

OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY

The newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

FREE

May 2007



Call to be together at Walsingham

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham, described by Bishop Michael as the main event of the year alongside the Chrism Mass, is to be held on Bank Holiday Monday May 7.

The Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Beatitude Michel Sabbah, will join the pilgrims for the day, preside at the Mass with Bishop Michael and help strengthen the bonds of friendship between East Anglia and the Holy Land.

Bishop Michael said: "Can I make a very personal appeal to all to come along to the pilgrimage. Each year events are held in our diocese to bring everyone together as one diocesan family.

"To be a Christian is always to be a pilgrim, to be a member of God the Father's pilgrim people, journeying forward with the Risen Christ at our side and united with Our Lady of Walsingham and all the saints. We have moved the pilgrimage to Bank Holiday Monday so that even more people can join us no matter where you live in our far-flung diocese.

"The focus will be on our diocesan theme for the year: Mary - hearer and bearer of the Word of God. Mary lived a life of pilgrimage and now shares our pilgrim journey, praying for us and drawing us close to her son.

"His Beatitude Michel Sabbah and I will lead the pilgrimage together. Perhaps people from communities twinned with Palestinian parishes could make a special effort to be with the Patriarch on the day. "The procession along the Holy Mile will begin in front of the new Church of the Annunciation in Walsingham at 12.30pm with Mass at 3pm at the National Shrine."

Michel Sabbah was born on March 19, 1933, in Nazareth and was appointed the Latin Patriarch and Archbishop of Jerusalem by Pope John Paul II in 1987. The Hebrew Catholics and Arab Catholics of Israel, the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan and Cyprus are in his care.

Michel Sabbah began his priestly studies at the Latin Patriarchal Seminary of Beit Jala in October 1949 and was ordained a priest for the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem in June 1955.

He was a parish priest for a few years before being sent to the University of St. Joseph in Beirut to study Arabic language and literature. He worked as director of



His Beatitude Michel Sabbah

schools until the Arab-Israeli war in 1967 when Israel occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Fr Sabbah then moved to the East African nation of Djibouti to teach Arabic and Islamic studies until 1973 when he began doctoral studies in Arabic philology at the Sorbonne. In 1980, he was named President of the University of Bethlehem. In 1987, Pope John Paul II selected Father Sabbah as the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, making him the first native Palestinian in that position and the highest-ranking Roman Catholic cleric in the Holy Land.

Archbishop Sabbah has worked strongly on behalf of Christians of all denominations in the Holy Land speaking out on behalf of Palestinians or even criticizing Palestinian authorities.

Celebration of married life

Couples and families are invited to a celebration Mass for Married Life celebrated by Bishop Michael at St John's Cathedral on Saturday July 7 at 11am. There will be refreshments in the parish hall afterwards and those intending to go to the Mass are asked to contact Lorraine Brooks on 01480 455621 or lorrainebrooks@beeb.net.

Knights raise money for new high altar



The Knights of St Columba have presented a cheque for £7,000 to Fr James Walsh, the administrator of St John's Cathedral in Norwich.

At a Mass for the health of Bishop Michael in 2006, Fr James approached the then serving Provincial Grand Knight, Brother Philip Rosindale and asked if the Knights would like to be involved in providing the funds to purchase a new High Altar.

Brother Philip put the idea to councils in Province 27 East Anglia that this could be their action project for 2006/7.

Christopher Brooks organized the fundraising from personal pledges by the brothers in East Anglia, and in other areas as well as from Knights' widows who would like to have their late husband remembered in a book of recognition for the donors.

Knights are pictured here after the Chrism Mass handing over a cheque to Fr James.



A fair and market founded with a charter from Edward the Confessor has been revived in Downham Market with a blessing from Bishop Michael who is pictured above with the local community and its leaders for the reopening.

St Winnold's Fair was held for several centuries and was very popular.

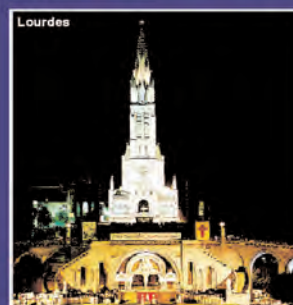
Michael Prentice from St Dominic's parish said: "There is a local connection with St Winnold. The priory at Wereham near the town was dedicated to the saint and there was a chapel to his name in the abbey of Canons at West Dereham.

"The saint himself was an abbot in Brittany of Irish descent and known for austerity and the potency of his prayers.

"He was invoked by fishermen facing storms and his feast day is March 3.

"This is reflected in the East Anglian jingle - First comes David, then comes Chad, then comes Winnold roaring like mad. The roaring refers to his reputation for calming stormy waters."

Pilgrimages for groups, families and individuals.



The Pilgrims' choice!

**Lourdes
Poland
Rome
Fatima
Medjugorje
Lisieux
Porto
Santiago
Knock
Jordan
The Holy Land**

TANGNEY TOURS
Tel: 01732 886666
Fax: 01732 886885 email: info@tangney-tours.com
Website: www.tangney-tours.com
Pilgrim House, Station Court, Borough Green, Kent, TN15 8AF

NEWS FROM BISHOP MICHAEL

A DIOCESE ON THE MOVE

As Christians we belong to God's pilgrim people, called to a life-long journey to God the Father, with the Risen Jesus walking by our side and the Holy Spirit deep within us and binding us together in unity. We are pilgrims by nature.

One of the best ways of expressing this is by going on pilgrimage, and as always during the summer there are many opportunities in East Anglia. Hopefully the sun will shine on us, but as the children often show us, pilgrimage is fun even in the rain. Please come and join us on these wonderful events if at all possible. Share cars together; book a coach – perhaps even walk!

COME AND MEET THE PATRIARCH Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham

Our main event is the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Bank Holiday Monday, 7th May. We have moved it from Sunday to Bank Holiday Monday in the hope that even more people will come and join us – from near to Walsingham, or from the far-flung fringes of our diocese (from Brantham to Clare to Buckden).

There are two things even more special than usual about this year's pilgrimage. The theme will be our diocesan theme for this year: 'Mary – hearer and bearer of the Word of God'. Mary lived a life of pilgrimage, and now shares ours, praying for us and drawing us close to her Son.



Our Lady of Palestine

The Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Beatitude Michel Sabbah, is joining us for the day. He will preside at Mass, and he and I will lead the pilgrimage together.

This is a wonderful way of strengthening the bonds of friendship between East Anglia and our twin diocese in the Holy Land. Perhaps people from parishes twinned with Palestinian parishes could make an extra special effort to be with the Patriarch on the day.

Can I make a very personal appeal to each of you to come along to this pilgrimage. This is a key moment during the year when our diocesan family comes together. It is good to be together.

The procession will begin in front of the new Church of the Annunciation in Little Walsingham at 12.30, with Mass at 3.00.

Come and walk with the Patriarch and myself. Come and celebrate Mass with our diocese, closely linked with our Christian friends in the Holy Land.

Diocesan Children's Pilgrimage

Another wonderful pilgrimage takes place on the Tuesday of half-term week: 29th May. This is our annual Children's Pilgrimage to Walsingham. The numbers have been going up each year, and it is always good to see so many of our children gathered in joyful prayer. See the posters in your church porch for more information.

Grandparents' Pilgrimage

On Saturday 21st July, the 5th annual National Grandparents' Pilgrimage takes place, again at Walsingham. It is organised around this time every year, near the feast of Jesus' grandparents, Sts Anne and Joachim. Children (and their parents) are invited to bring their grandparents to this special day, as a way of honouring grandparents who play such an important role in family life and in passing on our Catholic faith. It is very much a family occasion. At school, children are being invited to write prayers for their grandparents. Again, your parish priest will have further details.

Taizé and Lourdes

Besides our various pilgrimages to Walsingham, we also have two diocesan pilgrimages overseas this summer.

There are leaflets in every church about the Diocesan Young Adults Pilgrimage to Taizé from 21st-30th July, for those aged 21-30. You still have until the end of May to register for this.

I look forward to being with our diocesan group in Lourdes at the end of August. Last year I had to miss the pilgrimage because I was going through my month of radical radiotherapy. This year, I am leading the pilgrimage.

And besides that...

Mgr Urioste, who was Archbishop Romero's Vicar General, is preaching at the 11.00 Mass at St John's Cathedral on Sunday 20th May, which is Ascension Sunday. All are welcome.

Second Collections

There are three second collections in the next two months, although the 2nd one is optional as one way of paying the diocesan levy.

Sunday 20th May

CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

This collection supports the work of those trying to ensure that the Catholic Church appears accurately and positively in the national media.

Sunday 10th June

CATHOLIC TRUST FOR ENGLAND & WALES

This Trust brings together the old National Catholic Fund, the Catholic Media Trust, the Lisbon Trust and the Catholic Missionary Society. It enables the bishops of England and Wales to run the central administration of the Catholic Church in our country, which is at the service of the individual dioceses such as ours.

Sunday 24th June

PETER'S PENCE

As a diocese in full communion with the Bishop of Rome, we support the Holy Father and his staff in their service of the universal Church.

LEARNING TOGETHER this summer

Everyone is welcome to these study days, whether or not you are interested in gaining the Diocesan Certificate.

12th May 2007

Newmarket Parish Centre

Why have Christians persecuted one another so much?

Deacon John Morrill, Professor of British and Irish History at Cambridge University, will help answer a troubling question of Christian history.

26th May 2007

Wymondham Parish Hall

Norfolk Training Day for Readers

Fr David Ward leads the last of three regional days, each aimed at enhancing and enriching the ministry of those who read the Scriptures at Mass. Readers from other counties who missed their local regional day are warmly welcome.

23rd June 2007

St Thomas More School, Peterborough

Christian & Muslim neighbours: what can we do together?

No-one can fail to notice that Muslims now play a vital part in our society. There are around 1.6 million Muslims in the United Kingdom, and increasingly they are likely to be our neighbours across East Anglia. There are already five mosques in Peterborough, and a significant Muslim community in Ipswich. We know about Islam from the TV and the newspapers, and often think of Muslims simply as extremists to be feared. But what do Muslims really believe? What is the heart of their faith and spirituality? And what might Catholics and Muslims have in common, and be able to do together? Bishop Michael is one of four Christian co-presidents of the Christian-Muslim Forum established in January 2006 by the Archbishop of Canterbury; he will lead this day with Dr Musharraf Hussain, one of the Muslim co-presidents.

You can register for each module by e-mailing: learning.together@yahoo.co.uk

or by going to the 'Adult Education' pages on our diocesan website, or by writing to:

Diocesan Learning Together Programme, Parish Office, 14 Exeter Road, Newmarket CB8 8LT

All modules are on Saturdays, with registration and coffee at 10.30 and finishing at 3.00. Bring your own packed lunch. Donations to cover costs will be welcome.

And the Bishop's still moving...

I am so very grateful for all your prayers. The hospital seemed reasonably happy after my last blood test, although various significant side-effects of the radiotherapy continue. I was warned that the aggressive nature of my cancer would always carry the danger of 'secondaries' at some stage, but there is little point worrying about that for now. I get very little sleep each night, sometimes none. The ongoing treatment and lack of sleep, along with the long-term effects of last August's radical radiotherapy, often leave me with little energy, and so I apologise if I am not always as focused as I would like to be. So please keep up the prayers!

+ Michael

Tribute to anointed people in diocese

About 1,200 people from parishes across East Anglia came to the Chrism Mass on the Wednesday of Holy Week to take part in a service of re-dedication.

Bishop Michael invited priests, deacons and the people of the

diocese to renew their commitment to the faith and to each other.

The Holy Oils to be used in parishes were also blessed and distributed. Bishop Michael paid tribute to the diocesan family as a people consecrated to God and deeply anointed with the Holy Spirit.

He also described the characteristics of the Holy Oils.

The Oil of Catechumens used at Baptism to give the strength and wisdom of God to live an anointed life.

The Oil of the Sick is used in important ministry of healing.

Chrism is used for those anointed for the mission of God to go out into the world to spread the Good News and was employed in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders.



Patrick Limacher and Alan McMahon with Bishop Michael



Deacons renewed their commitment



People came from parishes across the Diocese of East Anglia



Every seat was taken at the Chrism Mass

Welcome for those coming into full communion

More than 100 catechumens and candidates with their families came to St John's Cathedral on the first Sunday in Lent to begin the last stage of their journey to become full members of the Catholic Church in East Anglia. Bishop Michael paid tribute to

them celebrating another step on their journey to enter more fully into the Life of Christ.

He said that just as Jesus prayed for 40 days in the desert preparing for his ministry they would spend six weeks of Lent on a journey that would see

them celebrating the Resurrection and receiving an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to give them strength.

"The Holy Spirit will give your lips strength to confess that Jesus is Lord and has risen from the dead."



Catechumens and Candidates with families and friends came to St John's Cathedral on the first Sunday in Lent to begin the last part of their journey to full communion with the Church.



The Easter garden in St John's Cathedral in Norwich created every year by Bettina Batten has become a place of quiet reflection for parishioners and visitors alike.



DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS



The choir and 'Red Hot' recorder group from St Martha's Catholic Primary School, King's Lynn, getting ready for a joint schools music festival at the King's Lynn Corn Exchange on Tuesday 13 March. The concert was organised by a celebrated local musician Derick Oldfield together with the Rotary club. St Martha's made their debut appearance this year.

Sacred Heart's success with a 'green' initiative

An Eco-Action curriculum is under way at the Sacred Heart Primary School, Peterborough, despite the demands of general school life and government initiatives.

The school decided that whatever was put into place must be a development of the curriculum, advantageous to all our children and innovative.

They appointed Nicola Ward as Eco leader and went into partnership with Stibbington, a local environmental centre, and aim to become holders of the coveted Green Flag award by 2008 - they have already reached Bronze status.

The work is integrated into as many areas of the curriculum and daily life as possible.

A survey of children in January found that 72% said that their work on caring for the environment had changed attitudes and life styles at home.

The school purchases recycled paper for office use. All rooms have paper recycling bins which are emptied each day.

The 'Compo club' a group of dedicated children, collect fruit and veg. left overs, tea bags and pencil sharpenings every day and this is composted.

Year 5 / 6 children are 'Power Rangers' and they audit use of electricity in every room, at the end of each day.

Every child is a member of a "garden gang" led by teachers, teaching assistants and office staff.



Children at the Sacred Heart School in Peterborough with some of the produce from the Eco-Action initiative.

Parents, children and staff form an Eco- committee, who meet regularly to take us on further towards the goal of flying the Green Flag.

Marking their 40th anniversary

St Benedict's School in Bury St Edmund's is 40 years old in 2007 and hopes to celebrate by revitalizing its commitment to its motto "effective Christians for the modern world".

To mark the achievement the school is responding to the national *Livesimply* and Sustainable Schools campaigns through its curriculum.

Many students have made individual *Livesimply* pledges and the sixth-form is in discussions with St Edmundsbury Borough Council about initiating a recycling scheme in the school.

For the first major project Year 10 students participated in an Enterprise Day on Friday, 9 February. They worked closely with staff from CAFOD, who provided the product brief and judged the final products and 'sales' presentations. The winning products are to be mass

produced and sold at the CAFOD shop at the National Shrine in Walsingham, to raise funds for CAFOD Projects in Africa.

John Malley the regional Cafod Diocesan Manager commented- "It is wonderful to be giving the young people the opportunity to use their skills and creativity to help the world's poor in a very practical way".

In March the school received a visit from his Grace, Rt Rev Ignatius Ayau Kaigama, Archbishop of Jos, Nigeria. The archbishop was in England at the invitation of CAFOD to promote the *Livesimply* message.

Archbishop Ignatius presided at a Mass of celebration to mark the school's 40th anniversary and the launch of the Lenten Alms Week.

This year forms part of the school's commitment to *Livesimply*. Also celebrating at the mass were the three chaplains Fr Gerry, Fr Ivan and Fr Martin.



The Archbishop celebrated Mass to mark the school's 40th anniversary.

St Edmund's to mark 125th anniversary

St Edmund's Catholic Primary School, Bury St Edmunds, will be celebrating its 125th Anniversary this year.

The governors invite past pupils and staff to join the celebration at a Mass of Thanksgiving on Tuesday 5 June at St Edmunds King and Martyr Catholic Church, Bury St Edmunds, at 7pm and afterwards for refreshments in the school.

We are keen to have the memories and experiences of as many past pupils and staff as possible, so please post your memories on our school website www.st-edmunds.suffolk.sch.uk.

To commemorate the event we have commissioned a statue of St Edmund to be carved by a local artist.

A gazebo is also being erected in the school grounds for the children to use at playtimes.

If you would like to contribute to these projects donations can be made payable to Suffolk County Council and sent to St Edmund's Catholic Primary School, Westgate St, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1QG.



Two pupils, Grace and Jacob pictured above, acted as war correspondents describing a day from the 1939-45 conflict acted out at St Thomas More School in Norwich and this is part of their report. "The day began with preparation of everyone's gas mask boxes made of shoe boxes.

"All the classes in Year 6, dressed in their World War II costumes, congregated in the school hall carrying their identity cards.

"We met Mr Orr our guide through the war. He was a radio presenter and played us recordings of speeches and various events (including sirens) and told us true stories of the times of woe.

In the afternoon we tried Morse Code and short wave radio before going home and telling our families of a great day.

From October 2007 - June 2008

Youth Ministry Team

We are now looking for people aged 18-29 to join the new full-time Youth Ministry Team in the Diocese of East Anglia

Sharing the Gospel Message with Young People
through music, drama, multimedia presentation and other contemporary ways of communicating

make a difference

Ideal as 'gap' year after school or university or between jobs



Young people in years 7,8, 9 and 10 enjoyed the 'Ice Experience' in Norwich, a rink that has only been open since December, with Bishop Michael. Although not full size, it's a great rink and the warmth of the welcome could have been enough to melt the ice! Including some parents and youth leaders, over 80 people came. It was an opportunity to meet each other and Bishop Michael in an informal atmosphere as well enjoy refreshments from the various food outlets, and, of course, impress each other with their skating!

Key Events 2007

May 26th	Mass for all those recently confirmed and going to be confirmed On the eve of Pentecost. A special Mass held in St John's Cathedral
June 1st	Trip to Amusement Park On the Friday of half-term
June 24th	Hobble with the Bishop Annual sponsored walk through Thetford Forest ending with Mass and a barbecue. For all of secondary school age.
July 15th	The Big One 2007 A main event for all young people of secondary school age. Interdeanery competitive games, music, Mass, food and much more.
July 21st - 30th	Taizé Pilgrimage Join Bishop Michael on this annual Diocesan Pilgrimage. For those aged 17 - 29.
Sept 10th - 17th	Pilgrimage to the Holy Land for young people Walk in the footsteps of Jesus and share in the life of the Palestinian people for a week. For those age 18+

Please contact the Diocesan Youth Office for further information.

YOUTH MATTERS (Oh Yes We Do!)

OLEM group explains how they started out

The "7-2-9" started in OLEM nearly six years ago. Rosemary Boyle, one of the founder members describes how and why it started, and how it has developed.

Back in 2001 a few people got together with our parish priest Fr Tony Rogers, to see if we could provide something in the parish for young people of secondary school age.

We felt that our youngsters needed a stronger sense of their identity as young Catholics and to know that the Church cared about them.

Young Catholics can feel quite isolated at school, particularly if religious and moral issues are discussed in a strictly secular way. Frequently they are in a minority of one in any discussion.

We decided to start with a programme of social events and so a small group of parents and volunteers began the 7-2-9 Group. Initially the group was just for people in years 7 to 9 of secondary school and met between 7 and 9.30 one Saturday a month: The "7-2-9" group.

As the older members in the initial group grew older, so did the group. In 2005 some of the founder members graduated, aged 18 to go to university. And so now it was time to re-launch the group and time for a new name to reflect the wide age range, which seems to have worked in our parish: "7up".

Participants have come from 9 different schools and we have about 30 members on our list at any time. Normally about 10-12 come to a meeting but sometimes more than 20.

Half our events are low cost based around the Rectory but we also do away events. These have included paint balling, go-karting and a trip to Thorpe Park. We have also had the occasional evening having Mass and eating pizza with Bishop Michael.

For the past few years we have done a weekend away, which we have tried to base at a religious foundation. These have included social activities but recently we have given the weekend away a 'retreat' focus.

We have stayed in the grounds of Hengrave Hall, Ampleforth and Turvey Abbey and for the last two years, Worth Abbey, the setting of the BBC programme 'The Monastery'.

It was worth it
Gerry, one of the young people from



The young people from OLEM at Worth Abbey

the 7up group shares some of the highlights from this year's retreat at Worth Abbey.

On Friday the 23rd March 7up went on a retreat to Worth Abbey. It was a very enjoyable experience, and on behalf of the group, I am going to tell you a few highlights!

On Friday evening we arrived, ate and then played some group games. That evening we were also introduced to Hamish MacQueen, who told us some of his life story and what he had struggled through that brought him closer to God.

This was very interesting as many of us were able to relate to Hamish. Afterwards, we went down to the empty church and lay on the floor, whilst Father Tony played music and prayed. It was very peaceful and calming.

On Saturday many of us woke very early (6.00AM!!!) to attend the optional prayer which we were recommended to attend. That day we also met Steve Murray who is a famous Christian mime artist, who has gone around to various countries and performed some of the mimes that he showed us! They were very good and moving.

We also went on a walk where we had a photo competition of various things that we saw on the walk.

Later in the afternoon one of the monks, Fr Stephen, came to talk to us and gave us the opportunity to ask questions.

That evening we went back to the church and had a relaxing prayer time before we went to bed.

The Trip also included many other enjoyable events, like the team games and competitions. We never knew that people we hardly knew from the beginning could become such a tight friendly group. It was very relaxing and a great learning experience and I enjoyed it very much!

Call to camps

Thirty children aged between 8 and 14 years gathered at Eccles Hall school, where they enjoyed fun, faith, friendship, and food.

Comments included: "My brother Joel and I went along and had a fantastic time. As well as lots of games and adventure, we learned a lot about our faith through prayers, music and discussions. I really enjoyed Saturday night's talent show, as it had some great acts. At the end, a helper called Hamish played songs on his guitar and we rounded the evening up with a disco. I would really recommend a camp like this to anyone who wants to have fun and make friends - give it a go, it's worth it!"

Dates are August 24th—27th. Please see application forms in all Parishes and get your name down soon!

The diocese is looking for people to join full-time Youth Team.

Hamish MacQueen asks: "Are you bored with your job or want to do something different? Or are you about to leave school or university and interested in Youth Work as a career and aged 18-30?"

"If the answer to any of these questions is 'Yes' you may think about joining the new Diocesan Youth Ministry Team for a year. The team will come together next October 2007 and after two months of training will spend the next seven months working with young people, mainly in the diocese.

"Whatever gifts team members bring to the team such as music or drama, they will have an opportunity to develop these and use them to communicate the Gospel Message.

"One of the strengths of this is that it will be young people sharing their faith with other young people in a relevant way they can relate to.

"Training in youth work, evangelisation and communication skills will be provided along with board and lodging. Team members will also receive a monthly allowance."

If you would like more information, please contact Hamish in the Diocesan Youth Office as soon as possible as places are limited.

BISHOP'S TRAVELS: THROUGH THE WALL

East Anglia is twinned with two dioceses overseas: the Apostolic Prefecture of Battambang in Cambodia, and the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. I hope to visit each of them every two years, to show our support and solidarity. This February it was the turn of the Holy Land to endure a visit from me, accompanied by Fr Paul Maddison ('Abouna Paul' as he is known there) from St Ives who coordinates our links with the Latin Patriarchate.

Let me first thank you all for your extraordinary generosity over the last three years: through the diocese and your parishes, you have given about £100,000 to the Holy Land and at least £80,000 to Battambang in Cambodia. That has made an enormous difference to the lives of many people.

Jerusalem Jam

Fr Paul and I arrived in Jerusalem on Thursday 1st February. The only major hassle on the way from Tel Aviv airport was a traffic jam in Jerusalem itself. We were given a warm welcome by the Latin Patriarch, His Beatitude Michel Sabbah, our host during our six-day visit.

Overnight, the latest round of civil war in Gaza began, with Hamas and Fatah killing each other on the streets of Gaza City. We already knew that our proposed visit to Gaza on Sunday was under threat.

Bethlehem: a people walled in

Friday was spent in Bethlehem, a not-so-little town now surrounded by the Israeli 'security wall' or 'separation barrier'. Anyone going into Bethlehem is greeted by the notice below: somehow the words and the wall do not fit together!



After a quick visit to the Latin Patriarch's Director of Schools, Bethlehem University was our first stop. A group of Christian and Muslim students welcomed us, and shared their experiences of life behind the wall.

Access to the university from outside Bethlehem is now increasingly difficult, and there are few jobs for students once they graduate. There seems to be no long-term strategy for the future of Bethlehem. Students told me of their experiences of harassment and violence at the Israeli checkpoints.

I celebrated Mass with about 80 students and staff at the university (it was the Feast of Candlemas), and then had an excellent lunch cooked by students from the catering school.



Bishop Michael with Sister Sophie

From there we went to visit Sr Sophie, whose orphanage we supported as a diocesan project in 2005. She sends her heartfelt thanks. As she said, our friendship and love means even more to them than the money.

From the beautiful caring work of Sr Sophie, we then went to see the 30-foot high Israeli security wall which is strangling Bethlehem's life. It cuts people off from their olive groves and agricultural land, goes through back gardens, and divides people from one another.



Bethlehem hemmed in by the wall behind it

There is a strong sense of lack of hope in Bethlehem and in other Palestinian communities. And yet great work continues in the midst of this gloom. We visited the Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation, which gets support from CAFOD. The director appealed for more support from Christians for Bethlehem and its people. The Mayor of Bethlehem had the same message.

He gave us a warm welcome, but stressed how much Bethlehem needs Christian pilgrims, pilgrims who stay in Bethlehem's hotels for a few days and spend money there rather than simply rush in and out as tourists.

Our last visit was to the seminary at Beit Jala. We are hoping to arrange for seminarian 'exchanges', with our own seminary students spending time there and their students here.



Bishop Michael with students at the university

Meanwhile, the gun battles in Gaza had been going on all day. 20 people had been killed, and over a 100 injured. As one Palestinian spokeswoman put it, the violence was 'raging and rising'.

Off on tour

Saturday was spent visiting some of the parishes and schools twinned with East Anglia, beginning and ending in Ramallah, the *ad hoc* capital of the West Bank. After a quick visit to the Latin Patriarchate school in Ramallah, we went onto the school in Ain Arik, twinned with St Edmund's School in Bury St Edmund's. There are 160 children, 65% Muslim. Some teachers from St Edmund's visited there last year. The Church of the Annunciation at Ain Arik, next to the school, is one of the most beautifully simple churches I have seen.



Children at Ain Arik school

From Ain Arik we went onto Bir Zeit, twinned with Our Lady and English Martyrs in Cambridge. There we toured the Latin Patriarchate school which is linked with St Bede's Inter-Church School in Cambridge. Some Year 10 students put on a drama about the effects of the wall. The parish priest, Fr Aziz, is coordinating the Palestinian group going to World Youth Day in Sydney next year, and we will make sure our groups meet up in Sydney, hopefully with the Cambodian group as well.



Drama group at Bir Zeit School

After lunch (with plenty of chillies provided which came nowhere near defeating my palate!) we walked around the town, and visiting three homes. In one house, we saw the continued violence in Gaza on TV.

Finally, it was back to Ramallah for Mass with the parish priest, Fr Aktham, and I presiding together in a mixture of Arabic and English. The people stayed for coffee afterwards, and shared their stories of life in Ramallah. One woman said: 'There is no hope here any more'. The visit ended with a wonderful supper, and another attempt to provide chillies too hot for me to eat ended in defeat for my hosts!

During supper, we had phone conversations about the next day's planned trip to Gaza. I was meant to be going to celebrate Mass, and visit the school and parish. Very sadly, we decided this had to be cancelled.



Bishop Michael with the Mayor of Bethlehem

The Palestinian police had been going to escort me into Gaza City, but their own police cars were being shot at, and they themselves would be in further danger if I came.

So it was back to Jerusalem, to decide on an alternative programme for Sunday.

The BBC World and CNN news reports on TV that evening were rather strange! East Anglia was the top news item on both, despite the violence in Gaza and yet more devastating flooding in Indonesia. Why? Bird flu had broken out near Lowestoft!

Sunday in Jifna

The Patriarch was going to Jifna on Sunday to bless and open the renovated church there, and so instead of going to Gaza we joined the Patriarch for Mass and a celebratory meal afterwards for the whole community.

Later, I had a chance to go and spend some quiet time in the Holy Sepulchre Church, and arrived just as two different groups (one Catholic, the other Orthodox) emerged for evening prayer, each seemingly (or rather, unseemingly) trying to out-sing the other.

Jenin and Zababdeh

Our last full day was spent back out on the road, visiting two parishes in the northern part of the West Bank. First to Jenin, where we were greeted by 80 kindergarten children waving balloons enthusiastically. Our diocesan project for 2006 had been to pay for the furnishing of the parish hall, including fitting out a stage, kitchen and some guest rooms. The children danced and sang for us, before we moved onto coffee with the parish priest, Fr Alphonse, and some parishioners.

The church itself is too small for the community of about 40 Catholic families, and needs expanding, but the hall is a wonderful asset for the parish, used on weekdays by the kindergarten. Jenin has the same problems as so many Palestinian towns, especially the lack of jobs. They need more wells.

Next to Zababdeh, twinned with the Coastal deanery. We had a good tour of the school, followed by lunch with Fr Ibrahim the parish priest. Jenin and Zababdeh are the only towns in the north with Christian majorities. In the school, Christians and Muslims have their own religion classes, but also times together to help mutual understanding.

About in Aboud

Our final day started with a morning in Aboud, closely linked with St Ives parish. I was welcomed at the church door and blessed the people, who then gathered in the church hall for coffee and a presentation. Year 7 children sang and danced for us, and then we toured the school.

One of the most depressing sights at Aboud is the building of part of the security wall to 'protect' a local Israeli settlement. This has involved destroying hundreds of Palestinian olive trees, cutting the people off from their livelihoods and their symbol of pride and dignity. This is something taking place wherever the wall is being built. Although the Israelis have every right to safety from violence, the wall can only lead to further years of tension, injustice and lack of reconciliation.

But despite the deeply depressing aspects of daily life in Palestine, there are also many signs of hope. Christians and Muslims, and Greek Orthodox and Latin Catholics, live together and work together well in many places. If the Holy Land is to have a peaceful and fruitful future, this must include the Jews as well.

Fr Martin Hardy in Peru



Where Fr Martin Hardy is working

Starting out in a new parish

Receiving an appointment to a parish has been quite a different experience to anything previous in my ministry.

Firstly, the variety of different places from the high Andes to the coastal desert has given me much to think about and reflect on. And secondly, beginning work in a parish can also mean beginning from scratch, that is to say there's no house to move into and much infrastructure lacking in terms of church and space for meeting.

The latter is what I shall be doing in San Juan de Lurigancho, working closely with a Peruvian priest for the coming months.

San Juan de Lurigancho lies to the east of Lima in the Diocese of Chosica. In 1940 there were 1,036 inhabitants, in 1961 that had risen to 9,456. By 1986 the figure was 447,928 and in 1997, 676,795.

No doubt the figure 10 years on is much higher still, some say approaching one million. People are still desperately trying to find work in Lima and here is one of the places to start out if you have little or no money.

These are just some statistics about San Juan de Lurigancho: 35% are under 15 years old, 27% are chronically undernourished by UN standards, 22% are without electricity, 30% are lacking water, 13% have no drainage in their homes, 9% have no amenities whatsoever, 22% have just one room in the house, 34% of homes are so simple that they only have an earthen floor... The list can go on but the picture of poverty is clear.

Where the St James Society will begin to work will have even higher rates of poverty as the parish will be where people are still moving into makeshift housing, rather than the now more established areas which at least boast better basic amenities even if conditions are still tough.

At first glance at this area you would wonder how can people still be moving into this place, but the barren hills here which have long been too inhospitable are now the only option and houses are springing up perched on the hillsides.

For these coming months I am glad to be working alongside Fr Jorge Alvarez a well respected priest in this City and a great champion of justice and rights for the poor of Peru. The plan will then be to form a new parish with two St James priests working together. I'm sure I'm just at the beginning of a very steep learning curve!

+ Michael

OUR PROJECT FOR 2007

Our diocesan project for 2007 is to help re-roof the church at Zababdeh. The parish is twinned with the Coastal Deanery, which has its own project there. The cost will be £12,000, and we already have £3,000 towards it.

Roofing Zababdeh would you like to help?

Would you like to support our 2007 project in Palestine, helping to re-roof the church in Zababdeh? Cheques should be made payable to the 'RC Diocese of East Anglia'. Anything you send will be warmly welcome.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Postcode.....

Amount enclosed.....

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 tax or capital gains tax equal to any tax claimed.

Signed.....

Date.....

Please send to:

Bishop Michael, 'Zababdeh Roof', 21 Ugate,
Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7SH
Registered charity no. 278742



CATHEDRAL FOCUS

NEWS FROM OUR MOTHER CHURCH

Invitation to family day at St John's Cathedral in August

On Saturday 4 August, Bishop Michael and Father James, the Cathedral Dean, invite all the people in the Diocese of East Anglia to a **Family Day at the Cathedral.**

There will be a family Mass at 12 noon followed by a picnic lunch and entertainment in the Cathedral garden.

After lunch there will be children's tours of the Cathedral and the opportunity for those able to climb the hundreds of twisty stairs and with a head for heights to go up to the top of the Cathedral tower and see for miles around.

Children are always welcome at the Cathedral and this is a day when we would like many more of them from around the Diocese to come and meet Bishop Michael and to get to know their Cathedral.

Naomi Perowne at the Cathedral said: "We would like to get an idea of numbers, particularly for car parking."

"Anyone who wants to join in the fun and who would like a pass for the car park should either email us or write."

The contacts are development@stjohnscathedral.co.uk or write to 'Family Day', Development Office, Cathedral House, Unthank Road, NORWICH NR2 2PA or telephone 01603 615288, leaving their contact details.

A poster has been circulated to parishes.



A view from the Cathedral Tower that people attending the day can enjoy

Tickets for Oxborough available

Tickets are going well for the Oxborough Hall Dinner on Friday 29 June, by kind permission of Henry and Mary Bedingfeld and the National Trust.

The guest speaker will be the Rt. Hon. Ann Widdecombe MP.

At the time of going to press there are still some tickets to be had.

Please telephone 01603 615288 for further information.

In the last edition, the date of the Swingle Singers' Concert, pictured below, at St John's Cathedral was incorrect – it will take place on Friday 20 July at 7.30pm and not on 30th July as previously stated. Tickets are on sale now, through the Norwich Theatre Royal Box Office, telephone 01603 630000.



An inquiry from Germany for a photograph of the Queen of Sheba panel in the Ladies Window in the North Transept of St John's Cathedral brought an insight into the Biblical and other stories revealed in its detail. This is the panel of interest to Axel von Bloemberg who said it was a treasure for his collection. It shows the Queen of Sheba being led away from the Court of King Solomon by a page carrying exotic gifts. There is also a depiction of the Judith story and Our Lady in the stained glass window. It is worth a look.



To get in touch with the editor Patrick Byrne the details are listed below.

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News from Around the Diocese

Age Concern date

Bishop Michael is to preach at Norwich's Anglican Cathedral at a service to celebrate Age Concern Norfolk's 60th anniversary on Monday 14 May 2007 at 2.30pm. The service is organised in partnership with the local branch of the Christian Council on Ageing, who are celebrating their 25th anniversary.

Age Concern Norwich said it was the 36th service arranged at Norwich Cathedral and is part of a programme of events the charity has prepared to mark its 60th anniversary.

Eight remaining founding organisations of the charity will be invited to light a candle in a ceremony during the service to

symbolise the long-term relationship with Age Concern Norfolk.

The Norfolk Millennium Male Voice Choir will take part in the service followed by refreshments in the Cathedral and an informal discussion led by Mannes Tidmarsh of the Christian Council on Ageing.



Catholic Women's League members are pictured at the new church of the Annunciation at Walsingham. They had a quiet day there on March 31 led by Fr Michael Rear using the Annunciation as their main theme.

Alison Love said: "I could not resist taking this picture as the window and the cross are stunning."

Youth picture competition

The Diocesan Youth Services are running a photography competition to raise awareness of World Youth Day 2008 and to aid with fundraising for the young people planning to go.

With enough good quality entries the team hopes to hold an exhibition in St John's Cathedral

in Norwich, at other venues around the diocese and produce a 2008 calendar.

Anyone taking part should produce pictures within this year's Diocesan theme and images inspired by scripture.

The winning entries will be the best combination of words and

pictures using biblical texts.

Three age groups: Junior (up to 12), Secondary (13-16) and Young Adult (16+).

Leaflets have been sent out to parishes and you can contact the Youth team at the White House in Poringland - telephone 01508 494833 and leave a message.

Discussing justice for the world's poorest

Michael Prentice from St Dominic's parish in Downham Market recently gave a talk about the *Livesimply* campaign to the Church Together for King's Lynn Justice and Peace group.

He had recently attended a conference called LifeStyles at the Christian centre in Swanwick and also a meeting with Bishop Michael who gave a talk about the theology behind the *Livesimply* campaign and the encyclical letter of Pope Paul VI called *Populorum Progressio* 1967.

The group heard that the *Livesimply* campaign is supported by about 15 Christian charities but the Wall St Journal in 1967 described its inspiration Pope Paul

VI encyclical *Populorum Progressio* as "souped up Marxism".

Michael told the justice and peace group Pope Paul VI wrote of the urgency with which we should change the inequality between people in the world.

"We should enact this transformation through the practice of love for neighbour and for God's creation.

"*Populorum Progressio* leads us to share with the poor in a non-judgmental way.

"If we wish to help poor people in, for example, Africa, through the application of Christian principles, we should first try to understand African needs and

African Christian theology.

"Damage has been done in the past when people of good will have applied Western style solutions to African problems."

The LifeStyles conference was addressed by Sir John Houghton, co-chair of the Scientific Assessment Working Group of the International Panel on Climate Change.

Michael said that Sir John spoke of the challenge of global warming, climate change and sustainability which requires solutions reached through partnership between scientists, policy-makers and Christians.

He said: "The solution must be found in partnership with God."



St. John of the Cross in Aylsham and St. Helen's Hoveton joint parish recently has held an all generations catechesis day called 'Working Together' based on Cafod's 'Live Simply' theme.

Fr David Bagstaff read 1 Corinthians 12 and reflected that we are all members of one body and that everyone has a role to play when working together.

The adults then listened to a challenging talk by Sister Pat from Cambridge, while parents and children engaged in parachute games based on working together to save the world and all peoples! They are pictured above.

Everyone had opportunities to attend workshops reflecting the day's theme. Cafod's John Malley set up a 'Live Simply' display and the Walsingham Shrine Bookshop arranged for a huge selection of spiritual books.

Fr David led our celebrations and Sue Perriot read St. Theresa of Avila's prayer 'Christ has no body on earth but yours...'

The children displayed handprints asking Jesus to use their hands and there was a colourful arrangement of skeletons symbolising the mystical Body of Christ.

Mary Holmes and John Bolger lead the singing and using of shakers made in the morning.



Our Lady's church in Stowmarket held a world food day just before Lent at the town's Cedar's Hotel and more than 150 parishioners took part.

Among the dishes from more than a dozen countries, some pictured above, were delicacies from India, Poland, Zimbabwe, Ireland, USA and the British "home countries". A raffle raised £250 for CAFOD and everyone enjoyed a feast ahead of the season of fast.



Fr Bill Mason is pictured blessing a new bicycle for Regina Collander a member of the Bury St Edmunds parish who had her old one stolen. She said: "I rely very much on my bike for transport in a very busy life and Fr Bill kindly offered to bless my new one. "It's a lovely way to whizz around taking God's love with me and it shows that nothing, even a bike, is unimportant to Him."

Day of reflection on concern

The Commission for Social Concern is holding a day of prayer and reflection on the subject of parish visiting - it is called "Including everyone" - and will

be held at Southwold Catholic Church Hall on Saturday 16th June 2007 and the day will begin with Parish Mass at 10am.

BISHOP MICHAEL’S ENGAGEMENTS FOR MAY AND JUNE

MAY									
1st/2nd	British Methodist / Catholic Committee (Glasgow)	10/11th	Committee for Christian Unity, Leeds	20th	Mass at St John’s Cathedral with Mgr Urioste from El Salvador at 11.00am		John’s Cathedral at 11am		Mark’s School, Ipswich
		12th	Diocesan Council of Laity at Poringland at 11.00am		Mass at University of East Anglia	29th	Adult Confirmations Walsingham 3.00pm		16/17th Parish Visitation to Fakenham
3rd	Annual Synod of Parish Priests at Poringland at 11.00am	13th	FEPOW Service at Wymondham		Chaplaincy at 6.00pm		Diocesan Children’s Pilgrimage to Walsingham	9th	19th Christian-Muslim Forum at Church House, London
4th	Assembly and class visits at St Laurence’s School, Cambridge	14th	Age Concern Service Norwich Cathedral	22nd	Archbishop Romero Trust meeting London	31st	Visit Suffolk Show		20th Diocesan College of Consultors at Poringland
5th/6th	Parish Visitation to Beccles	15th	Talk to Young Adults Group in Norwich	23rd	Diocesan Day for Religious Poringland			10th	22nd Mass at Sacred Heart School, Swaffham
7th	(Bank Holiday Monday) Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham	16th	Hallam Ecumenical Commission Sheffield	24th	Diocesan Schools Service Commission at Poringland	JUNE		11th/12th	23rd Diocesan Certificate Day on ‘Christian-Muslim’ relations in Peterborough
		17/18th	Westminster Province Bishops overnight meeting	26th	Masses at Wayland Prison at 3pm and Pre- and Post- Confirmation Mass at Cathedral at 6.00pm (Pentecost)	1st	Youth Service Trip to Thorpe Park	13/14th	24th Hobble with the Bishop (Youth Sponsored Walk)
8th	Talk to ecumenical clergy gathering in Peterborough	18th	University of East Anglia Court 6.00pm		Confirmation Mass at Cathedral at 6.00pm (Pentecost)	2nd/3rd	Parish Visitation to Costessey	15th	25 /28th Diocesan Priests’ Retreat at Hinsley Hall, Leeds
	Confirmations at Buckden at 7.30pm	19th	Meeting of Deacons & Wives at Poringland at 11.00am	27th	Confirmations at St	5th/6th	Bishop’s Ordination Year Reunion		29th (Sts Peter & Paul)
						7th	Mass at St Edmund’s First School, Bury St Edmunds (125th anniversary)		
						8th	Bless new shrine at St		



BBC Look East recently put the spotlight on the number of new Catholics moving into East Anglia and came to film the multi-racial congregation at St Peter’s and All Souls in Peterborough. Parish priest Fr David Jennings, new Polish Priest, Fr Piotr Redlinski and Italian Deacon Claudio Chiappinelli look after a growing congregation boosted by migrant workers taking up a wide range of jobs. BBC journalist Stuart Ratcliffe is pictured here with Dr Justin Wang, newly arrived doctor from Malaysia now working in the Peterborough District Hospital. Fr David said: “All Souls, along with numerous other parishes around the diocese, have felt the effects of the influx of mainly Eastern Europeans into the Catholic communities. In All Souls there has been a 60% rise in Mass attendance with Masses now celebrated in Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Lithuanian and Malayalam (Syro Malabar Rite Catholics) as well as English.

Festival plan

Our Lady of the Annunciation parish in Poringland is holding a flower festival on the weekend of 8th, 9th and 10th June 2007. Its theme is Communications Around the World and the parish is asking flower arrangers in Norfolk and Suffolk to help out. The organisers are planning a display of arts and crafts and refreshments will be available. Anne Webster, one of the organisers, said: “We hope to finish paying for our new church building by the end of this year. It was built in 2002 and consecrated in 2003. “Fundraising started nearly 10 years ago but the end is in sight.” “If you would like to sponsor an arrangement please ring 01508 494401 or 494873 for details



Rector Selwyn Tillet invited Fr John Shannon to celebrate Mass at All Saints, Weston Longville on 19 March 2007 - probably the first time it has happened since the Reformation. The two are pictured above. The Mass was attended by parishioners from the Wensum Group of churches and from Fr. John’s own parish, Our Lady and St. Walstan in Costessey. Rev Selwyn wrote: “We are bringing the high altar forward so I can preside facing the congregation thanks to many of them having seen Fr John preside- a healthy symbol of ecumenical movement and co-operation generally!”

35 years of dinners

St Oswald’s church community in Peterborough welcomed back the parish priest who started a Christmastide lunch for its senior citizens for its 35th celebration this year. The parish conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society prepared the meal for 140 on Saturday January 20 and retired priest Fr Stephen Reith joined them. Michael Fitzgerald said: “Fr Reith intended that the parish community should celebrate the faithfulness of its senior citizens by inviting them to a lunch during Christmas. “This year they were treated to a three-course meal and entertained by the St Oswald singers.” The day was completed by a fancy cake tea, community singing and meals were sent out to the housebound. People came from many deanery parishes and the 30 helpers were also able to get a “bite to eat”, Michael said.

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