voice of Hope series Fr Alvan Ibeh asks "When should I be grateful to God?"



■ For a few weeks now, in all our different parishes we have been looking at the ten questions as our diocese joins dioceses all over the world to embark on the Synodal Pathway in preparation for the Synod of Bishops in 2023. I have found those questions, so far, to be very reflective and thought-provoking. So I will encourage you to join in, if you have not yet done so.

One of the questions led me to reflect on the above topic. Question number 4(d) says, "When I pray, for what do I give thanks to God? - and what do I ask of Him?" While reflecting on this question, another question came up; "When should we give thanks to God?" Ordinarily, we only thank someone when we have received something from them, be it a favour done to us or a material gift.

Imagine you are walking on the street one morning and someone you had never met before just said "thank you very much" to you. What will be your reaction? I guess you will be puzzled, right? The usual thing is to give thanks and be grateful when we have received something from someone, and for someone to start expressing gratitude when

you know you did nothing for the person may be embarrassing.

The same thing happens in our relationship with God. When we pray, we give thanks to Him for all the favours we have received from Him: for the healing, we have received, for saving us from one situation or the other, for restoring peace and harmony in our family, name them. We sometimes forget to thank Him for most things we received from Him.

Just reflect, and you will remember there was a time you prayed earnestly for something; you even made a promise to God to thank Him, especially if he answered your prayer. When you received what you asked for, you forgot to thank God for the answered prayer. I know I must have done this numerous times. But should we thank God or be grateful to Him only when He responded to our prayers or received favour from Him. Should we only be thankful to Him because we enjoy good health, and then we see ourselves as more blessed and loved than those battling ill health?

So what if we happen to find ourselves in the same sick health situation? Are we still going to be grateful to Him, or will our attitude change? What if we prayed for a favour from God and didn't receive it? Should we still be thankful to Him even though we feel disappointed but not know He always has better plans for us?

So when exactly should we thank God or express our gratitude to Him? Should there ever be a limit to our thanksgiving and praise to God? The psalmist in Psalm 34:1 says, "I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth".

Our brother, King David, is saying to us that our praising, thanking, extolling and blessing God should be in and out of season: every minute, every second, every hour; morning, afternoon, evening, night; from January to

December; whether good or bad, in sickness and in health, no matter the situation, we must praise the Lord and give thanks to Him. If you have not seen anything tangible to thank God for, thank Him for the life you have.

Even if it seems like nothing is working for you at the moment, you have your life at least, and once there is life, in God, there is hope, everything gets better with time and don't forget this African saying: "a living goat is better than a dead lion". That is why Psalm 150:6 says, "Let everything that has breath of life praise the Lord!"

Life is the greatest gift we have received from God, and He gives us this gift every day of our lives as long as we sleep and wake up. So do you see why it won't be abnormal to thank and praise Him at all times?

In 2022, let us all develop an attitude of gratitude. According to Mark Pettit in his article entitled, "Five ways to develop an attitude of gratitude", attitude of gratitude means making it a conscious habit to express thankfulness and appreciation for every part of your life. Therefore, gratitude to God should be part and parcel of our everyday life. I should always feel incomplete every day I wake up in the morning and leave my room without saying, "thank you God for giving me another precious gift today."

So dear friend, let us learn to thank God in every situation we find ourselves trusting that He knows everything about us and has better plans for us than we think we know. Our brother in faith, St Paul, advises us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." So instead of wasting your energy complaining about the things we think we don't have, let us focus on the things we have and always give thanks for them, trusting in God.

Contact Fr Alvan: fralvanibe@yahoo.com

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Tributes paid to Fr Francis

Fr Francis 'Sam' Leeder, who served as a priest at St Pancras in Ipswich for almost 45 years, died on February 13, aged 82.

■ Bishop Alan Hopes writes: "In the death of Fr Sam Leeder we have lost an example of a true pastor who gave himself totally to the people of his parish, St Pancras in Ipswich, where he served both as an Assistant and later as the Parish Priest for a total of 45 years. The Diocese is grateful to him for his deep commitment to the Church and to the priesthood and offer their prayers and sympathy to his niece and nephew who survive him. May he rest in peace."

Fr Leeder was recovering in Ipswich Hospital following a knee operation and was undergoing physiotherapy when he died unexpectedly from a heart attack. He had received Communion from Bishop Alan on the day before he died.

He had first gone to St Pancras in 1963 before moving to St John's, Norwich (now the cathedral) in 1970 and then to Woodbridge in 1973 before returning to St Pancras where he served as parish priest until retiring in 2019, aged 80, to live in Melton.

Fr Joseph Welch, the current parish priest at St Pancras writes: "Fr Leeder was a very devoted and much-loved parish priest. His first placement as a curate was at St Pancras under, first, Canon John Thompson, then Fr Edward McBride, and finally Fr Norman Smith, during which time he re-formed the 12th Ipswich Scout Group.

"How even to begin to recount the countless thousands of kindnesses and amusing anecdotes? Stories abound about railways, boating,

scouting, pubs, Tavern Evenings, and roundabouts. His quirky ways will be remembered by many, and for years to come."

"Sam had a strong faith which led him to be totally committed to his parishioners," remembers Fr Pat Cleary, "especially those less fortunate. Those who were sick were always well looked after as well as those who sought his wise council. He was always generous, perhaps over generous to people at the door looking for help.

"Had it not been for Sam I doubt I'd be a priest today, so I owe him a lot, I'm sure many would say the same for a variety of reasons."

At the time of his retirement Fr Leeder said: "I have had a great life. People have been so kind to me. I shall leave St Pancras with many happy memories and warm feelings as a result of the support that I have enjoyed from parishioners."

"He was reluctant to retire," writes Stephen Griggs, who served as parish chairman for many years. "I recall him saying he would have been happy to leave St Pancras when they carry me out in a box. He possessed an ability to uphold the teachings of the Catholic faith without being judgemental and exuded unlimited compassion. Never fearful of mixing with the secular world, he was well known in the world of sailing on the Deben."

"Fr Leeder was a real role model," writes Julian Wong. "He kept the church open all the time. I went there to pray a lot, and that was how I became a Catholic."

"Many people in the town will remember him," writes Stephen Donaghy. "His good humour and twinkling smile. May he rest in peace."

A requiem Mass for Fr Leeder was celebrated on February 16 at St Pancras in Ipswich.



Fr Francis Leeder with his retirement cakes in 2019.

Sr Letizia honoured for a life of service



Sr Letizia with Bishop Alan at the award ceremony.

Bishop Alan Hopes has awarded the long-serving, Peterborough-based, Italian missionary Sr Letizia Conati with a Diocesan Medal for her exemplary life.

■ "Sr Letizia arrived in England for the first time in 1963 at the age of 24," writes Fr Adam Sowa, "having just entered the Congregation of the Working Sisters of the Holy House of Nazareth.

"After 55 years of missionary work among us, she has returned to the Mother House of the Working Sisters in Botticino (Brescia), in Northern Italy where their Order was originally founded."

In 1966 she made her First Religious Profession in Italy and continued to study there for a further two years. When she returned to England, she joined the Peterborough Mission and remained there for 11 years.

She then went back to Italy again for another three years, after which she returned to England, this time in the Bedford Mission, carrying out her service for 15 years.

From the very beginning of her time in England she worked in a day nursery and continued to do so for over 35 years. The nursery school was open from 6am to 6pm, in order to accommodate the children of parents who worked in the local factories.

In addition to her working week, Sr Letizia collaborated closely with the Scalabrinian Fathers carrying out pastoral care duties on different fronts: catechesis, meetings and prayer groups with young people, preparation for the various sacraments, visits to families, organising and supporting of Masses in various cities around England. Every Sunday or at least

once a month, the sisters travelled for hours to reach smaller Italian communities, for example in Ipswich, in order to celebrate Mass with them.

There was no shortage of moments of celebration, which the sisters were willing to join in: sharing moments of joy with families who celebrated weddings, baptisms and other joyful occasions. In the same way, sharing moments of pain and mourning.

In 1999, after the closure of the Community of Bedford, Sr Letizia moved to the community in Peterborough and worked for a short time in a factory, and then at St Joseph Day Nursery until her retirement in 2009.

However, she didn't stop being of service to the Italian community, especially as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, reaching out to the elderly and the sick, the house-bound and as a volunteer chaplain at the Peterborough hospital.

In the small community of Gladstone Street, she was a welcoming presence, both for those who knocked on the door to greet her or sought support and comfort in her and ask for advice; and for young people and friends who came from Italy to study English and learn about the English culture. For her community sisters, she was a point of reference and a testimony of life given with simplicity, humility and love.

Bishop Alan awarded Sr Letizia with the Diocesan Medal in November 2021 at St Peters and All Souls Peterborough.

"It was, without a single doubt, wholly deserved," says Fr Adam Sowa. "She has always been part of the Italian community and the wider community of St Peter and All Souls parish and will remain forever in their hearts and prayers."

Anita's challenge for a plastic-free Lent

Challenged by her daughter to go plastic free for Lent last year, Bury St Edmunds parishioner Anita Fildes rose to the challenge, as she explains.

■ When I asked my 15-year-old daughter, Clara, what she was going to do for Lent, she challenged me to join her in going plastic free for Lent as our family's response to the climate crisis. It was the toughest Lent ever, but really worth it! Here are some of the things that we did:

1. We found a company in Thetford that delivered milk. The company collected the bottles and recycled them. I bought whole milk and diluted it to semi-skimmed, to make it go further and minimise the extra cost.

2. I went to the local farm shop, where the fruit and vegetables are sold loose and not in plastic. This dramatically reduced the amount of recycling that we had.

3. I went to the local butcher and bought meat there. Again, we noticed a big reduction in the amount of packaging in our recycling bin. We cut down on our meat consumption to offset the extra cost as supermarket meat is cheaper on the whole.

We also checked that we did not incur any extra miles in the car by travelling to the two stores.

4. We tried taking our plastic containers to the refill shop in Bury, but the cost of refills was prohibitive. We have decided that this year we will move from using shampoo in a bottle to shampoo bars and



Clara and Anita Fildes.

from shower gel back to using soap (how novel!). This is more cost effective.

At the same time, we discovered that the Jesuits have produced a new examen which we used to try and go deeper spiritually and listen to the promptings of the spirit on how we could become more ecologically aware. It is brilliant. You can find it at: www.ecological-examen.org

It really was a commitment, as Lent should be! My daughter was willing to take up something for Lent which she was willing to give herself to, wholeheartedly.

I am delighted that the diocese has set up an environmental group and are looking at ways that they can tap into our young people and get them involved in contributing to it. They are so passionate about this issue and it is an opportunity to draw them close to our creator God.

Honoured Catenian

Liam McKenna OBE, a member of the Norwich Circle of the Catenians, and St John's Cathedral parishioner, passed away recently after a rich and varied life.

■ Liam was born in Glasgow and spent his childhood in Oban. When the family returned to Glasgow, he attended Holyrood Secondary School and then entered the Divine Missionaries in Donamon, Ireland.

After five years he took a year out to discern his future and in 1965 met Cecilia. They were married in 1967 and went on to have five children.

Liam worked for IBM for 20 years and then left to start his own business, recycling computers and telephones. His business grew, and in 1999 the Queen awarded him an OBE for his efforts.

In 2002 he retired and moved to the south of France, where the couple spent ten years.

After he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease his health began to deteriorate. He and Cecilia returned to the UK to be near family and



set up home in Norwich. He re-joined the Catenians (his previous Circle was West Surrey), enjoying the meetings. When he was no longer able to attend, he was kept up to date by Tony Baker and Philip Hoy.

He died peacefully in the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital on 11 January, having received the Sacrament and the blessing of the Church.

A Requiem Mass was held for Liam at St John's Cathedral on February 3.



Bishop encour

Around 40 Religious from around the diocese, along with friends and family, joined a Mass at St John's Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes. Eldred Willey reports.

■ The Mass took place on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (February 2), which provided the theme for Bishop Alan's homily on the offering of our lives.

"The Presentation of the Lord is an evocative feast," said Bishop Alan. "Christian tradition has enriched it with the procession of candles... This is to welcome Him into our lives in Word and Sacrament."

"Simon and Anna, two elderly people filled with the Holy Spirit and faith, received Jesus within the Temple. You are called in a special way to share in this mystery – a mystery of light and suffering, a Marian mystery. The Presentation or self-offering to the Lord is a huge witness to the world, and today you will renew this offering."

"All of us must keep our gaze fixed on the face of Jesus Christ. Without this our lives have no meaning. We all share one vocation: we are called to be holy and grow in perfection. But you have been called in a particular way."

"Your lives are to be a sign of contradiction, a sign which is so often rejected."

"Such lives are a deep offering of hope for our world today. They show up the emptiness and shallowness of today's values. Through your witness you are able to give us a glimpse of the Kingdom."

"Thank you for your faithful lives which like candles keep burning with the love of Christ, with which He calls you to Himself."

See more pictures at: flic.kr/s/aHBqjzART3



Bishop Alan with Religious from the Diocese at St John's Cathedral. Picture by Eldred Willey.

ages Religious



Pictured above is Bishop Alan with SVP Project Manager Joey Garande outside the new move-on accommodation for single homeless people in Cromer.

Bishop Alan blesses SVP house for the homeless in Cromer

Bishop Alan Hopes visited north Norfolk to bless Blessed Rosalie Rendu House, the second stage of a project for the homeless run by the St Vincent de Paul Society. Steve James reports.

■ Society Project Manager Joey Garande, assisted by caretaker Liam Peers, showed the Bishop around the house in Cromer, which had been filled within a week of opening at Christmas and is now home to six individuals.

The Bishop brought with him Canon David Paul, Dean of St John's Cathedral, who is at present opening the Cathedral as a night shelter for the street homeless, for the February 4 blessing. They were moved by the anonymous interview of a house resident who was preparing to leave after six weeks, with his life back on an even keel.

The Bishop blessed the house, including an icon of Blessed Rosalie painted and donated by Judith James. They then returned to Cromer church for refreshments and to meet conference members and guests. SVP Trustee Maurice Downey attended, along with Helen Voyce, now directing SVP social enterprise.

Since 2012, the North Norfolk Conference has been supporting street homeless people, both individuals and families in need of emergency accommodation.

The temporary loan and leasing of a house between 2014 and 2018 developed into the current Project when the SVP Society Board of Trustees approved the purchase of St Vincent's House in Sheringham.

This was commissioned in December

2019 to relieve homeless families who up to that time had to be housed in unsatisfactory conditions. For more than two years now the house has been operating continuously and sustainably at almost full occupancy and has helped more than 14 families and over 50 children live in normal safe conditions until being able to move on to a new permanent home.

Following the success of the Sheringham property, the SVP Society were able to authorise a project expansion to establish a second house, this time supporting a different category, single homeless individuals. Support needs for the single homeless can be more complex and the need for a live-in caretaker was identified.

Conference President Michael McMahon thanked Bishop Alan for a significant capital grant payment to the project from the Alive in Faith Outreach Fund and Canon David Longe, Rector of the local Matlaske Benefice (Church of England), whose parishioners have made significant donations supplementing funds from the St Joseph's, Sheringham and Sacred Heart, North Walsham parishes.

Helen Voyce confirmed that the Society had included the procurement of a third house in the new 2022/23 budget year.

Jeanne Rendu, born 1786, was a member of the Daughters of Charity and received the name Rosalie. She spent over 50 years serving God and assisting the poor in the Paris streets, risking her life on the barricades during the bloody uprisings that took place in 1830 and 1848.

She became known as the 'good mother of all', and in 1833 became the mentor to Blessed Frederic Ozanam, helping him and his friends to do good works, which is how the St Vincent de Paul Society started.

SCHOOL NEWS

Head named as building rises

Following a national recruitment process the Governing Body of the new St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School in Peterborough have announced the appointment of Mark Cooper as its first-ever Head Teacher.

■ Mark has over 10 years of Catholic senior leadership experience, seven of which have been at Sacred Heart Primary in Peterborough. During this period, as Head Teacher, he has led the school to being one of the highest achieving schools in the area.

Chair of Governors, Flavio Vettese, said: "This is a tremendous appointment for the new school, the governing body are confident that Mark will bring his expertise, knowledge and experience to grow and establish St John Henry Newman within the community and the Peterborough area."

Mark said: "Whilst I will undoubtedly miss the school community at Sacred Heart, I am very excited by the opportunity to open St John Henry Newman and grow the school into a beacon of excellent Catholic education."

Julie O'Connor, Director of Schools Services at the Diocese of East Anglia said: "This is a key milestone in the journey towards opening the first state-funded Catholic primary school in England in over 10 years. We have every confidence in Mark to succeed



in the opening of St John Henry Newman, as a school for all local children, whilst promoting a quality Catholic education."

Jonathan Lewis, Director of Education at Peterborough City Council said: "We already know of Mark's outstanding leadership following his success at Sacred Heart. A variety of stakeholders continue to work hard to deliver the first phase of the school, which will provide welcome school place capacity for the area from September 2022 onwards."

To find out more information about St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School, or to apply for your child's place to start at the school in September 2022, please visit the website: st-johnhenrynewman.org.uk

Pictured inset is new head teacher Mark Cooper and, main picture, the first modular units in place at St John Henry Newman Primary School in Peterborough.



School construction progresses

■ Construction of a new Catholic primary school in the Hampton area of Peterborough is progressing at pace, with building installation work now under way.

Work on the new St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School and Nursery in Aqua Drive, Hampton Water, started last year with staff from Eco Modular Buildings (EMB) commencing ground works and preparing foundations.

At the end of January, the first phase of installing 39 of the 109 modular sections that make up the school buildings got under way. The modules have already been constructed off-site at EMB's Lean Manufacturing Facility in Hull before being transported to Hampton Water for installation.

The modular delivery approach is the first of its kind for a Peterborough school and has many benefits including decreased

waste, a reduced site period and reduced site traffic ensuring less disruption for local residents.



The remaining building modules will be transported to the site over the coming weeks. The school is set to open in September, for nursery, reception, year 1 and 2 children in the first year. The school will cater for 630 pupils when full and will be run by the Diocese of East Anglia.

Simon Rawson, Eco Modular Buildings Ltd, Founder and CEO, said: "This is an exciting project which we have been working collaboratively with Peterborough City Council, the Diocese of East Anglia and the Department for Education over the course of 2020/21, it's exciting to be moving into the installation phase and we very much look forward to handing over a beautiful school ready for the first intake in September 2022.

We're certain the school will be enjoyed by young learners for many years to come."

Helen Bates from the Diocese of East Anglia Schools' Team, said: "As the first brand new Catholic school to be built in the country for more than 10 years, this is an important and exciting project for Catholic education nationally and we are delighted to see construction progressing. St John Henry Newman will be a Catholic school serving its local community and we very much look forward to welcoming all children to our new school in September 2022"

Councillor Lynne Ayres, Peterborough City Council's cabinet member for children's services, education, skills and the university, said: "This is a unique project which ties in with the council's bid to be carbon neutral by 2030. We're all looking forward to the school opening its doors this year."

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Unique Peterborough Mass

School students, parishioners and priests from across the Peterborough Deanery attended the unique annual Catherine of Aragon Mass at Peterborough Cathedral recently.

■ “Peterborough Cathedral is one of the only Anglican Cathedrals in the country believed to allow a public Catholic Mass to be celebrated,” writes Olivier Wessex.

“The extraordinary nature of a Catholic Mass taking place within an Anglican Cathedral was made even more extraordinary by the fact that it took place at the High Altar, which is next to the tomb of Catherine of Aragon, once Queen of England.”

The Mass was celebrated by deanery priests and led by Fr Adam Sowa. It took place on January 28 and commemorated Catherine of Aragon, who is buried at the beautiful 12th-century cathedral. Afterwards the congregation processed to the burial site of Queen Catherine and said the Angelus.

Student representatives and Chaplaincy Ambassadors from St John Fisher Catholic High School in Peterborough were among those who attended the Mass.

Catherine was born in 1485 in Spain and in 1501 married Prince Arthur, Henry VIII's older brother. Arthur, however, he died just a year later, and she went on to marry King Henry VIII in 1509.

For a long time, Henry and Catherine were deeply in love and she was married to Henry VIII for longer than all his other five marriages put together – for around 25 years. Catherine became very popular with the English people, especially in 1513 when, as Regent in Henry's absence whilst he was away

fighting in France, her forces defeated an attempted Scots invasion.

However, as she had not given Henry a surviving male heir, he tried to have their marriage annulled on the grounds that she had been married to his older brother. Eventually he split from the Catholic Church and divorced Catherine. St John Fisher was alone among the English bishops in refusing to accept the divorce and was executed.

Catherine remained a devout Catholic and after moving to different palaces finally died on January 7, 1536 and was buried at Peterborough Cathedral.

The site of Peterborough Cathedral was formerly occupied by Medeshamstede Monastery, which was destroyed by the Vikings. It was rebuilt as an Abbey in 966 and dedicated to St Peter. It flourished as a place of prayer, worship, learning, culture, wealth, and care for those in need.

“Fortunately,” writes Oliver Wessex “Peterborough Abbey managed to escape the horrors of the Reformation when King Henry VIII set about dissolving the monasteries... However, centuries of art, artefacts, architecture, stained glass, historical records and buildings were all lost. The main church only survived the Reformation due to the decision to designate it as the mother church of the Diocese of Peterborough and its consequent change in status from an abbey to a cathedral.

“Today Catharine is, sadly, often recalled as a bitter widow but this idea represents a superficial understanding of her life. In fact, Catharine dealt with much adversity whilst demonstrating immense grace and composure. She led her country to victory in a time of crisis and war, held an impressive intellect and was beloved by the English people.”



Pictured above are deanery priests at the Catherine of Aragon Mass and, left, students from the St John Fisher High School at the Mass.

Grow in confidence says Bishop Alan

Bishop Alan Hopes administering the Sacrament of the Sick at St John's Cathedral.



To mark the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Bishop Alan Hopes celebrated a Mass at St John's Cathedral with an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of the Sick.

■ Around 100 people from around the diocese joined the Mass on February 12, which was attended by a number of priests who helped Bishop Alan to administer the Sacrament of the Sick.

“We seek the prayers of Our Lady Immaculate,” said the Bishop in his homily, “and as we encounter her Son Jesus Christ we experience afresh God's mercy, which always brings healing and wholeness into our lives.

“We must become like little children again as we learn to trust in the love of God our Father. We have to expect to receive everything from God.

“And then we need to grow in confidence. However many sins we may have committed, God's love still

stretches out towards us. This confidence leads us away from any fears about the future we may have. Today is the only day we have to love God, as St Therese used to say.

“Every circumstance is to be used as an offering of love for our heavenly Father. In suffering we have a unique vocation to love God and each other. We try always to unite our sufferings with those of Jesus on the cross. Just as His sufferings redeemed the whole world, our suffering can become a source of life for others.

“May Mary, help of the sick, pray that God will touch the frailty of our lives with His healing love.”

After the Mass Deacon John Morrill from Our Lady Immaculate and St Etheldreda in Newmarket encouraged those present to join this year's pilgrimage to Lourdes, from August 19-26. Details will be going out in parish newsletters soon. “Come and be healed in body, mind and spirit,” said Deacon John.

You can see a Flickr gallery of the Mass by visiting: [flic.kr/s/aHBqizCgwX](https://www.flickr.com/photos/ahBqizCgwX/)

OBITUARIES

Courageous daughter of Jesus – Sr Monica

Tributes have been paid to Sr Monica Wyard DJ, who served as a teacher and catechist in Northampton and East Anglia Dioceses.

■ Monica was born in Hampstead on the May 26, 1931, the eldest of six children. From her parents she inherited a deep faith and a creative talent which was to influence all she undertook in later life.

Like her sisters, Monica was educated at St Joseph's Convent Grammar School in Abbey Wood, London. Much later, in 1948, she was to start her formation to become a Daughter of Jesus, and member of that Congregation founded in Brittany, to which St Joseph's school belonged.

Monica made her vows in 1950 and returned to England, to High Wycombe where she taught and continued her studies until 1956, when she was asked to join the Abbey Wood community. Here she taught Home Economics and instilled in her pupils that care and attention to detail which was a hallmark of her life.

In 1967 she had the opportunity to follow a course of studies established in England as a result of the Second Vatican Council. Sr Monica was deeply influenced by this year and her very capable skills as a teacher began to be directed towards sharing the faith she had lived with other adults and children.

By this time, 1968, she was back in High Wycombe, and began her work as a Catechist in the Northampton Diocese. She was soon recognised for her qualities and was made a Religious Education Advisor in the different parishes: giving talks, organising meetings for adults, Bible study groups and prayer groups, as well as preparing children for the sacraments.

In 1972 she moved to Chesham Bois to support the newly established provincial house and take on the work of Archivist for the Province. Two

years later she was called upon to help the Princes Risborough community where a small residential home was expanding. Here, her organisational and culinary skills were much appreciated but her evenings were still devoted to the parishes.

In 1976, the Northampton Diocese was divided to form a new Diocese of East Anglia. Sr Monica maintained all her previous contacts, and she became part of the Diocese of East Anglia in 1993 when she was asked to be responsible for the retreat house in Massingham. By this time Monica had also taken on the care of an elderly uncle.

1997 saw Sr Monica move to North Walsham and become part of the parish there – accepting a diminishment of her evening classes and travel. In 2011, she moved to Lincoln Gate in Peterborough. Sr Monica liked to be busy and soon found herself responding to many calls on her giftedness and generosity: anything from preparing children for Baptism, First Communion, advising on a liturgy, teaching English, making cakes for special occasions or a simple afternoon tea, altering a dress or pair of trousers, or making cards for a friend's celebration.

She often said: "I'd like to do more, but I don't have the breath." And it was this shortness of breath that made her call for help and subsequently accept a place in Longueville Court.

"Sr Monica was a strong-minded and forthright person," remembers Sr Mary Clare Mason DJ. "As the saying goes, she didn't suffer fools gladly, but she also had a gentle side to her character as witnessed to by so many of those who knew her."

In the few weeks she was in Longueville, Monica was peaceful and full of praise for the care she received. She appreciated the visits from the few who were allowed to see her and expressed her concern and love for the many people she'd known, and her gratitude for all the tokens of love and thanks she had received.



Open Christmas founder

Bishop Alan Hopes celebrated a requiem Mass at St Benet's in Beccles for Michael Hope who, with his wife Rosie, founded Open Christmas in Norfolk.

■ Fr Martin Gowman, parish priest of St Benet's, and other priests and deacons from the diocese, joined the Bishop for the Mass on January 26. The powerful sound of birdsong was played to the congregation during a moment of reflection – a sound Michael loved.

Michael and his wife Rosie founded Norwich Open Christmas in St Andrews Hall. It is a daytime event which provides food, company and entertainment for those who are lonely or homeless. After some years they mirrored this annual event in Great Yarmouth, and both events are still going today.

Michael Hope, 5th Baron Rankeillour, had died on January 10 after a short illness in hospital. He was born on October 21, 1940 in Malvern, Worcestershire, the eldest son of a diplomat, the Hon Richard Hope, OBE and his wife Helen. His peerage was inherited in 2006 from his cousin.

Educated by Benedictines, he attended Downside School from 1954 to 1958 and then went on to Loughborough University to study engineering. He met his future wife Rosie while working in London; they married in 1964 and lived in Cambridge, having three children, Hettie, Louisa and James.

Michael joined Pye Electronics in Cambridge and worked there for a short while before moving to IBM, where he spent the rest of his working life based in London, Welwyn and Norwich. While still working full time he set up and ran a 10-acre vineyard at Barningham Hall in rural Suffolk through the 1970s and into the 1980s.

It was after they moved to Thurton in Norfolk in 1982 that he and Rosie began running the Open Christmas initiative in Norwich. Having taken early retirement in 1992, Michael threw himself into charitable and community-based work and was for many years a trustee of St John's Cathedral, helping to oversee the planning and building of the Narthex. He was also a Trustee and Treasurer of the All Saints drop-in Centre in Norwich.

He was committed to conservation and became a board director of the Songbird Survival charity to try and arrest the staggering drop in traditional songbird numbers. He was also an active member of a number of other conservation-based charities in East Anglia, including the Kingfisher Bridge Trust.

He had a lifelong passion for fly



fishing which took him regularly to Scotland, Ireland and further afield, even as far as Alaska on occasion. Always keen to have a number of projects on the go, he expanded his skills and enjoyment of domestic carpentry to build kitchens, wardrobes and bookcases for many family members and friends.

He was by nature open and gregarious, always interested in others and would instinctively help people regardless of the cost or time it might require. He was thrilled to accept the Diocesan Medal, on behalf of his dear wife Rosie as well, in September last year, in recognition of their work in the diocese.

After Rosie died in 2019 and his mobility declined due to a painful foot condition, Michael remained stoic despite the isolation of the pandemic; but it was immensely frustrating for someone used to being so active. Whilst in hospital it was comforting for his family that Fr Alvan was able to anoint him before he died, and at a time when visits to the hospital were very limited.

Michael's lifelong friend, and fellow Old Gregorian, Donald Ogilvy Watson, together with Rosie's sister, Anji Fuller, gave wonderful tributes in their eulogies. Anji concluding with these lines of scripture: "No eye hath seen nor ear heard what God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Corinthians 2:9)

Fr Martin Gowman, parish priest of St Benet's in Beccles, writes: "Attendance at Michael's funeral surpassed all pre-pandemic levels, and it was such a privilege for so many old friends to be able to attend

the Requiem Mass celebrated by Bishop Alan. Michael was laid to rest in the churchyard of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Gillingham, in the presence of his family; his wife Rosie, who predeceased him, already has a memorial at Gillingham, and their descendants living locally will keep them in our memory.

"Michael and his wife Rosie had moved into Beccles for their final years, and the Gillingham chapel was a spiritual home to them. They had been regulars at the 8am Mass there until just five years ago, when reasons of health (and the temperature in winter) brought them to Beccles, where their newest home was just around the corner from St Benet's Minster.

"For a time that was all too short, their presence in Beccles widened the scope of our parish life through their support of local charities, and Michael's Benedictine memories. As an old boy of Downside School, Michael was able to give some moral support to the parish priest for as long as St Benet's remained in Benedictine hands.

Following Rosie's death in 2019, with his brother Simon and younger relatives, Michael remained gently stalwart as an old Gregorian family man although in declining health – supportive to friends and parish, in the company of his own closest family.

Coincidentally, his death after a mercifully short illness coincided with the closing stages of the Benedictine history of St Benet's, soon to be more fully incorporated within the Diocese of East Anglia."

Bishop's blessing in Stowmarket

At the Feast of the Holy Cross Bishop Alan Hopes blessed a copy of the San Damiano Cross in Stowmarket, along with a newly restored tabernacle.

■ Bishop Alan was in Stowmarket for the installation of the new parish priest and agreed to bless the newly acquired Sanctuary Cross and recently renovated Tabernacle at the same time.

"The Cross is most striking," writes Fr Simon Leworthy. "It is a copy of the famous Cross of San Damiano. In the late twelfth century, Our Lord spoke the words, 'Francis, rebuild my Church' to St Francis of Assisi from this Cross, and the Christian world was changed for ever."

"The Cross of San Damiano expresses the Johannine understanding of the Passion in which Jesus reigns from the Cross. Certainly, it depicts the sufferings of the Lord, but there is also the sense that He is the 'Lamb standing, as it were, slain' (Apocalypse 5: 6). Indeed, the scene depicted is such that there is a palpable expectation that the Risen One will walk out of the Cross towards the onlooker."

The Tabernacle, which was found in a cupboard, tarnished and keyless, is believed to be the one from the original church. It is very simple and solid, and the newly burnished brass door sports a classic



eucharistic symbol: a chalice surmounted by a Host. A beautifully crafted oak frame and plinth, matching the design and materials of the altar and ambo, encases and supports the Tabernacle; and seasonally coloured veils have been manufactured to cover it.

"A Tabernacle in any Catholic church is the meeting place par excellence of Christ's faithful with their Lord," comments Fr Simon.

"Well may we empathise with the sentiments of Saint Josemaria Escriva, when he counsels us not to be 'so blind or thoughtless as not to enter inside each Tabernacle when you glimpse the walls or spires of the house of God. He is waiting for you' (The Way, 269)."

Our English word 'tabernacle' originates from a Latin word for 'tent.' The tabernacle

veil expresses this: God pitching His tent among us. Such an idea harks back to the Tent of Meeting pitched whenever the Children of Israel paused on their forty-year march from the land of slavery, in Egypt, into their promised new and true home in Palestine. The Israelites pitched their own tents, and among them was set up the Tent where God was, among them: "And when Moses went forth to the tabernacle, all the people rose up, and everyone stood at the door of his pavilion.... And all saw that the pillar of the cloud stood at the door of the tabernacle. And they stood and worshipped at the door of their tents." (Exodus 33:8,10).

Hence the image used by St John in the Apocalypse, for the final consummation of the Redemption, in which God is tabernacled – tented – among humanity; with the result that, "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes: and death shall be no more, nor mourning, nor crying, nor sorrow shall be any more, for the former things are passed away.... And He that sat on the throne said: Behold, I make all things new" (Apocalypse 21:4-5).

The blessing of the cross and tabernacle took place in September 2021. "We are indeed blessed at Our Lady's, Stowmarket," concludes Fr Simon, "to have such a beautiful place in which to meet with Our Lord, in the Blessed Sacrament; a meeting encouraged by the image of the Crucified yet Risen One, who is ever poised to walk toward us from the Cross placed above our Tabernacle."

Anita's book sheds light on abortion debate

A book about respect for life, written by a parishioner from St John's Cathedral in Norwich, sheds light on the current US abortion debate recently considered by its Supreme Court.

■ The case being considered by the Supreme Court proposing restrictions to abortion in the US is currently receiving much media coverage. There is passionate debate both for and against the case, but the opponents of the proposal are the vocal majority.

One of the chapters in Anita Dowsing's book, *A Good Life-at Any Price, New Threats to Human Life in Our Times*, considers the issues in this debate from a Christian standpoint. She discusses in detail



the conflict between women's rights over their bodies and the right to life of unborn children. This book then provides accessible background material on the current debate in America and also in Britain.

Other chapters in the book cover the Embryo, Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia, Quality Control of Human Life, Legislation and Christian Teaching, Suffering and a Good Life towards an Inclusive Society.

Anita grew up in Denmark's tiny Catholic community, but has spent most of her adult life in the UK. She has worked in adult religious education within the Diocese of East Anglia and is a parishioner of the Cathedral parish of St John the Baptist.

Anita Dowsing's book - *A Good Life - at Any Price?* – is available from Gracewing at £14.99 + postage. You can also order from anita_dowsing@hotmail.com



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News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese

■ Radio Maria England is to build a new studio in London, based at the Rosary Shrine of St Dominic's Priory, between Camden and Hampstead.

The Rosary Shrine in northwest London is one of the largest churches in the capital, encompassing side chapels and altars for every Mystery of the Rosary. When it was built by the Dominicans in 1883, it was the first church in the world to have this arrangement, with the intention that it would be "worthy to mark the gratitude of the Catholics of the United Kingdom for the many blessings and graces received through Our Lady".

Fr Lawrence Lew OP, Prior and Parish Priest of St Dominic's Priory, said: "We believe that this partnership between Radio Maria and the Rosary Shrine will be a wonderful way to advance the hopes of the men and women who built St Dominic's. The Rosary Shrine church exists for the preaching of the Holy Rosary, which is a special gift of Our Lady for proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and God's saving love for all peoples.

"As the Order of Preachers, we Dominicans are delighted to support and work alongside Radio Maria in our common mission of preaching the faith for the salvation of souls, bringing the light of reason and faith to bear upon the lives of our contemporaries. I have no doubt that our parishioners and pilgrims and the local community at the Rosary Shrine will be enthusiastic about this work of evangelisation, and I know that the people of London and the wider UK will also benefit greatly from Radio Maria's programmes and activities here at the Rosary Shrine."

Charles Wilson, President of Radio Maria, said: "We at Radio Maria England (RME) are delighted to be developing our London base at St Dominic's priory and the Rosary Shrine, which is often described as 'Mary's House' in London. The presence of a broadcasting studio and offices here will not only enable the promotion of RME in London and nationally but be a physical location to grow our volunteer base in this beautiful historic shrine. I think Our Lady has called us here."

The programming of Radio Maria is based on three pillars: prayer, catechesis and human formation. It broadcasts daily Mass and spiritual content, as well as social programmes and worldwide news. Currently, collaborations with the Dominicans in Cambridge have included morning prayers, daily Mass and religious teaching programmes including topics on the Divine Office, saints and sacred scripture.

As a charity Radio Maria works with a great number of volunteers in all areas. Its volunteers assist with promotion, broadcasting, creating and presenting programmes, and praying.

Pictured above is the Radio Maria Team at the Rosary Shrine, and, right, Dominicans and visitors at the Shrine.



■ Lucy Cockaday, aged 10, from St Augustine's Catholic Primary School in Costessey, was the winner of the 'painting only' Knights of St Columba Nativity Scene Painting Competition (pictured right).

The outright provincial winning entry, which was sent to the National Final, came from Lillie Richardson, aged nine, of St Pancras Primary School, Ipswich, who included a Biblical Chapter and Verse on the reverse, pictured left.

Diocesan primary and high schools are invited to participate in the Easter Scene Painting and Prayer Competitions, and high schools in the Essay Writing Competitions. Families of individual entrants from parishes may contact Bro. Christopher Brooks, Past Provincial Grand Knight, East Anglia Province 27 on 01502 563208 or email christopherbrooks631@gmail.com.

