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Bishop-Elect Peter Collins, left, with Bishop Alan Hopes at the announcement. Picture by Marcin Mazur.
■ Read more about Bishop-Elect Peter on page six.

New East Anglia Bishop is named

Pope Francis has appointed Rev Canon Peter Collins, a priest of the Archdiocese of Cardiff, as the fifth Bishop of East Anglia, with an announcement made on October 11 in both Rome and Norwich. Keith Morris reports.

■ Having accepted the resignation of Bishop Alan Hopes as the fourth Bishop of East Anglia, Pope Francis, has appointed Bishop-Elect Peter as the fifth Bishop of East Anglia.

The Holy Father has appointed Bishop Alan as the Apostolic Administrator until the ordination of Bishop-elect Peter takes place on December 14.

On hearing of his appointment, Bishop-Elect Peter said: "As I emerge from the shock of hearing that the Holy Father has appointed me as a bishop, it is with sincere humility, deep trust and great hope

that I look to the future.

"As I prepare to leave the Archdiocese of Cardiff, I give thanks to Almighty God for all I have received from the community of faith that has nurtured me throughout my life. I wish to thank Archbishop Mark and Archbishop George for their consistent and enduring support.

"To God's Holy People in my new diocese – clergy, religious and laity – I offer the assurance of my prayers and ask for their prayerful support over the coming weeks as I prepare for my ordination and episcopal ministry.

"I am so grateful to Bishop Alan for the warmth of his welcome and in communion with the whole diocese I thank him for the generosity of his apostolic service over the past nine years. I will undoubtedly be drawing upon the wealth of his wisdom and experience in the days ahead.

"As I leave the mountains and valleys of the West for the expansive plains of the East, I realise that my horizons will change and that I have much to learn.

Trusting in God's grace and mercy and obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, let us discern together the pathway that awaits us and recognise that the Gospel is forever new and that the Church remains forever young."

Commenting on the appointment, Bishop Alan said: "It is a great joy for me and the Diocese that the Holy Father has appointed Bishop-elect Peter as the fifth Bishop of East Anglia. As the new bishop prepares to come and serve God's people in this diocese, he comes with great personal, pastoral and theological gifts, and with many years of dedicated service to the Church in the Archdiocese of Cardiff.

"Leaving his present roots in Wales, Bishop-elect Peter comes to this equally ancient part of the Church here in East Anglia, in which I have been privileged to serve as bishop for the last nine years.

"I pray that the Lord will strengthen and support him for his new mission. May Our Lady of Walsingham, St Felix, St Etheldreda, St Edmund and all the saints and martyrs of East Anglia pray for him."

New bishop is welcomed

■ Archbishop Mark O'Toole, Archbishop of Cardiff – Bishop of Menevia, said: "In Bishop-elect Peter, the Diocese of East Anglia receives a good and holy pastor. We are sorry to see him leave Cardiff, but he goes with our prayers, love and support. I am sure that he will be warmly welcomed; all will quickly take him to their hearts, as they come to appreciate his many generous qualities and gifts. May the Lord richly bless him, and through him, all in the Diocese, in this his new mission."

■ Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Bishops' Conference, said: "I welcome warmly the appointment of Bishop-elect Peter. The new bishop brings with him a wealth of experience both in Cardiff and in Valladolid. I am sure he will be warmly welcomed not only in his new diocese, but also in the Province of Westminster and in our Bishops' Conference. I look forward to working with him.

"At this same point, I wish to thank Bishop Alan for his tireless and dedicated leadership of his diocese – especially during these last years. He will hand over his crozier to his successor with both confidence and relief! May God bless our new Bishop Peter Collins and Bishop Alan Hopes in the years ahead."

December ordination to be broadcast live online

■ The Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-Elect Peter Collins will take place at the Cathedral Church of St John the Baptist, Norwich, on December 14, 2022 at 11.30am.

It will be an invite-only congregation and a number of tickets will be sent to all parishes and schools and other Catholic organisations across the Diocese of East Anglia.

The ordination will be broadcast live on the Diocese YouTube channel at: www.youtube.com/channel/UCp7jAV96y4v5T4s8C4aF6Eg

Will you host Mary and Joseph this Advent?

■ East Anglian parishes have been inviting people to join in the traditional Mexican Advent Posada Journey for several years reports Rebecca Bretherton.

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

Our modern day 'Posada' uses a statue of Mary and Joseph and the donkey instead of a young couple to travel from home to home.

The Posada statue of Mary and Joseph moves from house to house in the parish every night of the Advent season (starting November 27 this year). Joining the Advent Posada Journey this year will give everyone the chance to prepare for Christmas more fully; to meet new people in the parish and to catch up with folk we have missed during the last couple of years.

The Posada provides an opportunity for hospitality and a sharing of our Christian faith with family and friends. By hosting the statue we can join this simple but effective form of evangelisation.

During the pandemic, many parishes invented alternative Posada Journeys. It's time to start preparing for your 2022 Advent Posada Journey. After two years of restrictions the first task may be to dust off your parish statue. Posters and a rota and some prayers to say together are available on the evangelisation page of the diocesan website at www.rcdea.org.uk

Following the success of our 2021 Posada on social media, we will be launching another online Advent Posada Journey as December approaches.

Catholic East Anglia

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

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Articles and photographs for the next edition are very welcome and should be sent to the editor, ideally via email, by Friday December 2.

Diocese website: www.rcdea.org.uk

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Diss church celebrates its tenth anniversary

The tenth anniversary Mass, outside St Henry Morse church in Diss.



■ The Mass took place on Sunday September 11. The new church was completed in summer 2012, and replaced a smaller church which had served the parish community for many years since the 1950s.

Representatives of other churches in Diss joined the celebrations along with some former parishioners who have since moved further afield. The service was led by Parish Priest, Fr Alex Anaman, and Deacon David Croucher.

During the Mass, prayers were said for the repose of the soul of Her Majesty

A well-attended outdoor Mass was held at St Henry Morse in Diss to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the building of their church.

Queen Elizabeth II, and for King Charles III. The congregation sang the National Anthem. Refreshments were then served in the Community Room.

Fr Alex commented: "The celebration of the tenth anniversary of the church of

St Henry Morse, was to thank God as a community for how far He has brought us. It was to praise all those who contributed to this community, both living and dead, and to see what lies ahead of us in the coming years.

"It was a time also to celebrate our unity and togetherness as a Parish, in communion with our sister churches who came to support us. We also took the opportunity to honour and pray for the repose of the soul of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and for the King and the Royal Family."

Safeguarding conference in Newmarket

Replenished Life was the theme as 35 delegates from across East Anglia met in Newmarket for the annual Safeguarding Conference in September.

■ Simon and Caroline Plant from the charity Replenished Life spoke about Spiritual Abuse: Coercion and Control within a Religious Context – Recognising, Responding and Supporting Well within Healthy Cultures.

The conference took place on September 24 and looked at recent research carried out in the UK (Oakley and Humphreys 2019) which has identified the characteristics of a healthy Christian culture. These include:

- Safeguarding as a foundation and root
- Everyone is respected, valued and nurtured
- Biblical teaching guides and empowers but allows for discussion, autonomy and

From left to right, Joan Wall, Parish Safeguarding Rep from Ely, Caroline and Simon Plant from Replenished Life and Mick Thurley, Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator.



choice

■ Leadership nurtures and is nurtured. Everyone is supported, can thrive and flourish

■ Whole Life service is recognised. What happens outside of church is ministry and needs to be valued

■ There is healthy accountability in a healthy Christian culture

■ Boundaries are agreed and there is choice within accountability, relationships and arrangements

■ There is an exception here in relation to safeguarding agreements, but these should still be delivered with respect, value and nurturing

■ A healthy culture models inclusion

■ Behaviour is guided but choice is respected. The Gospel is a choice

Replenished Life aims to be the leading multi-faith and inclusive support charity for abuse and trauma within faith. The charity works to equip faith organisations to understand and develop

healthier safer cultures and to highlight the risks of belonging to an unhealthy faith culture. It offers appropriate sources of support if people do experience abuse and trauma within faith. The charity's helpline has supported 450 people in the last four years.

More details at: www.replenished.life



Pictured are the St Bernadette relics at St John's Cathedral (by Eldred Willey) and inset at OLEM (by Douwin Andre).

Thousands see St Bernadette relics

Thousands of East Anglian pilgrims have seen the relics of St Bernadette of Lourdes, who was granted visions of Our Lady, when they visited St John's Cathedral in Norwich and then OLEM in Cambridge for four days in mid October. Eldred Willey reports.

■ The relics arrived at the Cathedral in Norwich at 11.30am on Thursday October 13 and there was a full programme of events, interspersed with periods when individuals and groups could visit them.

At noon Bishop Alan Hopes was joined by the Canons of the Cathedral for a Mass to mark the arrival of the relics. Students and teachers from Notre Dame High School and St Francis Primary School in Norwich, and Sacred Heart School in Swaffham, joined several hundred other worshippers at the celebration.

Bernadette, the humble daughter of a miller, was the theme of Bishop Alan's homily. Bernadette, the saint who "teaches us that God uses the humble and the weak," and that "God calls each one of us from our mother's womb at the moment of our conception".

Our Lady revealed herself to Bernadette, Bishop Alan reminded us, "in a place where people came to collect fire-

wood – a grubby place", which was a sign that "God makes Himself known to us in unexpected situations".

"May St Bernadette... the humble girl to whom Our Lady revealed herself as the Immaculate Conception, in a place hidden and unknown, pray for us on our pilgrimage through life," concluded the Bishop.

Around 2000 people visited the relics between Thursday and Friday when they were at the Cathedral.

"The visit of the Relics of St Bernadette brought a time of particular joy, peace and prayer to our community here at St John's Cathedral for which we are very grateful," said Fr Michael Smith.

"People were able to connect with Bernadette through the nearness of her physical presence with us and we pray that the graces we have received from God during this time will bear fruit in our lives. We have much to thank God for."

Religious orders from around the Diocese were represented, and there was a stall organised by Across, providers of the Jumbulance, which helps severely disabled people to get to Lourdes.

Provost Eugène Harkness from Our Lady of the Assumption and The English Martyrs said: "The relics of St Bernadette have brought to our Diocese as a whole and to our parish in particular a sign of faith, hope and love."

"Faith, in that she was most privileged to have been given the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary and to have engaged

with the Mother of God in intimate prayer and conversation.

"Her hope was deepened by the salutation and the courtesy that Our Lady showed her by bowing to Bernadette with great dignity. She, a poor, destitute and sickly girl was given the sign of her uniqueness as a creature and the wonderment of her being.

"It was to Bernadette that the dogma of faith was acclaimed when Mary announced her identity as 'The Immaculate Conception.' All humanity fashioned in the likeness of our one true God was to be restored by the divine love of God shown in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, his Son. It is a call to all people to acknowledge the profound love that God has for each of us and to respect it from the moment of conception.

"The message of Lourdes is also one of penance for the past and an awakening of that dignity to live the life that God intends for each of us.

"It is a profound moment of healing and I believe it is that message and reality that prompted over 2,000 people to prayerfully pass by the relics of this beloved Saint: to pray, to thank, to confess, to be restored.

"It has been a most momentous experience for so many and I believe it will continue to grant blessings on all those who have come."

News of the relics arrival made local TV, radio and press news.

www.stbernadette.org.uk

news in brief

Safeguarding video released

■ Bishop Alan Hopes has recorded a short video message about the importance placed on safeguarding within the Diocese of East Anglia.

"The Diocese firmly believes that we are all a gift from God with an intrinsic right to dignity of life, respect and protection from harm," says Bishop Alan.

"We will not tolerate abuse by any Church personnel or others involved in our ministries and services. We are committed to protecting all who are involved in ministries and services, and promoting the well-being and best interests of children and vulnerable adults.

"Our Safeguarding Strategy has an over-arching principle – Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility – for me as the diocesan bishop, for our clergy and religious, and for all our volunteers who are doing such wonderful work in our communities.

"This principle serves as the foundation for all safeguarding within the Diocese. It requires all who work in the Diocese, regardless of their position, to embrace and promote safeguarding and fulfil their duty to care for others and to protect them from abuse or harm, especially children and vulnerable adults," said Bishop Alan.

You can watch the video at: www.rcdea.org.uk/safeguarding

St Francis talks

■ The Norwich Secular Franciscans are holding a series of events this autumn including talks about St Francis in St John's Cathedral.

The talks are entitled 'Who is St Francis and how does he fit into modern life?' and are being held on Friday November 4 at 7pm, repeated on Monday November 21 at 11am. Both talks will be held in Mac's Bar at Saint John's Cathedral.

An event that takes place weekly is the feeding of the homeless on a Wednesday evening undertaken by some members of the fraternity, accompanied occasionally by a couple of elderly ladies who come especially from Cromer along with their home bakes. The group is looking for new volunteers.

If you are interested contact Frances on 07484 634328 or paulapofs@gmail.com

Cantonese Mass

■ Canon Hoan Minh Nguyen will be celebrating a regular Mass in Cantonese at Our Lady of Lourdes, 135 High Street, Sawston CB22 3HJ at 2pm on Saturdays.

Upcoming dates are November 12, December 10, January 28 and February 25. The Masses will be followed by tea and an opportunity to mingle. More information from cantonmassea@gmail.com

Flats are available

■ Montana House in Great Barton, near Bury St Edmunds, currently has two flats available in Oakhampton House and one room in the Care Home.

If you or someone you know is interested in receiving supported care from the Sisters, contact Sr Thaya Moses on admin@montanacarehome

Our Lady of Fidelity

The church needs religious sisters URGENTLY to bring Christ to others by a life of prayer and service lived in the community of Ignation spirituality. Daily Mass is the centre of community life. By wearing the religious habit we are witnesses of the consecrated way of life. If you are willing to risk a little love and would like to find out how, contact Sister Bernadette. Mature vocations considered.

CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF FIDELITY

1 Our Lady's Close, Upper Norwood, London SE19 3FA Telephone 07760 297001

What to do when God says 'no'

In this month's Voice of Hope series, Fr Alvan Ibeh asks what will you do, when God says 'no' to your prayer.



■ From time to time, we find ourselves asking God for one thing or the other. Whenever we ask, the only that will make us happy is getting a positive response, a "Yes" to our request.

No matter your age, you will always want your request granted whenever you make it. Some of us do actually shy away from asking, because we don't like getting a "No" for an answer, so we will prefer dying in silence to asking and never getting what we asked for.

This itself is still not the best thing to do. The scripture says "for everyone who asks receives, he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, the door will be opened" (Matthew 7:8). This has come from Jesus Himself in the scripture and He also confirms that by saying, "And whatsoever you ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father will be glorified in the

son. If you shall ask anything in my name, I will do it" (John 14: 13-14). In 1 John 5:14, the scripture says, "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us".

So basically, we all feel great when our prayers for whatever reason, are answered. We rejoice and give praise to God for His goodness endures forever. We see ourselves as loved specially by God and are one of the luckiest people on earth. You can imagine receiving a "Yes" answer to whatever requests you make to God in prayer. That sounds great right? I believe we will all want to live in that world. But unfortunately, it never happens that way.

Now the question is, 'What will you do, when God says 'no' to your prayer. What will you do, after you prayed and believed so much for something, and that thing never happened or came through, meaning it was a 'no' answer from God?

What will you do if you prayed so fervently and passionately for the healing of someone so dear to you, who has been on their sick bed for long. You prayed all the prayers you know how to pray; you did all the Novenas for healing that you came across, you became a regular Mass attendee, booking Mass every day for this person. You asked different prayer groups and prayer warriors to be praying for this person in question, you believed so much in your heart that God must answer all these prayers. But unfortunately, one day, the news came that your cherished has sadly

passed away. This I know can be so heart-breaking and very painful to bear.

There can be other instances where we may have prayed for something important to us, believing our prayer will be answered, but we got a "No" for an answer. It felt like God completely ignored us and whatever we asked for. At such moments, we may find ourselves getting upset and asking God questions; "O Lord, how long shall I cry for help and you will not hear? Or cry out to you of violence and you will not save? (Habakkuk 1:2).

One hard truth about our Christian faith is that, there is no assurance that we will always get a "Yes" answer to all our prayers. Sometimes, God will have to give us a "No" but one thing is certain, 'His "No" is always for a reason. When He says No, it means He has a better plan for Us (Jeremiah 29:11).

When God says No, we should be aware that He is not trying to mean or to hurt us. There are lessons to be learned when He says "No". 'At times, God's answer to our desperate cries is "no"! But then we should understand that 'God knows better than we do, and His "no" is always merciful, even when it hurts' (Mary Lynn Johnson). So what exactly do you or will you do when God says "No"!

In the next edition, I will share my experience with you and I would also love to hear from you if you have received a "No" answer from God and how you handled it. Have a blessed and peaceful November.

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GAP YEAR: Residential Support Assistant (Learning Disabilities) - Ipswich



'Start dates throughout October and November 2022 for a 12-months gap year experience (6-12 months period is also an option)'
'Interviews will be held in Ipswich throughout October and November 2022'

A bit about L'Arche:

L'Arche is a network of Communities which supports adults with Learning Disabilities. Our Communities comprise of households in which people with and without Learning Disabilities live alongside one another, sharing the joys and challenges of life, and form unique friendships not often seen in wider society. L'Arche is a committed care provider that seeks to support the physical, medical, social, emotional and spiritual needs of its community members.

L'Arche Ipswich is recruiting for Gap Year adventurers to live in Community, learning care skills and sharing life with people they may not ordinarily encounter. Previous and current assistants have described the experience as life-transforming.

Learn what others had to say here: www.larche.org.uk/assistants

This opportunity is made up of Community Living activities and Personal Care tasks.

Community Living: going out for coffee | watching TV | playing games | cooking and baking | walking | eating together | Video calling friends | going shopping | assisting in a L'Arche Workshop | art classes | dance and drama activities | singing songs | household chores | community gatherings and celebrations | holidays | cinema trips | worship services/reflections

Personal Care: supporting morning and bedtime routines | administering medication | assisting with personal hygiene | supporting meal times | aiding mobility

You don't need to have prior experience to thrive in this role, we'll train you up. The main thing is that you are willing to throw yourself into Community life (which is a lot of fun!).

We think it could be a good fit for someone:

- looking for a gap year
- interested in volunteering
- exploring the charity sector
- who is unsure of their next steps, but wants to make a difference

- pursuing a career in psychology, but in need of more practical experience
- who would like space to explore personal growth and/or spirituality
- interested in the health and social care sector
- looking for a unique, hands-on experience

You will be a voluntary worker if you take part in this Gap Year opportunity, however food, accommodation and a subsistence (£309 per month) are provided. There is also the potential for retreats, holidays and reflection days.

To find out more please go to: www.larche.org.uk/assistants
To apply for the post of Live-in Assistant, please send your CV to: ipswichrecruitment@larche.org.uk



Prayer ministry needs some good listeners

The Diocese of East Anglia's Listening and Prayer Ministry is looking to recruit new helpers to assist parishioners in need of a listening ear and prayer support. Antonia Braithwaite explains.



■ Do you feel called to be a more active part of the loving face of the Church? If so, you might be interested in joining the Diocese's Listening and Prayer Ministry; a rewarding, voluntary (expenses paid) ministry within the Diocese of East Anglia. If you are a good listener, have compassion for others in their need and believe in the power of prayer to change lives, you could join our team who are already assisting parishioners in need by offering listening and prayer support.

Helpers are trained to deal with situations such as bereavement, health issues, family and relationship problems, faith issues, depression, abuse, anxieties, workplace difficulties and life problems, amongst others.

Full training and supervision will be given to enable you to identify and develop the particular gifts God has given you and to facilitate your use of them in this increasingly needed ministry.

If you feel that you may have the necessary empathy, basic skills to listen, and are in agreement with Church teaching, then please email myself, the Marriage and Family Life

Coordinator, by mid December 2022 to express your interest. You will be sent a blank CV to fill in, and a case study and questions to answer. Interviews will take place online and it is hoped that training will begin online in January 2023.

Helpers are trained to provide the ministry both live and online. Ongoing supervision will be provided throughout active ministry and opportunities provided for live team meetings, Masses and Days of Reflection.

Members of prayer groups, counsellors and those in training, those interested in counselling or who use similar skills in their work (paid or voluntary) would probably be well suited to this ministry although it is definitely not limited to these individuals.

For more information visit: www.rcdea.org.uk/diocesan-listening-and-prayer-ministry/

To apply please contact: Antonia Braithwaite mflc.eastanglia@rcdea.org.uk

Fr Alan installed as new Dean

A large congregation welcomed Fr Alan Hodgson, as the new Dean of St John's, at a Mass in the Cathedral in Norwich in September.

■ Fr Alan was ordained as a priest in St John's Cathedral in July 2019. He has served in the parishes of St Mary, Ipswich, and Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Cambridge.

Born in Cape Town, South Africa, Fr Alan is a former aircraft fitter and Operations Manager at Gatwick Airport.

As part of the ceremony, which took place on Sunday September 18, Fr Alan confirmed his belief in Scripture, the Creed and the deposit of faith transmitted through the tradition of the Church.

He then signed an oath of fidelity on the altar and received from Bishop Alan the Book of the Gospels and the Keys of the Cathedral.

In his homily, Bishop Alan said that the installation of a new priest was a time for reaching out to those who no longer practise the faith, those who are seeking faith, and those who have no faith.

He then laid out four essential foundations for a renewed parish vision.

First, the priest was called to be a man of prayer, and prayer must also be at the heart of the parish community. Bishop Alan hoped that it might be possible to build up a weekly day of



Fr Alan Hodgson signs an oath of fidelity on the altar, watched by Bishop Alan, during his installation as Dean of St John's Cathedral.

prayer before the Blessed Sacrament at the Cathedral.

Second, the priest is called to be a man of the Eucharist; Bishop Alan asked the congregation to renew faithfulness in coming to Mass on Sunday and

to consider coming to Mass during the week.

Third, the priest is a man of reconciliation. "I know that Fr Alan and Fr Michael will continue to be generously available for this sacramental ministry,"

said the Bishop, "and I encourage the People of God to seek God's forgiveness regularly."

Lastly, the priest must be a man of study.

"All of us should be growing in our faith by regularly reflecting

on the Scriptures," said Bishop Alan.

"We are saints in the making," he concluded, "we are called to grow in holiness... this must be at the heart of our lives as Christians."

Bishop Alan celebrates Mass for deacons

Bishop Alan Hopes celebrated the annual Mass for the permanent deacons and their wives at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich on Saturday October 8.

■ During the Mass, Bishop Alan conferred the ministry of Acolyte on Paul Raynes from St Etheldreda in Ely parish and admitted Jonathan Wright from the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption and the English Martyrs in Cambridge, Jonathan Callejo from the parish of the Cathedral of St John the Baptist and Edwin Mothis from the parish of Sacred Heart and St Oswald in Peterborough, to Candidacy.

Candidacy is admission to the first stage of diaconal studies. Paul Raynes's conferral of Acolyte marks the final year of his

studies for the diaconate.

In his homily, Bishop Alan reminded the congregation of the call of Matthew and encouraged the students for the diaconate to continue to listen to God's call in their

lives. He spoke of the meaning of the name Matthew – a gift of God – and prayed that each one of them would be a gift of God for the church in their ministry. He thanked them for their courage and commitment to the Church and to the diocese.

Later, Fr Andrew Eburne - Director of Studies for the Permanent Diaconate - encouraged all the deacons and students for the diaconate to keep the Eucharist central to their lives every day and to rely on Our Blessed Lady and her prayers and intercessions.

Pictured above are Jennifer and Jonathan Wright, Sarah and Paul Raynes, Bishop Alan, Edwin and Suzanne Mothis, Jenuary and Jonathan Callejo.





Who is Bishop-Elect Canon Peter Collins?

■ Peter Gwilym Collins was born on May 13, 1958, in the town of Tredegar, South Wales, and then nurtured with his three older sisters in the nearby village of Rhymney. He attended local Catholic primary and secondary schools and then briefly explored a pathway into teaching before being accepted for seminary formation in 1978.

Following six years at the Royal English College, Valladolid, Spain, he was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Cardiff on July 14, 1984. His philosophical and theological studies were undertaken at the Augustinian Faculty in Valladolid, at the Pontifical University of Comillas in Madrid and at the Pontifical University of Salamanca.

He served as an Assistant Priest in the Metropolitan Cathedral of St David, Cardiff, from 1984-86 and in Bridgend from 1986-88. He returned to Spain for post-graduate study before taking up his appointment as Vice Rector at the Royal English College, serving there from 1989-94.

Upon his return to the Archdiocese, he was appointed as Parish Priest of Chepstow and Caldicot. In 2001, he became Dean of the Metropolitan Cathedral in Cardiff, serving there for the next 18 years. In 2006, he was appointed as a member of the Metropolitan Chapter of Canons. In 2019, he moved to the next-door parishes of St Mary of the Angels, Canton and Holy Family, Fairwater.

Alongside his parish responsibilities, Bishop-Elect Peter Collins has served in a multiplicity of diocesan roles: 12 years as Chair of the Education Commission; ten years as Director of the Diaconate; 28 years in various safeguarding roles, being designated as Archbishop's Delegate to the first national meeting on safeguarding in 1995 and later serving as Coordinator and Clergy Advisor. He has also served as an area Dean, a member of the College of Consultors, a member of the Archbishop's Council and as a Trustee. He was appointed to the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem in 2004.

Bishop-elect Pe



Speaking for the first time as Bishop-Elect of East Anglia, Canon Peter Collins said: “My heart is filled with joy that the Lord has called me to this place at this time”. Keith Morris reports.

■ Bishop-Elect Peter was speaking to an audience at St John's Cathedral in Norwich at the announcement of his appointment at exactly 11am on Tuesday October 11, to coincide with a similar announcement made at the Vatican in Rome via its Bollettino news update.

“My heart is filled with joy that the Lord has called me to this place at this time, to stand in your midst as a servant priest, as your future Bishop, unworthy as I am,” said Bishop-Elect Peter.

“Here in this sacred space, this majestic Mother Church of the Diocese, the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, I rejoice with Bishop Alan that we are joined by members of the Cathedral Chapter, by representatives of the diocesan curia, by Cathedral parishioners, along with some pupils from our local primary and secondary schools.

“With you I give thanks to Almighty God for the apostolic ministry of Bishop Alan over the past

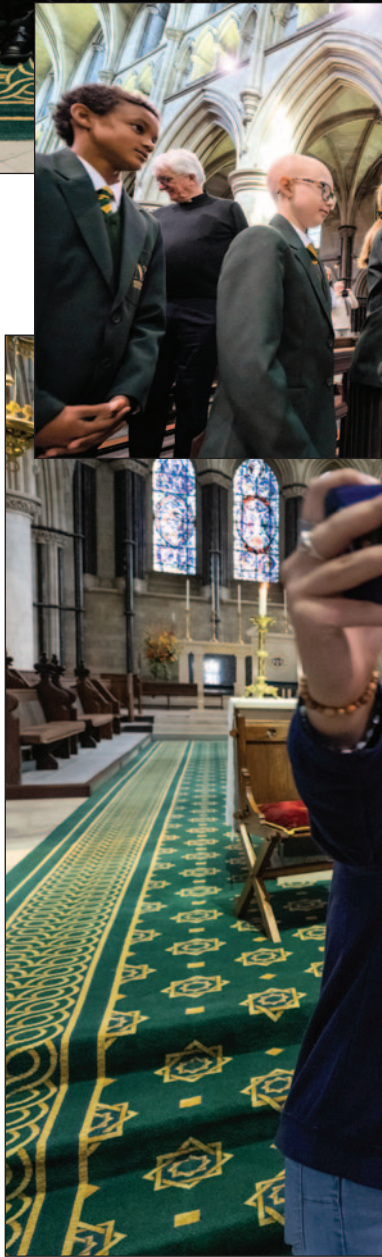
nine years – for the generosity of his service. I personally thank him for the warmth of the welcome he has extended to me as his successor. I will undoubtedly be drawing upon his wisdom and experience in the days ahead.

“I remind myself this day, and I ask you all to faithfully acknowledge, that the Lord loves us beyond measure, that the Lord is calling us to a particular service and that he entrusts to us the good news which must be shared with the whole world. Whether we be young or old, let us recognise that the voice of the Lord is consistent and insistent; ‘come follow me, follow me wherever I lead you’.

“I am so looking forward to meeting you all – in our parishes and schools, in our religious houses and chaplaincies. I know that I am joining a vibrant Diocese, diverse in make-up yet united in purpose.

“I look forward to meeting our fellow Christians across the region, sustaining the links that are well-established and I hope that together we can continue to foster co-operative initiatives in service to God's Kingdom.

“I offer my greetings and respects to members of other faith communities and to all people of good-will across this part of England,” said Bishop-Elect Peter.



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Pictured is Bishop-Elect Peter Collins at the announcement ceremony on October 11 and meeting pupils, left, and his first-ever 'selfie' with the Ignite Youth Team, below. Pictures by Marcin Mazur/CBCEW.



Funds plea for Diocese eco-research with UEA

An exciting opportunity has arisen for the Diocese of East Anglia to work with the University of East Anglia to help determine the carbon output of the Diocese and then reduce it with the aim of becoming carbon neutral. Now it is appealing for funding ideas to make this possible. Environmental Group chair, Fr Paul Maddison, explains.

■ We are challenged by Pope Francis to look at the impact of our lives on the earth - our common home – not only individually, but globally; by calling to account those societies to which we belong.

The Diocese of East Anglia is one of those societies and must be held to account for the contribution it makes to the global environmental crisis as well as being challenged to change its behaviour accordingly. The crunch comes when we recognise that “we” are the diocese and the collective responsibility for change is “ours”, the engagement and contribution of each of us is the only thing that will make a difference.

Surprisingly, the major carbon contribution of diocesan “activities” comes not from heating and lighting our buildings, but from transportation emissions from cars; but how do we measure this, and how do we develop a sustainable way of reducing or eliminating this impact on our environment?

The Diocesan Environment Group has been exploring ways of determining our carbon output, reducing it, and developing a strategy to facilitate us becoming measurably carbon neutral by a fixed date.

An exciting opportunity has been discovered where the Diocese might work with the

Climate Change Department in the School of International Development (SID) at the University of East Anglia. Probably the largest concentration of researchers in the UK working on change and development, SID is an interdisciplinary group including natural scientists such as biologists and ecologists, geographers, and social scientists including ecological economists and political scientists.

The research of the SID examines a range of climate change issues at international, regional, national and local levels.

For us to determine an accurate figure for the carbon output of the Diocese involves some serious number crunching, then to take that information and develop both a plan and a timeline for its reduction to zero and this needs skills which we do not currently possess.

With adequate funding we might be able to engage a PhD student to conduct research providing the Diocese with accurate infor-



mation and an achievable plan to really make a difference to the future of our planet.

Would you know of a funding source we might approach? Would you be willing to provide the estimated cost of £6,000 for a year's funding?

A collaboration between the church and a major university would be an exciting first on carbon reduction; East Anglia – University and Diocese – collaborating for the climate! Could you make it happen? Contact Fr Paul Maddison to discuss further: eco@rcdea.org.uk

Environmental policy published

■ The Diocese of East Anglia Environmental Group is pushing ahead with projects responding to Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'*, to care for and protect our common home, and it has just published a new Diocesan Environmental Policy.

Current diocesan projects include Felixstowe parish looking to install solar panels and battery storage, a pilot parish trialling a plastic reduction strategy and a proposed collaboration between the Diocese and a university on carbon reduction.

Meanwhile, a Diocesan Environmental Policy has been published online which aims to identify, understand and evaluate all its direct and as many of the indirect, environmental impacts as is practical, to create a baseline of diocesan activities and operations.

It will create a plan of action to address such impacts within a defined timeframe and then monitor the policy annually through a Diocesan Committee, reporting to

the Bishop's Council and Trustees as well as other stakeholders such as parishes and schools.

Chair of the Environmental Group, Fr Paul Maddison, said: “We are called to respond to Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'*; to care for and protect our common home.

“Change is needed to reverse our unsustainable way of life: soon, unless we make the right changes, the damaged environment will no longer support us. Premature deaths and species extinction will accelerate, and many communities, often the poorest, are already suffering.

“Recognising this threat, the Church is responding. Aiming at 2030, the purpose is to reduce our environmental footprint year-on-year to reach net zero emissions. Our environmental policy outlines the Diocese of East Anglia's commitments and approach.”

To read the Diocese of East Anglia Environmental Policy, visit www.rcdea.org.uk

OBITUARY

Fr Martin Kitchener Orme (1927-2022)

■ Tributes have been paid following the death of Ipswich priest, Fr Martin Orme, who recently celebrated 25 years in the Catholic priesthood, writes Fr Russell Frost.

■ Despite his middle name, Martin was too young to take up arms in World War II, but immediately after that conflict he obeyed the “call up” from God to serve in the Church. His initial training for the Anglican ministry was undertaken at King’s College, London, gaining the Bachelor of Divinity degree (and Associate of King’s College) in 1950.

Later Martin was to gain the BA degree of the Open University in 1975, for his thirst for truth was never quenched. Sadly the work and material he had assembled for a Master of Arts degree through Heythrop in his eighties was all lost through a computer glitch.

After two curacies in the North-West he volunteered for service in the Royal Navy, and this was his ministry for the next 20 years or so, moving to be Chaplain of the Royal Hospital School at Holbrook in Ipswich in 1978, retiring from there in 1987.

After a few years as Priest-in-Charge of St Mary at the Elms in Ipswich, he and his wife, Jean, made the courageous decision to be received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church. Jean supported Martin magnificently throughout their married life, at the same time pursuing her own career as a nurse and midwife, and raising their six children.

Fr James Walsh, then Parish Priest of St Mary Magdalen, Ipswich, suggested to Martin (by then aged nearly 70) to offer himself to the Bishop of East Anglia for ordination to the Catholic priesthood. Bishop Peter Smith was delighted to accept, and in March 1997, Martin was ordained.

His wisdom, experience and integrity were of the greatest support to Fr James, and later to Fr Michael Griffin and Fr Russell Frost.

Ten years later, Martin judged the time had come for him to “retire” finally, to actually worship side-by-side with his wife. They lived in the parish of St Pancras, Ipswich, and Martin was inevitably pressed into service again by Fr Sam Leeder. Only the advancing dementia of Jean brought this era of self-sacrifice to a close.

Jean died in 2021 and Martin followed just a year later, dying on Tuesday, October 18. It would have delighted him that he died on the Feast of St Luke, the gospel-writer, for the prime purpose of any priest is to proclaim the Gospel of Christ, the Good News of salvation. In this, Martin excelled, in word and in deed, and his eloquence and skill have brought many to love and serve the Lord.

May the Lord reward Fr Martin’s labours in the vineyard, and bring him swiftly to the glories of heaven!



Fr Martin Orme and his wife Jean.



Julie O'Connor and Flavio Vettese (front centre), said goodbye to the Diocese of East Anglia curia team at a lunch on September 27. Julie is retiring and Flavio has become CEO of the Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust.

Farewell to Julie after 20 years of service

■ Julie has provided almost 20 years of dedicated and excellent leadership to Catholic Schools in the Diocese. She was appointed by Bishop Michael Evans as Director of Schools’ Service in June 2003, having been an Advisory Teacher in Norfolk County Council’s Schools’ Psychological Service.

Julie was in a team of one but was soon joined by Jane Delph as her secretary. Even before joining the Diocese, Julie was a strong advocate for Catholic education. She was Chair of Governors at Notre Dame High School in Norwich and supported catechetics in Wymondham, her local parish, which she continues to this day.

Julie has worked tirelessly as the Bishop’s chief adviser on education making sure that both priests and laity understand the complexities of the school system and ensuring a joint commitment to the Bishop’s vision for our schools. Her deep Catholic faith and conviction have underpinned everything she has achieved and can be seen in the pastoral way she has always carried out her work.

It is difficult to select just a few of Julie’s many achievements during her time with the Diocese, as she has been behind all the developments and successes of Catholic education across East Anglia.

She has grown the Diocesan Schools’ Team from one to a highly professional and effective team of four, and this small team covers an

Julie O’Connor, the Diocese of East Anglia Director of Schools’ Service for the past almost 20 years, has retired. Helen Bates pays tribute.

area of 5,750 square miles encompassing 26 state-maintained Catholic schools and two independent schools. During her tenure, Julie has led the creation of two successful Catholic multi-academy trusts in line with the Bishop’s vision for schools in his Diocese. Julie did this through clear guidance and a gentle collaborative approach that has brought schools along with her on this journey. Many other dioceses have found this process to be painful and divisive.

The fact that Julie remains highly-respected and much-loved by staff at all schools in the Diocese, is a testament to her skill and ability to lead through kindness, understanding, respect and a little bit of northern grit when required... that, and her unwavering commitment to organising the truly uplifting and life-affirming school leaders’ pilgrimages to Italy each year!

Recently, and supported by the Bishop, Julie has provided hope and vision to Catholic education in East Anglia through the opening in September, of the country’s newest Catholic school, St John Henry New-

man Primary School in Peterborough. Though East Anglia is one of the smaller dioceses in England, under Julie’s leadership it has punched well above its weight in securing the only successful bid in the country for a new Catholic school in the last decade.

As if this wasn’t enough, when asked by a religious order running a private Catholic school within the Diocese to take their school into the maintained sector run by the Diocese, Julie took on the challenge wholeheartedly in the firm belief that this could only benefit Catholic children and education.

Everyone who works within education will know that the landscape never stands still, even if we wish it would. Julie has provided a constancy in the ever-changing world of education that is underpinned by her deep faith and commitment to Catholic education. Whilst Julie has at times had to take a firm approach to certain situations, she has done so with grace and in such a way that everyone thought it was their own idea anyway!

Whilst she can now take her well-earned retirement, mainly in Italy, she is an asset that the Diocese will not let go of easily! Julie has agreed to be a Director of St John the Baptist MAT and to continue as a governor at Sacred Heart Primary School. We hope and pray that her influence and wisdom will continue in Catholic education in East Anglia for many years to come.

St Ives doctor says prayer helped in healing

Dr Ijeoma Tonia Obi, from Sacred Heart in St Ives, recovered from breast cancer after gathering together a group of friends and family to pray. Here is her story.

■ I am practicing medical doctor, married to Chris and we have four young children. Last year in October, we were given the devastating news by the Addenbrookes Hospital team of my breast cancer diagnosis.

I felt so numb, and it took us some days to summon up courage and weather the storm by trusting in the Lord and leaving it all at His feet.

My friends and family gathered around me and together we formed a prayer group and prayed daily throughout my seven months of receiving chemotherapy, surgery and radiotherapy treatments. My treatments were completed in June this year.

I am now cancer free and have long gone back to work. The Lord showed me mercy and kept me well and strong throughout the different stages of treatments. I caught Covid during chemotherapy, but I remained well and symptom free despite negligible immunity.

It was indeed joyous celebrating with friends and family members. We held a Mass of thanksgiving ceremony at Sacred



Pictured is Dr Ijeoma Tonia Obi with her husband Chris their family and Fr Tom Walton at the thanksgiving Mass at Sacred Heart in St Ives.

Heart Church, St Ives, on August 27.

The Lord indeed did great things in my

life and that of my family. He healed me perfectly and we will forever be grateful. As

for me and my household, we will serve the Lord (Josh 24:15). Alleluia, Amen.

Maria's faith comes alive

Maria Belderbos recently came back inspired by nine months she spent at Craig Lodge Family House of Prayer in the western Scottish Highlands.

■ Maria, who is 19 and attends both St John's Cathedral and St George's in Norwich, was one of eight young people who took part in a new programme, living together a life of prayer, community, formation and mission.

"Of everything which I experienced during this time," writes Maria, "the gift of going deeper in prayer was quite possibly the greatest of all. God has done so much in my heart, speaking into my life and working healing within me."

Maria says she knows now that God has a marvellous plan for her life and that, in His generosity, He wants to use her to spread the Gospel. Part of how He equipped her for this was through the community aspect of the Mission House.

Prior to joining the Mission House, Maria had a taste of the joy of fellowship in the faith when she attended Mass at the UEA Catholic Chaplaincy (the young people there very kindly welcomed her in, even though she wasn't actually at the university). She was aware of needing more of this and it was a joy to live alongside the other missionaries on fire with their faith. They are now some of her closest friends and she imagines that they will be for a very long time.

Over the nine months, the group studied more of their faith, receiving teaching from the Bible and Catechism. However, the

focus of all the study was not book learning but practical and prayerful formation. The ultimate key to the evangelisation which they were formed in came not from theory but from a real and deep encounter with the love of the living God; an encounter so profound that 'we cannot help but speak of what we have seen,' as Peter and John exclaim after Pentecost.

With this perspective, they gave their time, prayers and love to a variety of missions. A large part of this took place at the house itself as they helped in the running of a variety of retreats. "But the Gospel cannot be contained," writes Maria "...and neither could we." They frequently left rural Dalmally to travel to Glasgow in order to minister at monthly prayer nights, which drew many young people to a night of eucharistic worship, enriching talks and Christian fellowship. They also went treasure hunting around Glasgow; approaching people on the streets which they felt led to by the Holy Spirit (these people being their treasure), praying with them and sharing with them the Gospel.

"Perhaps the most powerful mission trip of all was one we did in St Benedict's High School, Bury St Edmunds," writes Maria. "I could not believe it when I heard that we were going to my home diocese on mission (the Lord was clearly at work). Here we gave teachings, testimonies and prayer ministry to the students for a week which finished in a beautiful and reverent Mass. Though optional, it nonetheless saw a hall full of students attending to worship God."

"God has done so much in me this year – it's a joy to share," she concludes. "I would definitely encourage everyone to be open to formation, retreat and mission. May God Bless you greatly!"



Maria Belderbos in the Scottish Highlands.

OBITUARIES

Tributes paid to former FAM co-ordinator Niamh

■ Former Diocese of East Anglia FAM Coordinator, Niamh Moloney, sadly passed away unexpectedly, earlier in September. Antonia Braithwaite pays tribute.

Born in 1985, Niamh obtained a BSc in medical research and then an MA in medical ethics at a pontifical university where she wrote her thesis on NaPro Technology. She thereafter trained as a NaPro practitioner in England and worked for NaPro in Ireland.

She was also involved in the Church working full-time as a youth worker for many years.

Niamh was a member of the Marriage and Family Life Commission in our Diocese from 2014-2017, and was the Diocese's first Fertility Awareness Methods Coordinator.

Commission members warmly remember her attending Commission meetings with her newborn baby daughter who was always sleeping peacefully!

Niamh will be missed by her two daughters Ella and Lily, her family and all who knew her.

Her requiem Mass was held on Monday October 3 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Sutton Coldfield.



Much-loved Peterborough All Souls parishioner Joseph

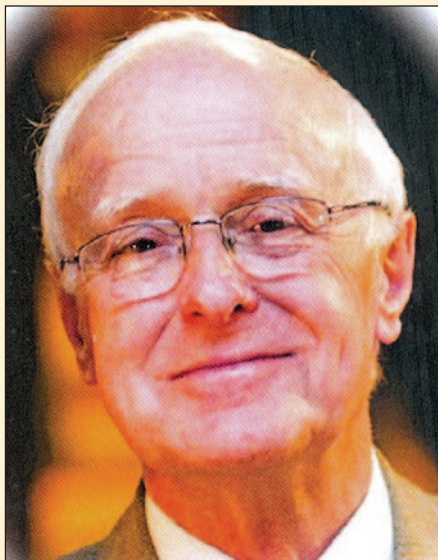
■ The funeral of much-loved and sadly-missed parishioner Joseph Arthur Harrington was held at All Souls Church Peterborough on September 16. Peter Waszak pays tribute.

Joe's funeral was delayed to allow some of his grown-up children to travel from Australia where they live with his grandchildren. For years he was often seen at daily Mass and undertook a variety of roles in the church including as Altar Server, gardener and particularly a general handyman able to mend or fix whatever needed attention. As an indication of the high esteem he was held, the Mass was attended by four priests and two deacons.

Joe (aged 85) was born outside Wisbech in 1937 to an Irish father and English mother and was part of a large family. Life was tough as they worked on a farm out in all weathers. He attended school and the Catholic church in Wisbech. For a period he served in the RAF.

At some point after marrying wife Margrith, the couple moved to Peterborough and for 30 years Joe worked at Freemans' mail order warehouse cycling to and from work each day, but at weekends had a motorcycle. As a practical man he spent much time in his garden shed and made toys including a sledge for his children. He was sociable, caring, loving, considerate and helpful.

On June 18, 2016, Joe and 11 other parishioners' contribution were recognised through the award by the Bishop, at the biannual One Mass at Peterborough Cathedral, of a Diocesan Medal for long service to the parish and diocese. Joe's last gift to the church before his final illness were two benches which are located outside of the porch. Joe died on July 18.



■ Through the Alive in Faith appeal, the parishes of Beccles and Bungay have contributed towards the priestly training of Dom John George, who was ordained in September.

Dom John George is the youngest member of the monastic community to which Dom Martin Gowman OSB from St Benet's in Beccles belongs. His community, now known as St Gregory the Great, was formerly at Downside Abbey and now resides at Buckfast. The fund to which Beccles and Bungay contributed is called the Downside Abbey Ecclesiastical Education Fund.

Dom John was ordained in Buckfast Abbey together with Dom Andrew Prickett OSB, a monk of Buckfast, by Archbishop George Stack.

Dom John entered the monastery at Downside in 2015 and made his solemn life vows of obedience,

stability and conversatio morum in 2019. Studies for ordination take place partly in the monastery, but Dom John also studied at Oscott College, Blackfriars in Oxford and latterly at the Pontifical Athenaeum Sant'Anselmo in Rome, where he is now in his final year, studying for a Licence degree in Monastic Theology.

Benedictine priests are sometimes involved in parish work, but principally in the life of their monastery, where they minister to guests and other visitors. At Buckfast Abbey they are available to speak with, offer guidance to and offer the sacraments to many thousands of visitors who come each year.

Pictured are (left to right) Abbot David Charlesworth of Buckfast, Dom Andrew Prickett OSB, Archbishop George Stack, Dom John George OSB and Abbot Nicholas Wetz of St Gregory's.

Farewell marks end of an era for Beccles

Over 120 parishioners and friends gathered at St Benet's Minster, Beccles, on Sunday September 25, to say farewell to Fr Martin Gowman OSB and mark the end of over 100 years of service by the Benedictines to Bungay and Beccles. Terry O'Brien reports.

■ As Fr Martin (pictured) left to return to what is now "The Congregation of St Gregory" at Buckfast Abbey in Devon, the gathering also recorded the end of over 100 years of service by the Benedictines to Bungay and Beccles, the neighbouring towns on the River Waveney.

The monks of Downside Abbey, faced with falling vocations, have had to give up their commitment to provide priests for their "mission" to the area where once they hoped to establish a priory – hence the "Minster" in our title.

Our catering team pulled out all the stops to produce an amazing spread after 10.30am Mass, and it gave a chance for people to tell Fr Martin how much he was appreci-



ated. One attendee said: "It was a joyful event which brought the parish together to thank Fr Martin for the dedicated service he has given to our parish for over ten years. The respect in which he is held, really shone through."

Our beautiful, 120-year-old church, the more modern presbytery (actually a rather tired 1970s bungalow, about to be renovated!) and the mature graveyard, are now being transferred to the Diocese of East Anglia, and we will have to get used to a different way of running our parish. Truth to tell, we have been using the skills and advice of many of the Diocesan experts, and are already working to many Diocesan procedures, but

it is bound to be different when the "boss and his assistants" are just 20, rather than 200, miles away; certainly, the financial implications are quite significant.

We do have some interim difficulty, in terms of the spiritual aspects of the change, as we have found that Bishop Alan just does not have enough priests to go round. It really brings it home, that we all need to pray for vocations, when we find we have an active and viable parish, but our Bishop has no priest to lead us!

For the immediate future, we will manage, thanks to Fr Mike Brookes from St Edmunds, Bungay, who has agreed to give us administrative and spiritual support, spending one full day per week in Beccles. Fortunately, Fr Stephen Bould and Canon David Paul have agreed to come out of retirement (partly, at least) so that we will be able to have two Masses each Sunday.

There will certainly be a need for all parishioners to take on additional tasks and shoulder greater responsibility for our own spiritual and social well-being, at least for the immediate future.

Who knows, it might even be the stimulus for a new era, with even greater levels of parochial activity, participation and enthusiasm!

East Anglians join biggest-ever March For Life in central London

A delegation from East Anglia joined this year's March for Life in London, which was the biggest to date, with over 7000 people attending.

■ The theme of the event was "10 Million Too Many", a sobering reminder that since the passing of the Abortion Act in 1967, there have been over 10 million abortions in the United Kingdom. But despite the serious message, the atmosphere was one of joy and a celebration of life from conception in the womb.

The keynote speaker was Shawn Carney, CEO of the pro-life organisation 40 Days for Life, who had flown in from Texas and delivered a rousing talk about the recent overturning of Roe v Wade, a sign of hope for us all. Perhaps because of this recent victory, there was an increased presence of pro-abortion activists this year, but they remained to one corner of Parliament Square and their chants were easily drowned out by the good cheer and applause of the March for Life attendees.

Many parishioners from all over the Diocese of East Anglia attended with some notable individuals taking on volunteer roles and leading the March itself. Ruth, Grace and Marian Patten (sisters from Ipswich) were part of the group of young people who lead the March and carried this year's "flagship" banner.



Pictured are marchers including Ruth, Grace and Marian Patten from Ipswich.

Alastair Ward (who attends Withersmarsh Green chaplaincy) took part in a quiz during the morning's "festival of life", one of many events designed to educate and inform on

the various issues that surround abortion. And Alastair's brother, Tom, was one of the chief Stewards. Tom said, "It was no mean feat to move a crowd of 7000 people

through central London on a Saturday and loop round Trafalgar Square."

The event took place on Saturday September 3. Visit: www.marchforlife.co.uk

Stowmarket to bring bells back

Our Lady Stowmarket has been raising funds for new ironwork and a ladder to get the church bells ringing again.

■ "The bells at Our Lady, Stowmarket have not been rung for over 20 years," explains Sandra Portas, Stewardship and Fundraising Coordinator for the Diocese. "The bells hung in the tower for swing chiming are dated 1747 (the larger one) and 1857 (the smaller one) and are the work of the Mears Foundry in Whitechapel. All canons are intact, and the bells retain their cast-in crown staples."

The project comprises two elements: repair to the supporting ironwork of the two bells which is in an advanced stage of rusting, this involves two new canon straps to be manufactured and installed on the bell headstocks.

The second element of the project is the improvement to the access to the bells. The current ladder and slab are deemed to be unsafe from a health and safety perspective. The necessary works include the fabrication and installation of a steel-runged CAT ladder to reach from the main entrance of the tower to below the slab floor.

The current slab floor will be reinforced with steel to ensure it is made safe to use. The final part of the project is to install elec-



One of the Stowmarket church bells.

trically operated chime hammers to the bells, so that the daily Angelus and Mass Tolling could be automatically sounded and also a "key fob" wire free push button control could be used to sound the bell in the Mass, and to activate continuous tolling

on command.

Grants have been raised externally from a number of trusts including Suffolk Historic Churches Trust (£4,250), DC Moncrieff Trust (£500), Alfred Williams Trust (£2,000) and Sharpe Trust (£200).

Inquiry report is welcomed

■ The Catholic Council has welcomed the final report of the Panel of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse after seven years of work, on October 20.

It also thanked the Inquiry for its work and will carefully study its contents and recommendations.

In a statement the Catholic Council said: "In the work of safeguarding all who are members of, or come into contact with, the Catholic Church in England and Wales, at no point will the Church stop on its journey of dedicated effort in making the life and work of the Church safe for all.

"The new national safeguarding body, the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA), which began operational work in April 2021, provides a regulatory function to organisations within the Church in England and Wales ensuring that standards are upheld, and all safeguarding processes adhered to. These changes were fully aligned with the Inquiry's recommendations in the case study report.

"Key to this progress is the voice of victims and survivors of abuse which has been an integral element in the development of this new agency. The Church is committed to listening with humility to those who have been hurt by the actions of Church members so that their experiences will inform our work."

Picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese

■ On the feast day of St Vincent de Paul (September 27), St George SVP Conference, Norwich, held a commissioning ceremony at St Boniface Church in Hellesdon to welcome its new members.

The ceremony also enabled all members to "renew their promise of service to the Society and to the poor, thereby deepening the spiritual dimension of their vocation".

Conference President, Teresa Richards, invited the newly-elected East Anglia Central Council President, Joan Wall, to join the service.

Teresa said: "we are delighted that Joan travelled all the way from Ely to join us for this ceremony. As well as the commissioning, we wanted to thank the retired members of our conference, who joined us, for their long years of service and dedication to helping poor, marginalised, lonely and vulnerable people in our community."

Certificates of long service were awarded to Denis Fogarty and John Merriman. Graham Wood, who had received his certificate earlier in the year, with his wife, Pat, were also in attendance.

Pictured right are retired, current and new members of St George SVP Conference with EACC President, Joan Wall.



■ On Friday September 30, St John the Baptist Cathedral hosted its annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. Thanks to wonderful generosity and good baking skills it raised £537.60.

Pictured above are the Macmillan baking team at St John's Cathedral.

■ Parishioners of St Edmund's Catholic Church in Bury St Edmunds have banded together to raise £1,000 for good causes.

On 17 July, various groups from the parish sold cakes, plants, art and lucky dips at Bury's Picnic in the Park. Their money was pooled with the proceeds of talks and tours given by local historian John Saunders, and a total of £1,200 was reached.

On Sunday September 18, at a gathering in the Church Crypt, cheques each for £400 were handed over for Gatehouse, St Nicholas Hospice and St

Edmund's Church.

Fr David Bagstaff commented: "The money has been raised during challenging times but it will go towards supporting those in need consistent with the way in which Bury's original monks helped the poor. Fundraising requires a lot of effort but what has impressed me is how the different groups of the parish worked with each other and not only met but exceeded their target."

Pictured below is Geri McKeag handing over a cheque to Fr David Bagstaff.



■ Fr James Fyfe has retired from the Parish of Our Lady and St Joseph Sheringham and Cromer after three years of service.

His last Mass was on September 11 and many parishioners gathered afterwards to say goodbye and wish him every happiness in his retirement and his move to Kent.

The children of the Parish prepared a special thank-you card for Fr James thanking him for all he had done. As is the custom in the parish

a wonderful cake was made and shared.

Darryl Smith, Chair of the Parish Council, thanked Fr James for his three years of service to the parish. Fr James arrived shortly before Covid turned so much upside down and he was thanked for all the work he did through those difficult times.

Fr Peter Wagnanski has been appointed as Priest Administrator for Our Lady & St Joseph, Sheringham, with Our Lady of Refuge, Cromer.

Pictured are Father James Fyfe with some children from the Parish

