

March  
2016

FREE

# Catholic East Anglia

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

www.rcdea.org.uk



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## Minor Basilica status given Catholic Shrine in Norfolk **Pope gives special status to Walsingham**

**Pope Francis has granted Minor Basilica status to the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham in North Norfolk. Keith Morris reports.**

The rare Minor Basilica designation is given by the Holy Father to places of worship which are of particular historical significance.

The Pope's decree was announced at Walsingham, known as England's Nazareth, at the Feast of the Holy Family on Sunday December 27, by Bishop Alan Hopes, the Bishop of East Anglia.

The title has been granted to the Slipper Chapel, the Chapel of Reconciliation and the Domain.

Making the announcement, Bishop Alan said: "The Holy See's recognition of the importance of the church in Walsingham is a recognition of the growth and witness of the Shrine over these many years since its re-establishment after its destruction during the period of the Reformation, for its constant witness to the importance of marriage and family life and its pastoral care of the tens of thousands of pilgrims who make their journey to the Shrine every year.

"It has also come at a very important moment in the life of the Shrine as it seeks to develop and refurbish its facilities in the light of the ever growing number of pilgrims, a work being led by Mgr John Armitage, the recently appointed Rector of the Shrine.

"I am quite sure that this moment will bring many blessings and graces to all pilgrims in the



Above a pilgrimage at Walsingham and, left, the Slipper Chapel.

coming years."

Mgr John Armitage, Rector of the Shrine of Our Lady, said: "This is wonderful news because it represents so much of what has been happening in the Shrine for so long. It's a recognition by the Holy Father of the long history of this shrine.

"It's recognition of the remarkable devotion, particularly of the people who work here, the volun-

teers and all the loyal pilgrims who come from so far, for so often and from such great distances."

The Bishop of Norwich, Rt Rev Graham James, said: "In a BBC survey nine years ago Walsingham was given the accolade of being England's most spiritual place. Now the Pope has added to the honour in which Walsingham is held. Anglicans as well as Roman

■ continued on page 2.

## Lenten Masses and 24 Hours for the Lord

■ Lenten Station Masses will be held in the seven Deaneries across the Diocese of East Anglia to mark the Jubilee Year of Mercy, all celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes, and a 24 Hours for the Lord, as requested by Pope Francis, takes place on March 4 and 5.

Each Mass will begin with an exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession at 6pm, followed by the Station Mass at 7pm and refreshments at 8pm.

Future Masses will take place at St Edmunds in Bury St Edmunds on March 1, St Peter's, Gorleston on March 3, Holy Family, Gaywood, King's Lynn on March 4, St John the Baptist Cathedral, Norwich on March 8 and St Pancras in Ipswich on March 10. Masses took place at Sacred Heart and St Oswald's in Peterborough and Our Lady and the English Martyrs in Cambridge during late February

Pope Francis has requested that each Diocese throughout the world should celebrate 24 Hours for the Lord on March 4/5, when designated churches will be open for all night vigils, with an opportunity for confession. The Cathedral in Norwich, Our Lady of the Annunciation in King's Lynn, St Philip Howard's in Cambridge, St Pancras in Ipswich and St Peter and All Souls in Peterborough are due to remain open.

Bishop Alan said: "Let us take the opportunity this Lent to come home to the Father! Encourage those who no longer worship with us or have lost their way, to come home to the Father! And when you have done so, become a missionary of God's loving mercy in your family, in your place of work or learning, in your local community, in your local Christian community. For Mercy is the beating heart of the Gospel and must be the beating heart of every Christian community and Christian life."

## All are welcome at Chrism Mass in Norwich

■ One of the largest diocesan gatherings of the year, the Chrism Mass, takes place on March 22, the Tuesday of Holy Week, at 7pm at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich, and all are welcome to attend.

During the Mass the Oil of Chrism, a mixture of olive oil and a sweet smelling perfume, usually balsam, is consecrated by Bishop Alan Hopes to be sent

out to all the parishes of the diocese where it will be used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination and for the consecration of churches and altars. Bishop Alan will also bless two other oils to be sent for use in parishes: the oil used by priests in the sacrament of anointing of the sick and the oil used to strengthen catechumen prior to baptism.

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## news in brief

## Paper will expand in size

The Catholic East Anglia newspaper is set to remain a bi-monthly publication, but with increased coverage, and a new online news bulletin service has also been launched to keep people right up-to-date with news from across the Diocese of East Anglia.

The move follows a reader survey in which over 80 readers gave their views from parishes right across Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs and Peterborough.

More than 60% of respondents said that they preferred the bi-monthly edition of the newspaper, which is set to increase in size to a regular 16 pages. One third of respondents also immediately signed up for the new email news service.

Respondents also said their most popular topics to read about in the paper were Diocesan news and events reports, parish news, people news and wider Catholic news. They also wanted to read about the Cathedral, training, New Evangelisation, Building Bridges, youth and schools news.

Editor, Keith Morris, said: "It was great to have such a positive response from readers and hear how much they value receiving the paper and news from across the Diocese. So thank you to everyone who responded."

"We will be increasing the size of the paper from 12 to 16 pages so that we can cover more news and features in every edition and have already launched a new email news service to keep people up-to-date in between."

"I am keen to receive news stories, feature ideas and pictures from readers for the paper and website, so please get in touch."

To sign up for the enews bulletins and stay up-to-date with news from across the Diocese, visit [www.rcdea.org.uk](http://www.rcdea.org.uk) to sign up or send your full name and email to Keith at [comms@east-angliadiocese.org.uk](mailto:comms@east-angliadiocese.org.uk)

**Catholic East Anglia**

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

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Articles and photographs for the next edition are very welcome and should be sent to the editor, ideally via email, by the deadline of March 29.

Diocese website: [www.rcdea.org.uk](http://www.rcdea.org.uk)

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**Publisher:** Cathcom Ltd of Haverhill, 0207 112 6710



## Walsingham £4m boost

The Catholic National Shrine at Walsingham in North Norfolk has received a major boost towards its building development fund with the announcement of a £4 million donation.

Shrine Rector, Mgr John Armitage, announced the significant donation towards its £6 million appeal to upgrade pilgrim accommodation and build new accommodation for the disabled, a retreat centre and a wet weather cloister.

Speaking on Walsingham Catholic TV on February 8, Mgr Armitage said: "In a very short period of time great things can happen. When I left on December 28 for my

holidays I did not expect when I came back I would bring £4 million towards the building fund.

"We have been greatly blessed that a donor has given to the building fund this remarkable sum of money. So let's give thanks for the great generosity of this particular donor."

"It is a great blessing on the shrine. Please pray for the donor who is very sick at the moment," Mgr Armitage said.

"So we now have £1.6m to raise over the next year, which is much easier to say than £6m".

Plans for the Shrine include: a new refec-

tory and lounge area, a new conference centre for groups of 100 and new Catholic media centre.

Other developments include: improvements at Elmham House Hotel for visiting pilgrims in Walsingham, including 20 new en-suite rooms with disabled access, new lounge and reception area, new lifts and upgraded dining room and kitchen.

Future plans from 2017 onwards include: New chapel roof, better parking, outdoor Mass canopy, refurbished toilets and major new religious artwork.

[www.ustream.tv/recorded/82767720](http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/82767720)



## Volunteers turn on the taps

Volunteers gathered in Newmarket on Saturday January 30 for a Day of Recollection where they heard how CAFOD is helping give people from the poorer communities of Uganda access to safe, clean drinking water.

From all four corners of the Diocese of East Anglia, North Walsham to Saffron Walden, Peterborough to Ipswich, parishioners gathered at Our Lady Immaculate and St Etheldreda to launch CAFOD's Lenten Appeal: Turn on the Taps. Inspired by Pope Francis' creation of a jubilee Year of Mercy, they reflected on themes of living water, pilgrimage and forgiveness.

Pope Francis has reminded everyone that water is a basic human right (Laudato Si' #30). This Lent, there is a focus on one of the seven corporal Acts of Mercy, reflected also in Jesus' proclamation: "when you give drink to those who thirst, you also give me a drink (Matthew 25)".

The UK government has again chosen to work with CAFOD, to provide matched funding up to

£3.5 million to support water projects in Uganda, DRC and Zimbabwe, so helping its partners give their communities access to fresh water.

CAFOD's Stephen Matthews, from Cambridge, said: "These days are always very enjoyable. Meeting up with people from across the diocese and hearing how we are bringing new life to people in some of the poorest parts of the world."

"Hearing how we are helping people in rural villages learn how to fix and maintain their water pumps, so lifting the burden placed on women and girls, who would often walk over six miles to fetch water, several times a day. A dangerous journey in times of drought. It is delightful to see the girls' joy, now they can return to their education - as we turn on the taps of generosity."

Pictured above are parishioners from across the Diocese of East Anglia with Father Simon Blakesley, Parish Priest of Our Lady Immaculate and St Etheldreda, turning on the taps.

## Walsingham honoured by Pope

■ continued from page 1.

Catholics come to Walsingham in big numbers and the relationship between the two shrines is close and supportive. I came first to Walsingham as a pilgrim in 1971, and I hope the new status the Pope has granted Walsingham will encourage many more people to discover the spiritual treasures of England's Nazareth."

The shrine dates back to the 11th century, when the Virgin Mary appeared in a vision to the then lady of the manor, Richeldis de Faverches, who prayed that she might undertake some special work in honour of Our

Lady. In answer to her prayer, the Virgin Mary led her in spirit to Nazareth, showed her the house where the Annunciation (when the Angel Gabriel told Mary she would give birth to Jesus) occurred, and asked her to build a replica in Walsingham to serve as a perpetual memorial.

Minor Basilica status has only previously been awarded to three locations in Britain – Corpus Christi in Manchester, Downside Abbey in Somerset and St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham.

Walsingham is the first to be given the status since 1941.

## Chapter of Canons is announced

The names of members of a newly-established Chapter of Canons for the Diocese of East Anglia have been announced by Bishop Alan Hopes.

The nine Canons will be installed at a Solemn Mass at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich on March 17 at 6.30pm.

Bishop Alan said: "For some time I have been seeking to establish a Chapter of Canons for the Diocese, as part of the process towards a clearer line of governance and consultation with the clergy and laity of the Diocese."

"Permission from the Holy See was received last year to establish such a Chapter, which was the natural conclusion of the permission given to the Diocese when it came into being in 1976."

"Permission was also given to entrust the functions of the College of Consultors to the Cathedral Chapter."

"The Chapter of Canons will provide a greater degree of stability to the work of the Consultors," said Bishop Alan.

After consulting the Bishop's Council, Bishop Alan has appointed the following as Canons:

- The Revd David Bagstaff (Vicar General)
- The Revd Simon Blakesley (Judicial Vicar)
- The Revd Mathew George (Parish Priest of Thetford)
- The Revd Mark Hackeson (Parish Priest of Bury St Edmunds)
- The Revd Mgr Eugene Harkness (Chancellor)
- The Revd John Nguyen Minh (Parish Priest of St Luke's, Peterborough)
- The Revd David Paul (Cathedral Dean)
- The Revd Peter Rollings (Parish Priest of King's Lynn)
- The Revd Mgr Peter Leeming (Parish Priest of Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Cambridge)



# New Evangelisation



Delegates at a New Evangelisation day in Newmarket.

## Creating parish mission teams

**After the national Proclaim conference in July 2015, and three successful diocesan events, the focus for New Evangelisation in the diocese shifts this year. In 2016, the Commission for New Evangelisation will be supporting parishes to develop local Parish Mission Teams. Rebecca Bretherton, Co-ordinator for the New Evangelisation Commission, explains.**

**A**t the diocesan events, our parish representatives have come together from across East Anglia to talk about the New Evangelisation and to share our hopes for the outreach needed to give people opportunities to encounter Jesus Christ in their lives.

Topics have included the

Thresholds of Conversion; How to Become a Dynamic Catholic; and How to Create a Welcoming Parish. We have experienced trying out one-to-one personal faith testimonies. We have given each other ideas to support fellow parishioners to grow in faith and to have the courage to witness that faith with the people in their lives.

The diocesan events have been full of energy and have inspired many people to return to their parishes with ideas. We now want to give everyone the chance to join us.

We realise that the size of the diocese makes it difficult to grow the diocesan events into events for everyone.

It is time to stop talking about Evangelisation: we need to start making a difference. So we are changing the format for 2016.

The emphasis is shifting to local deanery level. The New Evangelisation Commission will focus on each deanery in turn.

The parish representatives from these parishes will become members of the New Evangelisation Commission during this time to focus on the deanery events.

We hope that 5-6 parishes who

are close together will support each other to create local opportunities to evangelise.

With the new focus comes a new name. We are adopting the national brand: Proclaim

The first Proclaim East Anglia event will be held on Saturday February 27 at Bungay parish hall. People from Bungay, Beccles, Great Yarmouth, Gorleston and Lowestoft are invited to come to Bungay to pray together and consider how to develop the New Evangelisation in their own parish. The day will include:

- Some presentations on the New Evangelisation and some ideas about reaching out to non-church-going Catholics and others.

- A chance to discuss some of the difficulties and opportunities.

- A chance to pray for our parishes as we start to think about how we can answer the challenge to proclaim the Good News.

- An invitation to join a small parish team who will develop some evangelization ideas for the parish for 2016.

If you would like to join us, please watch out for information in your parish.

### HOW TO...

## Ideas on running a parish Gospel sharing group

**In the first of a new series of How to... articles, Rebecca Bretherton gives some ideas on running a small parish group which gathers together to prepare for the coming Sunday's Gospel through prayer and reflection.**

### The difference it has already made:

*"Meeting with others and praying like this has changed the way I hear the readings on Sunday."*

*"We meet once a month but I now prepare the Gospel at home in the other weeks. It makes such a difference to my experience at Sunday Mass."*

### A successful format:

- A meeting on Wednesday or Thursday;
- A leader explains what will happen so people can relax knowing what to expect.
- Someone reads aloud the Gospel passage;
- Five minutes to silently re-read the passage pausing at words or phrases which jump out of the text. Question: What is this passage saying to me?
- Someone re-reads the passage aloud to the group;
- Another five minutes of silence. This time, take those words or phrases deeper into your heart and start to speak to the Lord about them; praying with the thoughts that come to mind.
- Invite people to share a word or phrase with the group. This is not a Bible Study or discussion but simply a sharing of those words and prayers while the others present listen and reflect silently.
- Group members offer intercessions for the group to pray. These can flow from the Gospel passage or be personal intentions. This is a natural development but people may need to be invited to share their intercessions.
- Conclude with praying the Our Father together.
- Then tea!

### You will need:

- Some music - Taize or similar to settle into a prayerful atmosphere;
- A circle of reasonably comfortable chairs;
- A focus in the centre - maybe a coffee table with a candle and an open Bible;
- A copy of the Gospel reading for everyone. It helps if these are the same translation. Maybe you have several Sunday Missals. Alternatively, the Gospel is often printed on a newsletter insert.
- A kettle and tea!

### How to make this an Evangelisation project:

■ **Venue:** Should it be in the parish hall or at someone's house? People might be happier to come to a neutral, familiar place but a home will have comfier chairs. Maybe mix the venues to suit different people.

■ **Advertise:** Use your parish newsletter or posters. Invite people personally. Keep the message simple and explain exactly what people can expect. They are more likely to come if it doesn't seem too scary and there is tea.

It is worth advertising even if it doesn't bring new people. Many people who can't come will read the advertisement and may prepare the Gospel themselves at home. Others will see that this is something that other Catholics do and that they could do themselves to deepen their understanding of the Gospel reading at Sunday Mass.





### IGNITE TEAM PRAYER DIARY MARCH & APRIL

Please remember the Ignite Team in your prayers both when they are working in schools / parishes and when preparing / creating resources at other times.

#### March

- 1 St Alban's School, Cambridge
- 2 (am) St Martha's School, King's Lynn
- 2 (pm) St Augustine's School, Costessey
- 8 St Pancras School, Ipswich
- 10 St Francis' School, Norwich
- 11 Our Lady and St. Ethelreda Confirmation Group, Newmarket
- 14 All Saints School, March
- 16 St Edmunds School, Bury St Edmunds
- 20 St Edmunds Confirmation Group, Bury St Edmunds
- 21 St Mary's School, Cambridge
- 22 St Laurence's School, Cambridge

#### April

- 2 & 3 USAF Confirmation Group Retreat
- 1 & 10 Celebrate East Anglia
- 18 & 19 St Benedict's School Retreat
- 21 & 22 St Benedict's School Retreat
- 25 & 26 St Benedict's School Retreat
- 30 Start of Ignite Festival

More details: [www.rcdea.uk/youth](http://www.rcdea.uk/youth)



## Festival of youth faith

This year's Ignite Youth Festival, held at Swaffham over the May Bank Holiday, promises to be bigger and better than ever.

Open to everyone in Year 9 to Year 13, so far the team has confirmed Galactus Jack (MC and DJ), Rise (theatre group), The Squares (cover band) Steve Murray (speaker and mime artist) and Fr Christopher Jamison (regular TV and radio broadcaster), plus sports and craft hangouts and

much more besides..

The festival culminates in a pilgrimage walk joining the Diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham.

"It's going to be an amazing weekend! Come if you can," said Hamish MacQueen, Director of the Diocesan Youth Service.

The Ignite Festival is held at Swaffham on April 30 – May 2. For more details and to book tickets see [www.ignitefestival.co.uk](http://www.ignitefestival.co.uk)

## Join global lesson

■ A Norwich parishioner is urging schools in East Anglia to be part of "The World's Largest Lesson".

Mark Pointer (pictured below) from St George's Catholic Church, Norwich is a local campaigner for RESULTS UK. Mark is keen for teachers across the diocese to sign-up and be part of this worldwide campaign, to engage the next generation in the new United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

The World's Largest Lesson, is a campaign led by filmmaker Richard Curtis, in partnership with UNICEF, who wants children around the world to learn about the new Global Goals, which were announced recently at the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The new Global Goals address issues such as extreme poverty, inequality and climate change and will guide global development until 2030. They replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which have seen poverty and the number of out-of-school primary school children both halved.

The World's Largest Lesson has already been held in classrooms in over 160 countries and teaches children between the ages of 8 and 14, about the new Global Goals, using specially prepared on-line lesson plans.

Teachers register on-line, where they will have full access to a range of free on-line resources, with topics ranging from Global Poverty Solutions to Clean Water for All.

"I know teachers are extremely busy, but it would be wonderful to see schools in East Anglia taking part this worldwide initiative," said Mark. "The World's Largest Lesson will do more than teach children about the Global Goals. It will engage them in the effort to achieve those Goals – educating them about the challenges that are shaping better futures for everyone in the world."

Find out more at: [www.tes.com/worldslargestlesson](http://www.tes.com/worldslargestlesson).



## We are looking for people to join the IGNITE TEAM 2016-2017



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## Your opportunity to join the Ignite team

■ Have you thought about joining the Ignite Team?

This past year has been incredibly exciting with the formation of the full-time Ignite Team, and they are now looking for more team members to join from September.

Ben Nazareth, from Cambridge, who is one of the current team members would certainly recommend it.

"I've now been part of the Ignite Team for six months," he said.

"It's been the most intense, but also the most exciting, period of my life. After the initial training period, we immediately got stuck in to the task of engaging and evangelising young people across the Diocese, and



Ben Nazareth.

I'm really looking forward to our Flagship Ignite festival.

"Taking this year out has taught me a lot about myself and how I view my faith."

If you will be over 18 by this September, why

not spend a year (or longer) on the team. Food, accommodation, and a monthly allowance is provided. For more information see contact details, right.





# Epiphany lights up the skies

There was an explosive celebration of Epiphany near Norwich on January 3 when over 120 young people and their families from across the Diocese of East Anglia enjoyed a candlelit mass, bonfire, hot dogs and a firework display.

The now annual Epiphany Youth Mass, which celebrates the occasion when the wise men visited the baby Jesus and his birth was first shared with the world, took place at the Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation, at Poringland, in Norfolk.

The packed Mass was led by Bishop Alan Hopes and included a chance for participants to light a candle, as a reminder of their baptismal promises, and donate a present to be given to present-day children who are refugees in the UK.

Everyone then went outside to enjoy hot dogs, a bonfire and a firework display in the garden of the Bishop's White House.

Director of Youth Services, Hamish MacQueen, said: "Despite some inclement weather everyone had a great time at this special celebration. It was an inspiring and joyful evening."



The Epiphany Mass and firework celebrations at Poringland.



## youth contacts

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/igniteyea](https://www.facebook.com/igniteyea) Twitter: @igniteyea

## Adults invited to World Youth Day

Bookings for young people wanting to go on the World Youth Day Pilgrimage to Krakow, have now closed. However, a handful of places are still available and they are now being offered to people from East Anglia of any age on a first-come first-served basis.

Diocesan Youth Director Hamish MacQueen said: "It's not cheap – £930 for a twin or double room for the World Youth Day week (and that's not including travel, WYD registration etc) - but believe it or not this is a good price. When the city hosting WYD is announced, accommodation prices typically more than triple overnight. This is particularly true when, as is the case in Krakow, there simply aren't enough hotels etc to accommodate the expected two million + visitors."

If anyone is interested, they should contact Hamish in the Diocesan Youth Office as soon as possible on 01508 486236 or at [dys@east-angliadiocese.org.uk](mailto:dys@east-angliadiocese.org.uk)



Pope Francis will be at World Youth Day. © Mazur



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As the paper is reliant on advertising to fund this free publication and only ever promotes adverts from Catholic Schools, it does heavily rely on support from schools in the diocese.

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## CATHOLIC WORLD

# Voices of 1.8m people of faith are heard in Paris

Pope Francis arrived in Kenya in late November as negotiators at the climate talks in Paris were moving towards their historic agreement. Diss parishioner, Judith Tooth, who met French President Francois Hollande after her 200-mile pilgrimage to the Paris summit, reports.



Judith Tooth, front second left, meets President Francois Hollande, front centre.



*"May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance" (Letter of St Jude, verse 2)*

The **National Shrine of Saint Jude, Apostle and Martyr**, is served by the Carmelite friars at Faversham, Kent. It is open all year.

Since its foundation in 1955, the Shrine has distributed a quarterly newsletter called **Carmelite News**. Carmelite News is a letter from the Prior Provincial updating readers on the work of the Shrine and the Carmelites in Britain. It also includes a number of reflections and novena prayers.

If you would like to receive a copy of our free newsletter, please send your contact details to: **Carmelite Friars, P.O. Box 140, Kent, ME20 7SJ, newsletter@stjudeshrine.org.uk**, or call **01795 539 214**



PHOTOGRAPHY: PH. BOLENE

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**S**peaking in Nairobi, and commending the Kenyan people's culture of conservation, Pope Francis said: "We have a responsibility to pass on the beauty of nature in its integrity to future generations, and an obligation to exercise a just stewardship of the gift we have received."

"These values are deeply rooted in the African soul. In a world which continues to exploit rather than protect our common home they must inspire the efforts of national leaders to promote responsible models of economic development."

Meanwhile, hearing "the cry of the earth, the cry of the poor" (Laudato Si' 49), I was nearing the French capital on foot, having walked from London with 30 campaigners from CAFOD, Christian Aid, Tearfund and the Church of England on the Pilgrimage2Paris, hopeful that our efforts would indeed inspire those leaders.

And the combined action of pilgrims from across the world, along with all the communities who welcomed them, fed them and prayed with them along the way, and all those who signed petitions calling for climate justice, was

noticed. Nearly 1.8 million signatures from the world's faith communities was hard to ignore!

Executive secretary of the UN's framework convention on climate change, Christiana Figueres, was in tears as she accepted the global petition. Later, she sent an open letter of gratitude to "all those, the millions of people around the world who laboured now and before, so long and so hard" on "a critical milestone reached, a decisive turning point inscribed into history". The letter began: "To those who walked, to those who prayed".

Francois Hollande's special envoy for the protection of the planet, Nicolas Hulot, suggested that the global faith petition be presented to the French President personally. And so I went to the Elysee Palace, one of a small group of pilgrims and faith leaders, where Mr Hollande thanked us for our action.

He said: "Through the petitions, through the walks and pilgrimages, you have committed to defend life. It is necessary that all citizens engage and mobilise, like you have done ... Your example has paved the way."

I was back in Paris for the final days of the climate talks as part of a CAFOD delegation. There was a powerful moment when we stood outside the conference centre sending messages to energy and climate change secretary, Amber Rudd, to take bold action, while CAFOD's head of advocacy, Neil Thorns, was inside the building, lobbying her personally. We then added our voices to thousands of others calling for climate justice at a demonstration around the Eiffel Tower.

Speaking at CAFOD's Day of Reflection in Newmarket at the end of January, CAFOD policy analyst on climate and energy, Rob Elsworth, said: "We set six priorities: a long-term decarbonising goal, a review mechanism every five years, certainty of climate finance [to help poorer countries cope with the impacts of climate change], a legal form, and renewable energy playing a role. The agreement meets all of them."

He went on to say: "It's a new beginning. The 1.5°C language is a victory for the most vulnerable. It resets the agenda and shifts the focus to national level. We're all part of the solution. Keep campaigning!"



## EVENTS

## Eurovision winner Dana at Celebrate



Dana Scallan.

Eurovision Song Contest winner and former Euro MP, Dana Scallan, is one of the keynote speakers at family Catholic Charismatic Conference, Celebrate East Anglia, on April 9 and 10.

While still at school, Dana won the 1970 Eurovision Song Contest with 'All Kinds of Everything' which became a worldwide million seller and launched her long-running music career. This has included an Irish number one with the song that was based on the St Pope John Paul II's motto: Totus Tuus, (Latin for Totally Yours).

In 1999, Dana was elected to a seat in the European Parliament, representing Connacht-Ulster. She campaigned on family values and her opposition to abortion and divorce. The combination of Dana's musical and political career underpinned by her faith promises to make her a very interesting speaker.

The theme for 2016 is, "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly

with your God." Micah 6:8 (NIV).

Also giving keynote talks will be Steve Murray who was a hit at last year's Ignite Festival, and David Payne, who runs Café (Catholic Faith Exploration) which produces resources used by many parishes throughout the world. Workshops will be provided by, amongst others the internationally acclaimed speaker Charles Whitehead.

Celebrate East Anglia is a weekend conference for people of all ages and takes place at St Benedict's School in Bury St Edmunds and will be attended by Bishop Alan Hopes.

Organiser, Philip Walters, said: "It aims to offer a faith-filled and fun event which combines good Christian teaching, inspirational speakers and celebration of the liturgy, where young and old alike join together in a vibrant atmosphere to celebrate the love of God."

For further details and booking, visit [www.celebrateconference.org](http://www.celebrateconference.org)

## History conference

A one-day conference on the history of Catholicism in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough from the Reformation to the present day is set to take place at the Narthex, Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich on June 11, as part of the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the Diocese of East Anglia.

The conference will feature papers from Francis Young on Resistance and devotion in Tudor Suffolk; Roger Martin's prayer book, Joy Rowe on The Bacton mission in the eighteenth century, Prof John Charmley on Catholicism in Victorian East Anglia and Jonathan Hooton on Nineteenth-century religious life in Norwich: Notre Dame Convent, School and Chapel.

The conference will also see the launch of the official history of the Diocese, also entitled Catholic East



Organiser Francis Young.

Anglia and published by Gracewing Press and a round table discussion: the future of East Anglian Catholic history

Conference organiser, Francis Young, said: "Catholic East Anglia is the first ever conference on the

history of Catholicism in East Anglia and a fitting way to celebrate 40 years of the Diocese. The Diocese is still young but the Catholic faith survived in this region through centuries of persecution, and the Conference is celebrating the whole history of the faith here since the Reformation in the 16th century.

"I would encourage people to come to the conference to find out about the rich history of Catholicism in the Diocese, especially if they are interested in setting up, further developing or being part of a group devoted to parish history."

The conference takes place on Saturday June 11, from 10.30 to 5.15pm. There will be a small registration fee and lunch will be provided.

Booking for the conference will be via [www.rcdea.org.uk](http://www.rcdea.org.uk)

More details at: [www.catholicceast-anglia2016.wordpress.com](http://www.catholicceast-anglia2016.wordpress.com)

## events in brief

## Shroud of Turin exhibition

■ The Shroud of Turin Exhibition, which takes life-sized replicas of the Shroud to different venues, will be visiting St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich from March 7 to 18.

The actual Shroud is housed in the Cathedral of the Italian city of Turin and because of its extraordinary nature is the subject of many books and documentaries. The Shroud of Turin exhibition hopes to give visitors a chance to understand more about the mysteries of the Shroud.

Cathedral education officer, Jo Anderton, said: "The exhibition should help the visitor understand the nature of the Passion of Christ and the story of Easter. The Shroud of Turin also offers a mystery story that ties together many different disciplines – religion, science, art, archaeology and history and yet even in the 21st century there are no answers to the question 'How was the image formed?'"

To book a slot for a larger group to view this free exhibition, or for more information, ring 01603 724381 or contact [education@sjbcathedral.org.uk](mailto:education@sjbcathedral.org.uk)

## Slaying the dragon

■ Slaying the Dragon; the Call to be a Man, is the title of a one-day event in Newmarket on Saturday April 23.

Organised by the Diocesan Commission for Marriage and Family Life, the event: "aims to encourage men of all ages to come together and grow in faith and fellowship in the Catholic Church," said organiser Damian Wallace.

Rev Mgr John Armitage, Rector of Walsingham, will talk on What does it mean to be a man? Alan Marshall, from Youth 2000, will speak on Becoming a new man in Christ and Will Hince, also from Youth 2000 will address Fatherhood, Fellowship and Vocation.

The day will include Mass, confession, adoration and prayer and costs £15, including lunch and coffee.

The event takes place from 10 am to 4pm at Our Lady the Immaculate and St Etheldreda, Newmarket, Suffolk, 14 Exeter Road, CB8 8LT. Places are limited to 90 and can be booked on Eventbrite or via [catholicmen23@gmail.com](mailto:catholicmen23@gmail.com)

## Diocesan pilgrimage

■ The East Anglia Diocesan Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place on Monday May 2 (bank holiday). It is one of the major events of the year in the life of the Diocese and will start with Angelus and the beginning of the procession from the Friday Market in Walsingham at 12.30pm and conclude with Mass at the Catholic National Shrine from 3pm. Further details to follow in the next edition.

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## news in brief

### Homes throw open their doors for Posada

■ The Advent tradition of Posada has taken place across the Diocese of East Anglia leading up to Christmas with hundreds of homes throwing open their doors to the statue of the Virgin Mary on a donkey with St Joseph.

The Advent journey of Mary and Joseph is an old Mexican tradition, represented by the statue journeying from one home to another. Statues were given to each of the 50 plus parishes across the Diocese as part of the outreach for the New Evangelisation where they travelled from home to home.

One of the statues arrived at the South Wootton home of Pauline McSherry, a parishioner at Our Lady of the Annunciation in King's Lynn, who describes her experience.

"An open door awaited the arrival of the Posada statue; friends and neighbours gathered to give Mary and Joseph shelter and a warm welcome.

"With friends and neighbours together we followed the guidance given to us and prayers suggested. All joined in and quietly we found time to pray for our own parish, our own families and those no longer with us.

"Like Mary and Joseph, refugees in their own country, refugees worldwide this day were remembered. I found the gathering and time for prayer a most peaceful and spiritual Advent Journey. It was good to be together with friends and to have time too to chat and enjoy some festive fare. A truly memorable and happy evening," said Pauline.

### Patrick's golden honour

■ Patrick Monaghan (right), a server at Sacred Heart Church, Dereham, has been given a golden accolade from the Archconfraternity of St Stephen in recognition of 50 years of membership of the Guild.

Fr Brendan Moffatt from Sacred Heart, said: "It was my great pleasure to present Patrick with his medal. I have never presented a gold medal and I have never known anyone else to receive one, and I have never seen any server wear one. Patrick has already been awarded the Beni Merenti Medal, but this gold medal from the Archconfraternity of St Stephen is a much rarer thing."



### New organ for Cromer

■ Sweeter sounds of worship are now coming from Our Lady of Refuge in Cromer, North Norfolk, after the church's new organ was blessed by the Bishop of East Anglia, Rt Rev Alan Hopes during a special evening service on January 8.

It was Bishop Alan's first visit to the seaside town and he joined in the celebrations with the Cromer community by leading a special Offering of the Mass at 7pm and blessing the new organ.

Bishop Alan said: "Music is an integral and important part of worship." He thanked Mary Henriksen for her playing of the organ and the choir for the singing and encouraged the congregation to sing more, quoting St Augustine, who said: "Those who sing pray twice."

Parish priest, Fr Denys Lloyd, paid tribute to Mary: "All at Our Lady of Refuge are so grateful to Mary for so gallantly accompanying the 9am Sunday Mass all through the year."

Mary, aged 92, has been the organist at Our Lady of Refuge since 2003 and has taught music for around 70 years, since she qualified at the age of 20.



**As Walsingham is granted Minor Basilica status, we report on two different annual pilgrimages to the Catholic National Shrine.**

## More retreat than journey

■ The Walsingham Walkers pilgrimage from London to North Norfolk is estimated to take 250,000 steps but it is not so much a journey to a place but a retreat away from everyday life, as organiser Peter Walters from Newmarket, explains.

**O**n the Walsingham pilgrimage we are travelling in another direction towards a deeper relationship with God and a broader fellowship with one's fellow pilgrims.

It is this that lies at the centre of The Walsingham

ping each night to sleep on the floor of the crypt or parish hall of the Catholic Church nearest to each day's Walk finishing point, with the exception of one night where our Christian friends at the Salvation Army lend us one of their Halls.

This has always been a pilgrimage for men, not because we are being sexist or exclusive, but because the sleeping arrangements en route are not geared to a mixed event.

We have a support vehicle to carry our main rucksacks since a large part of the route is on uneven ground across country paths and fields and because of the need to avoid roads with heavy traffic, our Walk finishing point each day is generally several miles from our sleepover venue.

We need to book ahead for meals and sleepover venues and to have a fairly precise timetable so that folk know when we are arriving for a meal, or for Mass or Benediction. We also average a demanding 17 miles a day.

Our spiritual programme is a significant part of the pilgrimage. The first hour of each

morning and afternoon walk is spent in silence for prayer and prayerful meditation. Also, we say a decade of the Rosary each morning and afternoon, always in a public place (since pilgrimage is, after all, an opportunity of witness to our faith). If we are unable to have Mass or Benediction on any day, we have our own Morning and

Evening Prayers as an alternative. Finally, we say our Novena Prayers and sing the Salve Regina on a daily basis.

In case you are getting the impression that our pilgrimage is populated by a bunch of ever so holy souls, let me assure you that it is not. We enjoy each other's company as we walk, swapping life stories, experiences and problems. We put the world to rights on a daily basis and have been known to sample the odd beer or two.

Our arrival in Walsingham is a joyous one, not just because we have succeeded in finishing our journey, but because of what the Shrine stands for and for the welcome we always receive, both at the Shrine and in the town. It also gives us the chance to quietly and prayerfully deliver the petitions gathered by the Guild and others that the men carry with them in their day packs.

Our final Walsingham experience is the slow perambulation from town to Shrine early on the final Sunday morning when we recite all 15 decades of the Rosary as we walk along the old railway line that affords a level of peace and quiet as a cool and misty dawn turns into day.

Add to that the tolling of the Slipper Chapel bell that greets us on the final leg of the walk and into the Shrine and you have all the ingredients of a memorable occasion and a fitting end to the pilgrimage.

If you would like further information about this pilgrimage or would like to join us in 2016 (October 1 to 9 inclusive), please visit: [walsinghamwalkers.co.uk](http://walsinghamwalkers.co.uk) or email: [jpw33@live.co.uk](mailto:jpw33@live.co.uk)



**Above, the Walsingham Walkers arrive at the Catholic Shrine in Walsingham.**

Walkers' pilgrimage from London to Walsingham. The present Walk derives from those formerly organised between 1952 and 2010 by the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom, which supports the pilgrimage financially.

We begin at St Ignatius Church, Stamford Hill in North London and work our way to Walsingham, stop-





Above and below, students carrying large wooden crosses converge on Walsingham.

## Cross-carrying students

■ Pilgrims from across the UK will once again be embarking on the week-long Student Cross pilgrimage to Walsingham this Easter, in eleven cross-carrying groups arriving on Good Friday. Laura Mitcham from Student Cross explains how East Anglian parishes can get involved.

A great event is happening across the Diocese of East Anglia this Easter and we invite you to join us.

This cross-carrying pilgrimage, which first started in 1948, involves eleven different groups who walk from different parts of the country to Walsingham. Most of the groups start walking the day before Palm Sunday, although the Ely group start on the Wednesday of Holy Week and one group walk on Good Friday only.

Student Cross is different each time you walk, but always meaningful and enjoyable. The pilgrimage is a chance to celebrate Easter in a unique way, by living Holy Week in com-



munity, celebrating liturgy and tangibly walking with Christ towards the joy of the Resurrection.

Each group carries a large wooden cross as a witness to the people that we pass, as we cross fens and gently rolling hills on the way to Walsingham. We are welcomed, accommodated and fed by kind-hearted parishes along the way, as they live out their Christian witness in this special way.

Our physical journey culminates in the arrival in Walsingham on Good Friday, where the whole

pilgrim body celebrates the resurrection of Christ together with Holy Mass and a great party fitting for the occasion. 2016 will be a particularly special time to visit Walsingham, as there will be an opportunity to pass through the Holy Door during the Jubilee Year of Mercy announced by Pope Francis.

We would like to invite you to support and participate in Student Cross. We are open to walkers of all ages and backgrounds and we have various ways of supporting pilgrims financially to be able to walk, through our registered charity the Student Cross Association. You might find that the route of one or more of our groups passes close to your parish. We invite you to pray for us as we make our journey and hold the communities we pass in our prayers.

You can find out more about Student Cross by contacting Recruitment Director Laura Mitcham, who is based at Sacred Heart Parish, St Ives, on 01480 300427, at [studentcross.recruit@gmail.com](mailto:studentcross.recruit@gmail.com), or visit our website [www.studentcross.org.uk](http://www.studentcross.org.uk)

## The heart of the Church's mission

**The Catholic Church in England and Wales has restated that the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is at the heart of the Church's mission, with the issue in the public eye following the release of the film Spotlight in the UK in January.**

■ Spotlight is set in 2002 and is about the uncovering by journalists of clerical child sexual abuse in Boston, Massachusetts. The film is very hard-hitting and has provoked a mixture of reactions and emotions.

The National Safeguarding Office of the Catholic Church in England and Wales has emphasised that there is no place in the Church, or indeed society, for abuse – a grievous crime which can affect people for their entire lives.

Victims come first. This has not always been the case. The Church deeply regrets all instances of sexual abuse and the abuse of minors and vulnerable adults, and accepts that grave mistakes were made in the past.

All allegations of abuse reported to the Church in England and Wales are immediately passed on to the police. The Church works closely and cooperatively with the statutory authorities as these allegations are investigated. After this investigation, which follows UK law, the Church conducts its own internal investigation, following Canon law.

East Anglia Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator, Mick Thurley, said: "In the Diocese we are busy preparing for the forthcoming Independent Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse, led by Judge Lowell Goddard; planning a training programme and a safeguarding conference for our fantastic Parish Safeguarding representatives."

In December 2013, Pope Francis, who has declared there should be "zero tolerance" of abuse, established a Vatican commission on the protection of minors.

Last year, the Holy Father said that he wants to encourage and promote the Church's commitment to protection and care "at every level — episcopal confer-

ences, dioceses, institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life — to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure the protection of minors and vulnerable adults and to respond to their needs with fairness and mercy".

The remarks reflected a considerable journey for the Catholic Church in England and Wales when it comes to safeguarding.

In September 2000, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, then Archbishop of Westminster, requested that Lord Nolan independently investigate abuse allegations. A year later, the 23 dioceses accepted all 83 recommendations of the Nolan report. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, then Archbishop of Birmingham, was appointed chair of the report's implementation team, which established the Catholic Office for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults.

In July 2007, a further review by Baroness Julia Cumberlege – 'Safeguarding with Confidence' – found that some 79 of Lord Nolan's recommendations had been addressed, with 55,000 Criminal Records Bureau disclosures completed on clergy and other staff from 2003-2006.

Following the Cumberlege report, the Church established two bodies. First, the independent National Catholic Safeguarding Commission [NCSC] which is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Church's safeguarding policy for children and vulnerable adults, and for monitoring compliance.

The NCSC directs the work of a second unit set up in the wake of Cumberlege, the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service [CSAS], which was established to implement improvement in practice.

CSAS has in recent years completed safeguarding audits of all dioceses in England and Wales, overseen by the NCSC.

Last year's annual report of the NCSC approved the setting up of a Survivors Advisory Panel to help inform the work of the NCSC and the safeguarding policies and practices within the Church. It also found that over 95% of the 2,400 parishes in England and Wales have at least one safeguarding representative.

Read more about safeguarding in the Diocese of East Anglia at:

[www.rcdea.org.uk/safeguarding/](http://www.rcdea.org.uk/safeguarding/)

At a national level visit:

[www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk)



# Diocesan Schools in Focus



## Pupils draw lessons from illustrator

Year 4 pupils at St Mary's Junior School, Cambridge received a visit in January from local illustrator and designer Debbie Bellaby who is known for illustrating children's books such as Joe Raccoon, Fred the Fabulous Flamingo and Mercy Methuen.

The Junior School pupils have been reading Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and, enjoying Quentin Blake's style of illustration, learning to rough sketch.

In line with the school's Teaching and Learning focus – to develop in each member of the school community a growth mind-set – Debbie encouraged the girls to resist the temptation to erase imperfections in initial sketches, highlighting that illustration is not about achieving immediate perfection. She said: "Drawings shouldn't be right at the first attempt. Sketch books should be full of things that have gone wrong – because being creative, having initial ideas, practising, and working out where to refine initial sketches is the best way to improve your illustrations."

## School celebrates top A-level results

St Benedict's Catholic School in Bury St Edmunds is celebrating the confirmation of another year of outstanding exam results, which ranked it as the top state comprehensive school in the whole country for A-levels last summer and the best-performing school in Suffolk.

The average points per student at 1148.4 was a school record and also put St Benedict's in the top 10 schools nationally, state and independent.

Put into real terms, 1040 equals each student, on average, obtaining 2A\*s and 2As at A level.

Headteacher, Hugh O'Neill, said: "It's good to see that our outstanding A-level success was confirmed in the performance tables. These are the tables that show that St Benedict's has one of the highest performing sixth forms in the country, a truly remarkable achievement for a small school in rural Suffolk."

"Our GCSE results are catching up fast, and the Progress 8 score, when it gets published in the full tables, will show us in the top 5-6% of all schools nationally."

"We celebrated our students' achievements with Bishop Alan Hopes recently at our Presentation Evening. These tables allow us to share the good news with everyone."

Highlights from the data for St Benedict's in the performance tables include:


- Pupil progress (Best 8 subjects) is 1040.9 - this is a really good indication of how well students have done against their starting points.

- The best value added is found with low prior attainers, whose 1052.8 score is exceptional

- St Benedict's disadvantaged pupils did better in progress measures than all pupils nationally (1000.9)


Key data, not included in the tables until next year, is Progress 8, where St Benedict's score of +0.7 will put it in the top 5-6% of all schools nationally.

[www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)




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The new altar at Notre Dame High School.

## New altar marks 150th birthday

A new, specially designed, altar has been installed at Notre Dame High School to mark its 150th anniversary, funded by the school PTFA and others.

The original altar was installed when the chapel was built as the convent chapel for the Sisters of Notre Dame and was followed by a temporary portable wooden one.

To mark the 150th Anniversary of the school it was decided to explore the possibility of replacing it. Several designs and quotations were obtained, dona-

tions made and a short list of designs were put on display during the anniversary celebrations in June 2014. Pupils and staff were consulted on the designs.

Kevin McNally, Assistant Headteacher, said: "When commissioning designs we wanted an altar that was compatible with the architecture of the chapel. We wanted an altar that brought attention to the shape of the chapel, that revealed the stunning pattern of the floor, and that worked with the original high altar. These aims were

fully realised in the design that was chosen."

Donations from the 150th Anniversary provided a great start to raising the money needed and the PTFA were able to raise funds so the altar could be in place by the end of the school year at a cost of £2,750.

"We would like to extend our thanks to the PTFA and the many others who made a contribution," said Kevin, especially to Julie Waldrop, chair of the PTFA who is standing down after 21 years of service."



# Diocesan Schools in Focus



Head Students Joe and Katie, presented a cheque for £1,920 to Emma Roper and two colleagues from BEAT.

■ Dozens of hampers for vulnerable families and cheques worth £16,000 for charities were gathered and presented at the Notre Dame High School Christmas Carol Service.

In the first part of the service, led by school Chaplain, Fr Sean Connolly, 64 hampers were brought by each form group, to be sent to individuals or families who are in really difficult circumstances or to charities which specialise in looking after the needy and vulnerable.

The St Vincent de Paul youth group help to coordinate this activity and work closely with a number of local organisations, including: the Ashcroft and Ripley Projects, St Martin's Trust, Leeway, the Salvation Army, Norwich Night Shelter and Highwater House.

Cheques to the value of £16,211, the second highest amount ever, were presented to charities the School Council had selected for support from a sponsored walk at the end of October. £3,000 was given to HCPT. CAFOD, BEAT and the Man-croft Advice Project each received £1,920. Little Princess Trust, Save the Children, CARITAS, St Martin's Housing Trust, The Hamlyn Centre, Meningitis UK, NACC and RSPCA received £800.

## School gets award

St Louis Catholic Academy in Newmarket has become the first school in Suffolk to successfully achieve the nationally-recognised EQualities Award.

The EQualities Award is a national scheme for schools to demonstrate their commitment to equality in all areas of school life. The Award was developed in response to the Equality Act 2010.

By achieving the EQualities Award, St Louis Catholic Academy has demonstrated its commitment to equality, for all pupils, parents, staff, governors and the wider community.

The project was led and managed by SMSC Leader and Foundation Stage teacher, Tanara Smith, who said: "Gaining the EQualities Award is a great achievement for any public body. We are particularly pleased to be the first school in Suffolk to have gained it. This is a true reflection of the ethos and culture of St Louis Catholic Academy and we are proud to have our day-to-day work recognised officially in such a way."

Headteacher, Teresa Selvey, said: "I am delighted at this endorsement of the school's fundamental commitment to inclusion and equality for all.



Staff and pupils at St Louis with the EQualities Award.

We are a Catholic school and this means that we should be welcoming to everyone. This award recognises

that we treat all members of our school community with the respect that they deserve."

## Dominican friars visit St Bede's school

Dominican Friar Fr Richard Flynn recently took six novices to St Bede's in Cambridge to support Year 9 in their understanding of the unit of study "Faith in Action".

Students had studied the lay vocation and the sacrament of Holy Orders, and they were learning about the Religious Life.

The novice friars explained to students how they discerned the call to explore the life of a Religious and to try out the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Many students found it hard to take in the lack of possessions, but they did appreciate the self-sacrifice they were seeking to practice as taught by Jesus.

The Dominicans have become involved in the spiritual life of the school in other ways too. One of the novices, Br Wilf, who has had school experience, has begun a lunchtime club every other Friday to give students the opportunity to discuss theological issues over craft activities.

### news in brief

## Global justice lessons

■ A CAFOD Ambassadors' Club has been launched at St Bede's in Cambridge which is engaging students in exploring issues of global justice and faith, while having a lot of fun. The popular sessions are based in the Chaplaincy, fortnightly on Fridays, and last half term explored issues of food justice.

Stephen Matthews, CAFOD Participation Coordinator - East Anglia, said: "We played food games, exploring hunger and excess. We did some guerrilla fundraising, distributing packets of sweets and prayers to random strangers (someone in school we didn't know), and collected donations to CAFOD's Harvest Appeal.

"In the time before Christmas, we explored issues of climate change, including Pope Francis' letter to us all about God's creation, consumption, and how our lifestyles may create a better relationship between people and the planet, as the United Nations meet in Paris to agree how the world can protect our environment for the poorest nations," said Stephen.

## Pilgrimages planned

■ Schools from across the Diocese of East Anglia are visiting the Catholic National Shrine at Walsingham during dates across May and June

Cambridge Schools (St Mary's Junior, St Alban's Primary and St Laurence Primary) are holding their annual pilgrimage on Wednesday June 15 with Year 6 children.

Norfolk and North Suffolk based Catholic pyramid schools - Notre Dame High, Norwich, St Francis of Assisi, Norwich, St Augustine's, Costessey, St Martha's, King's Lynn, St Mary & St Peter, Gorleston, visit on Friday June 17. All Year 8 students at Notre Dame High School, will have the opportunity to go on pilgrimage on June 9, 10, 16 and 17.

St Mary's RC Primary, Ipswich will be visiting with Year 5 children on Monday May 23. The Diocesan Children's Pilgrimage takes place on Tuesday May 31.

## A bag of surprises

■ Key Stage 1 and EYFS classes at St Martha's in King's Lynn received a visit from Fr Henry for an assembly on Candlemass and The Presentation of the Lord on February 2.

Jess Woodrow RE Lead, said: "Fr Henry showed the children a bag in which something was written inside and asked for a child to come up to the front to discover what was written in there. There was a torch inside which represented Jesus and enabled the child to then read the message from God - 'God loves you'. This was followed by a blessing of our candles which the children thoroughly enjoyed."

## Pupils join unity service

■ The St Louis School motto, "That we may be one", was put into action in its community on Friday January 22, as 37 pupils and three members of staff joined parishioners from many other churches in and around Bury St Edmunds at the United Reform Church for a prayer lunch to celebrate a 'Week of Christian Unity'.

Karen Sharpe, Assistant RE Subject Leader, said: "St Louis pupils thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the service, helping to thread together paper chains of the congregation's individual prayers, thereby uniting us all in worship."



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# Holy Door opens a Year of God's Mercy for the church

Bishop Alan began the Jubilee Year of Mercy by opening the Holy Door at the Cathedral in Norwich, then gave a homily explaining what the year was all about.

**O**n December 13, across the world, the Church began the Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by our Holy Father, Pope Francis. During this year he asks us to gaze attentively at the mystery of mercy and to practice it in our daily lives.

## So what is mercy?

■ Mercy is, first and foremost, God's action towards us. In our running towards the Lord, mercy is the Lord's running towards us with his indulgent love and forgiveness. He is like the Father in the parable of the prodigal son who runs joyfully towards his son who had returned to him after years of selfish indulgence.

Pope Francis tells us that the word Mercy reveals the very mystery of the Holy Trinity. Jesus Christ, who is the Mercy of the Father made visible, hurries towards us in the power of the Holy Spirit to meet us.... at Bethlehem in the flesh, at the end of time in glory, every day on the altar and in the confessional in the form of a Sacrament.

He desires to be united with us! And this is the true joy and peace of being a Christian: to know that we are loved forever by God, in spite of our failures and sinfulness – a love which is begun not by us, but by God himself.

Second, although God is the initiator of mercy, he asks us to co-operate with the mercy he offers to us.

## How do we do this?

■ We can only receive mercy if we are showing justice and mercy to others.

Pope Francis asks that during this Year we should both reflect and act on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy in order to: reawaken our conscience.... so that we can know whether or not we are living as the Lord's disciples.

These works of mercy are in



## Family go through Holy Door

Long-standing members of the St John the Baptist Cathedral congregation, Jo and Matthew Graham, along with children Sam, Emily, Tess and Johnathan, have all walked through the Holy Door.

Jo said: "Walking through the door enabled us to be part of the outpouring of mercy that Pope Francis has talked about and in that small way be able to take part in that and have that physical

manifestation of that process which hopefully a lot of people will be going through this year coming back into the arms of the church. Faith is important to each of us individually and as a family. It underpins what this family is all about."

Matthew said: "We did it with everyone else within the Cathedral congregation and it was great to be part of the community being open to God's mercy during this special year."

the Lord's teaching:

The corporal works of mercy: giving food and drink to the hungry and thirsty, clothing the naked, welcoming the stranger, visiting the sick and those in prison, burying the dead.

The spiritual works of mercy: helping the doubtful, sharing the faith with others, lovingly correcting sinners, comforting the afflicted, forgiving others, being patient with those who hurt us, praying for the living and the dead.

Before we share the Mercy of God with others, we must first prepare to receive God's Mercy into our own hearts. That means personal conversion – a radical change in the direction of our lives. And it begins with the sacrament of Confession. There our hearts are purified, healed of their wounds, lightened of their burdens – so that we might become more like the merciful and loving heart of our Saviour.

As your bishop, and as a fellow penitent, and one who can witness to the joy of receiving God's forgiveness and mercy in this Sacrament, I want to invite each of you to go to Confession during the course of this Year of Mercy – and especially if you have not made your confession for a long time.

Those liberating words of absolution, spoken by the priest, "I absolve you of your sins", are spoken to each one of us personally by the Lord, through his priest. Pope Francis, also a fellow penitent, reminds us that the Lord never tires of throwing open the doors of his heart.

Yes, God in his great mercy throws open wide the doors of his heart to us. That image of God's openness is symbolised by the two Holy Doors that have been opened in the Diocese in December – one at the Cathedral in Norwich and the other in the National Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham.

These will be privileged and indulgenced places. In visiting them as pilgrims, we will experience God's indulgent Mercy in answer to all the prayers we bring.

The Holy Year began as we celebrated Our Lady's Immaculate Conception – her preservation from original sin as God prepared her to be his Mother. She who receives God's Mercy – not as forgiveness but as protection from sin – becomes for us the Mother of Mercy. Through her, the Divine Mercy has entered our world and changed it forever. During this Year, let us place ourselves in the hands of our immaculate and merciful Mother. May Mary, who ran who ran to bring the Gospel of Salvation to her cousin Elizabeth, teach us how to run towards the Lord and rediscover his merciful love, made incarnate in the manger at Christmas. Only then can we truly show God's mercy and justice to all.



# Forgiven and forgotten when we confess

**Jesus forgives and forgets when we bring our sins before him in Confession, writes Fr Henry Whisenant.**



■ St Margaret Mary Alacoque, the French nun who had visions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, once asked Jesus this question in her prayer: "What is the worst sin I have ever committed?"

A big question! Who of us would want to wait around and hear the answer? Jesus' response to her was something of a surprise: "I do not remember, because I forgot them all in your Confession".

When Jesus forgives, he forgets. That is, he doesn't hold our sin against us anymore, nor does he even have it hanging around in the back of his mind in case he needs to bring it out at some future date and wallop us with it!

Mgr John Armitage, the rector at Our Lady's Basilica in Walsingham, points out that Jesus' forgiveness is therefore

much more radical than ours; when we forgive others, very often we bury the hatchet, but we make a big X to mark the spot where the hatchet is buried... in case we need to dig it up again!

But Jesus lets the hatchet be. Or rather, we might say that he transforms the spiritual weapons we wield against him and others into instruments of peace. He turns the swords into ploughshares, and

## REFLECTION

the spears into pruning hooks. In confession we add our sins to the spoils he has won by his grace, along with the Cross, the nails and the crown of thorns.

So the sacrament of Christ's forgiveness is the most tangible sign of his merciful victory and our healing. That is why Our Holy Father says that for every penitent who goes to Confession, this sacrament will be a "true sign of interior peace". And that is why he is encouraging this sacrament in a big way during this year of mercy – by appointing some

Missionaries of Mercy who have the faculty to lift the excommunications incurred by certain grave sins, and by instituting in Lent, on Laetare Sunday, a "24 Hours for the Lord", when Confessions will be heard more widely in our parishes.

No doubt there are those who would like to go to Confession, but are anxious about doing so, or are not sure how to go about it. A person who does not remember how should not fail to go on this account; simply tell the priest, and he will be happy to help!

Nor should a returning penitent be nervous about telling the priest his or her sins; the priest himself goes to Confession (as does the Pope on a regular basis), so as a fellow penitent he knows what it is like. And he's heard too many Confessions to be surprised by anything the penitent could say!

If we do put off going to Confession because of these concerns, we are only letting the Evil One delay us from receiving the mercy of Christ that forgives and forgets and gives us the grace to move on.

# Opportunity to share vision and mission of the Diocese

**It is an historic time for our Diocese. We have a vision and a desire to grow. Bishop Alan Hopes explains how Alive in Faith, a special diocesan-wide effort, is gathering momentum across our parishes and helping to ensure we can build a sure foundation for the life and mission of our Church in East Anglia.**

**A**s we look forward to celebrating the 40th anniversary of our Diocese, we are blessed with a good number of new seminarians and clergy who have dedicated their lives to serve our Catholic communities. Our parishes are vibrant and we are actively reaching out to those who are on the margins of society.

We are truly grateful for what past and current generations have passed on to us. Now, we are focused on our future. It is our turn to leave a lasting legacy for those who follow. We have three key priorities:

- Strengthening each of the parishes in our Diocese,
- Supporting priestly life, in both formation and retirement,
- Living the Gospel through social outreach.

Alive in Faith is a special fund-raising initiative that will help guarantee we have the resources to fulfill our aims and



**Fr Pádraig Hawkins, priest at Our Lady of the Annunciation, Poringland, said: "Alive in Faith is enabling us to continue 'building our future together'. Our new meeting room will ensure we can develop and expand programmes and events such as RCIA and weekly study groups, and improve what we can offer our young people, helping to encourage them on their faith journey."**

mission. Already it is bringing a new focus and energy to our parishes.

Clergy and parishioners from the first 15 parishes who

are engaged in the Alive in Faith programme, have seized the opportunity to raise funds for their local needs, identifying almost 30 projects which



*Building a Sure Foundation for the Mission of Our Diocese*

could not be undertaken from the normal offertory income.

These include: a youth worker in Newmarket, a new parish meeting room in Poringland, supporting the St Vincent de Paul-led homeless shelter in Sheringham and Cromer and strengthening music ministry at the Cathedral in Norwich.

Since August, over 1,000 families have had the chance to learn about Alive in Faith. Parishioners have responded generously with their prayers, time and talents as volunteers, and with financial commitments.

Over the coming months, more parishes will be invited to play their part. It is hoped that the momentum will spread even further, resulting in additional parish projects being undertaken, even more people taking the time to learn about the plans, and many parishioners expressing their love for the Catholic community across East Anglia in a practical way.

Visit [www.rcdea.org.uk/alive-in-faith](http://www.rcdea.org.uk/alive-in-faith) to find out more.

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## Children's choir launch

■ A Children's Choir has been launched at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich and within a few weeks the young choristers were performing on Premier Christian Radio.

The initiative has been masterminded by Master of Music at the Cathedral, Daniel Justin (pictured above), who launched the choir in October.

"The current line-up of children are in Year 4 and 5, and drawn from the schools of St Francis of Assisi, Norwich, and St Augustine, Costessey," said Daniel.

"The choir sang their first Mass in the Cathedral on December 20 at 11am, and later that day participated in the Service of Lessons and Carols, which was recorded for Premier Christian Radio, and broadcast at 4pm on Christmas Day.

If your son or daughter is in Year 4-6 at school, and is interested in joining the Cathedral choristers, please contact Daniel Justin at [music@sjbcathedral.org.uk](mailto:music@sjbcathedral.org.uk)

# Bumper congregations

Christmas Masses right across the Diocese of East Anglia attracted bumper congregations in December, with people packing churches, their porches and even the car park of one.

At St Philip Howard in Cherry Hinton near Cambridge, Rt Rev Mgr Eugene Harkness reported: "The church can hold 250 and I know from the number of hosts that were consecrated that there were at least 350 there for the Midnight Mass. Both porches were overflowing and some people participated from the car park as well."

It was a similar story at St George's in Norwich, where Fr Sean Connolly said: "Our Family Mass Vigil was packed out with people standing in the back and sitting on the stairs on both stairways up to the balcony – there were in excess of 400 people. We also had good numbers for our Midnight Mass and two Christmas morning Masses. Ministers from other local churches also reported much higher attendance this year so it seems that observance was up across the board of the Christian denominations."

It was standing room only at the Catholic Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich for the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at 6pm, with 1,200 adults and children filling all corners of the huge church.

The Vigil service, which is popular with families, celebrates the forthcoming birth of Jesus, which is believed to



Children taking part in the Christmas Eve Vigil at the Cathedral in Norwich.

have happened during the night. A life-sized crib and nativity tableau scene were brought to life with the involvement of dozens of children, many dressed for the part.

Full houses were experienced at a number of Christmas Masses at the Cathedral and on Christmas Day itself five Masses took place including special ones for each of the Tamil, Polish and

Philippino communities.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, the Cathedral hosted well-attended carol services for three schools, the University of East Anglia, local homeless charities including Emmaus Norwich and a service recorded for the national Christian radio station Premier, which was broadcast on Christmas Day.

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The King's Men performing a Christmas concert at St John the Baptist Cathedral.

## King's Men delight Norwich audience

Choral scholars from King's College, Cambridge, warmed up for their world-renowned BBC TV and radio Christmas carol service appearances in the guise of acapella group The King's Men at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich on December 18. Keith Morris reports.

■ Performing without amplification in the vast building to an audience of around 300, the scholars made the most of the church's impressive acoustics with a wide-ranging repertoire.

Well-known festive songs such as Wonderful Christmastime, All I Want for Christmas is You and I Wish it Could be Christmas Every Day mingled effortlessly with Away in a Manger, Coventry Carol and Ding Dong Merrily on High.

The close harmony group travel the

world as The King's Men, and have performed as far afield as North America, Australia and Hong Kong and in venues as varied as the Vatican and the Kremlin.

The Italian El Grillo and German Adendlied a 6 gave an international feel to the evening from the Choral Scholars who follow the daily routine of King's College Chapel services throughout term.

The climax of their year is performing live on BBC radio and recorded on BBC TV on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to a world-wide audience of millions.

The versatility of the scholars was demonstrated, to the delight of the audience, in their own comedic songs The King's Men and Christmas Cards and popular favourites Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer and The Twelve Days of Christmas.

The concert, the first of its kind staged at the Cathedral, raised funds for the Cathedral Music fund.



BUILDING BRIDGES

Decade of progress

In January Fr Philip Shryane revisited the small Cambodian village of Ta Om, ten years after his first visit. He reflects on a decade of progress for the community, aided by the Diocese of East Anglia.



CAMBODIA

Pictured above are children at Mass in the restored church, inset, with no roof before its restoration.

It is exactly ten years since I first went to Ta Om, a small community about an hour-and-a-half from Siem Reap which has Mass every Tuesday, served from Siem Reap or from Sisophon.

On my first visit I remember it felt like walking through a medieval village - no running water, no electricity, no paved road, all the houses were made of bamboo and built on stilts. The area under the house is where the people live during the day, along with a pig and some chickens and dogs, it all looks terrible disorganised and primitive.

I have since discovered they live under the house because it is cooler than being inside. On that occasion I watched a lady weaving a bamboo roof panel to sell and some children playing in what passed as a street. The only stone buildings were the state school and the Church, strangely out of place in its surroundings.

The Church was built in 1862, in the style of a French village church, at that time it had no roof, but there were ladies cleaning none the less, it was used for everything in the village as it was the largest confined space. It does now have a roof, funded by East Anglia. The Church had a learning centre also built by our Diocese and this was the only place with a generator, so the only place with lights at night, so was the gathering

space for the children and young people of the village. The evening I was there, a teacher told the story of the Good Samaritan and several children acted it out clearly enough for me to recognise it.

I have visited a few times since then and went back at the beginning of January. They still do not have electricity, it stops about two kilometres away, but they do have a communal supply of clean water, courtesy of Water Aid. There is a new learning centre with classrooms and areas for young people to stay overnight if necessary. There is a new kitchen and a place to serve the rice soup and there is strong community spirit.

I went on a Tuesday to say the Mass and Fr Totet was in Battambang. I was honoured that some of the old ladies remembered me and even remembered my name from a previous visit a year ago. Thon is the coordinator for the community and there is a local leader who lives at the Church and acts as the guard. I spoke to

Thon about what is being achieved in terms of education at the learning centres and was amazed and very impressed to find that due to their teaching and his perseverance there are five young people from the village in university. This from a village with no electricity or flush toilets. He went on to tell me that there are several more ready to go in the next few years.

The village has changed little, there are some brick-built houses but no paved roads within about half an hour's drive. Many of the people leave the village in search of work, either in Siem Reap or in Thailand.

But there is a great change of hope with the increase in education, which will stand the children in good stead for the future. If they can stay in Cambodia, it will be very good for their country and its future development. The Catholic Church in Siem Reap should be very proud of its perseverance and achievements in education in Ta Om.



The Learning Centre at Ta Om.

Farewell to Walter

■ Zimbabwean priest, Fr Walter Chenyika bade farewell to parishioners of St Mary's RC church, Great Yarmouth, on January 24 after working in the parish for the past six months.

Fr Walter (below) came to England in September 2014 to read for a degree in 'International Development Studies'. He graduated with merit last September and had six months to run on his UK visa.

He got permission from his bishop to remain in England and to do a parish placement at St Mary's.

He fully entered into the life of the parish and worked well with parish priest Fr Philip Shryane and became friends with many parishioners.

Fr Walter returned to Zimbabwe on January 27 where he once more took up his work with Caritas.

At the farewell function, where Fr Walter was presented with a gift of £650, Fr Philip said: "We will miss him very much indeed and wish him well for the future and, who knows, one day we may once more see him in East Anglia?"

ZIMBABWE



Can you help build bridges?

The two current Diocese of East Anglia Building Bridges projects are renovating the Taybeh Old People's Centre in the Holy Land and a new formation centre for children, youth groups and adults at Battambang in Cambodia

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## news in brief

### John's scroll honour

■ A scroll has been presented to a Norwich Catenian in recognition of his 40 years membership.

The December meeting of the Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association was attended by Provincial Director, Bernard Noakes who was there to present a scroll to past president John Kenny (pictured right) in recognition of his 40 years membership of the Association.

Bernard delivered a witty speech to accompany the presentation and gave examples of the news items of 1975 when John joined his very first Circle, London Belgravia, which used to meet in the Irish Club, Eaton Square, Belgravia.

Included in the items quoted was the disappearance of Lord Lucan who by coincidence lived in Lower Belgrave Street, SW1 which is just around the corner from Ebury Street where John and his family occupied a police-owned flat for about 20 years.

When John retired from the Met in 1995, the force's in-house paper, *The Job*, published an article about his excellent health record in which it was disclosed that he hadn't taken a single day's sick leave since 1975.



## New roof helps stop church fire

■ Parishioners at St John of the Cross Roman Catholic Church in Aylsham, are counting their blessings after a fire on January 18 reduced a shed to ash, but a new fire resistant roof prevented it from spreading further into the adjoining church.

Four fire crews tackled the early morning blaze on at Gashouse Hill and managed to control the flames. The 1960s building was left with a burnt hole in a section of its roof, a smashed window, plus smoke and water damage.

Parish priest, Rev James Walsh, said: "Thanks to the local Fire Service any major damage was averted. The new fire-resistant roof also prevented a major catastrophe.

"Members of the congregation have responded well to this incident. They have cleared up the fire damage and have made the building weather-proof so that weekday and Sunday Masses can continue without a break."

## Icon of Peace

■ The Icon of Peace is coming to St John's Cathedral, Norwich from February 27 - March 4 and is an opportunity for people to explore icons as a means of prayer and reflection. Three evening events are being held at the Cathedral on March 1, 2 and 3. More details at [www.rcdea.org.uk](http://www.rcdea.org.uk).

## UEA lectures to feature ex-Archbishop

■ Former Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, is the keynote speaker at the 2016 series of Newman lectures at the University of East Anglia during April.

He will be joined by the Bishop of Norwich, the Bishop of Portsmouth and the Vice Chancellor of St Mary's University, Twickenham.

The Newman lectures are a collaboration between the Diocese and the University of East Anglia, attract wide audiences from across East Anglia and are free to attend.

The theme of the 2016 lecture series is 'The Church and the Modern World', taking inspiration from the 50th anniversary of *Gaudium et Spes* (December 1965).

Deacon Andrew Eburne, who organises the lecture series for the Diocese, said: "The Newman lectures were established in response to Pope Benedict XVI's call for the voice of the Church to be heard in the public square.

"Over 500 people came to last year's lecture series, and we are hoping for

even greater numbers this year."

The dates for the lectures are: April 4, Francis Campbell, Vice Chancellor - St Mary's University, Twickenham; April 11, Rt Rev Graham James, Bishop of Norwich; April 18 Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, former Archbishop of Westminster; and April 25 Rt Rev Philip Egan, Bishop of Portsmouth.

Lectures will be held in the Julian Study Centre at the UEA and will start, promptly, at 6:30pm.

Full details can be found at: [www.newmanlectures.co.uk](http://www.newmanlectures.co.uk)

## Church set to celebrate

St George's church on Sprowston Road in Norwich is set to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its consecration this year.

The Catholic parish will be hosting a whole range of events open to all and spanning the whole year. The highlight will be an Anniversary Mass on Tuesday May 24, at 7pm celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes.

The church opened in 1964 and two years later it was consecrated. Before that St George's church was on Fishergate in the city centre.

Parish priest, Fr Sean Connolly, said: "The parish covers the north side of Norwich and extends out into the county with a weekend congregation totalling around 450 people.

"In celebrating the 50th anniversary of the consecration of our beautiful St George's church, the parish aims to appeal to as wide an audience as possible and invite in our neighbours and the people of Norwich," said Fr Sean, who himself arrived in post two years ago.

"We want to be a really outward looking parish and, as Pope Francis has suggested, open our doors to engage with the wider world."

"There was a real buzz when we unveiled the 50th Anniversary programme at our Christmas Masses. We want the people of Norwich to know we are here, know we are celebrating, and know we invite them to be a part of it," said Fr Sean.

"We have a whole 12 months of activities planned, including a beer festival in



St George's in Norwich is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

June, a 60s disco reflecting the fact we opened in the 1960s and a liturgy celebrating 50 years of marriage at the church.

"There will also be a tea party to mark St George's Feast Day and various concerts throughout the year as the building has fantastic acoustics. On June 12 we will be having a street party for our neighbours who live alongside us on Sprowston Road to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

"On May 24, the actual anniversary, we are having a special Mass with Bishop

Alan Hopes and aim to invite back all of the priests who have worked here and as many people who have connections with the building."

■ The 50th Anniversary celebrations kicked off with an Ecumenical Songs of Praise in January, inviting the local Christian churches of Sprowston. 130 people and one dog came. Canon Simon Stokes, vicar of St Cuthbert's Anglican church, preached at the service, while his guide dog, Hope, paid close attention. [www.stgeorgenorwich.com/50th-anniversary](http://www.stgeorgenorwich.com/50th-anniversary)

## Seafarer has narrow escape near Suffolk



AoS Felixstowe port chaplain Sr Marian Davey.

■ A seafarer who had a narrow escape and fell overboard at a Suffolk port has been supported by Catholic charity Apostleship of the Sea (AoS).

The Filipino man was working on a vessel at Felixstowe port and had an accident which resulted in him falling off the ship into the water.

His colleagues who were working nearby were able to throw him a lifebuoy and with their help he was able to reach the pilot ladder located on the quayside wall. He was then taken to hospital where he received medical attention and observation overnight.

AoS Felixstowe port chaplain Sr Marian Davey visited the seafarer during his stay in hospital and after his discharge to a hotel.

She spoke with his wife and daugh-

ter back home in the Philippines and kept them updated on his progress. She also liaised with the shipping company about his discharge arrangements and subsequent repatriation back home.

"In preparation for his flight I provided him with a little spending money for the airport and some fresh clothing for travelling," said Sr Marian.

She added, "We shared prayer in thanksgiving for his safe rescue and for his ongoing recovery back home with his family."

Sr Marian also supported the seafarer's crew mates, who were anxious and very concerned about him.

"The incident reminds us of the high risk factor involved in seafaring on a daily basis," said Sr Marian.