

OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY

The newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

FREE

July 2006



Prayers for safe return of lapsed

Prayers were said for lapsed Catholics as people walked the Holy Mile and petitions for their return to the practice of the faith set out in the Slipper Chapel at the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham.

In a year when the diocesan themes are the Sacrament of "Baptism" and "Welcome" time is being taken to remember those who were once practising Catholics but are not now coming to Mass regularly.

Bishop Michael said in the pilgrimage programme: "Our procession today focuses on the many Catholics in East Anglia who are not with us at Mass most Sundays.

"We are the poorer for not having them with us, and

they are poorer for not sharing regularly in the mystery of Christ in the Mass.

"Today we unite ourselves with them in prayer.

"We are pilgrims together and we hold in our hearts today as we walk the Holy Mile any lapsed Catholics in our own families, parishes and diocese.

"Every parish is open in welcome to receive them with joy."

Along the Holy Mile there were eight "prayer stations", where each Deanery in turn offered petitions for lapsed Catholics.

Petitions for some of these were placed in Deanery bags which were then set out in the Slipper Chapel for prayer.

The procession walked in silent reflection between the prayer stations on their way to the afternoon Mass at the Walsingham shrine.



Bishop Michael welcomed by the pilgrims at Walsingham, left, and prayers for lapsed Catholics in the Slipper Chapel, above, with the bags of petitions laid out before the altar.

INSIDE:
Two pilgrimages to Walsingham - on Centre pages

Two cathedrals unite at flower festival - page 8

Two stories of building bridges - on page 11

PILGRIMAGES FOR GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

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School gives home to CAFOD's office

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, has set up its East Anglian regional office at Notre Dame High School in Norwich.

Head teacher John Pinnington invited the organization to set up at the school because its work on Third World development projects could contribute to student understanding of the issues involved and help in the citizenship studies part of the curriculum.

Also CAFOD projects offer insights into science. Year nine students have learned how to make a small water filtration plant from barrels and other items that are easy to obtain in the Third World.

The spread of the agency's work also helps students understand more about geography and different cultures.

The regional head of the agency is John Malley whose first job is to extend the network of volunteers in other schools and parishes in the region.

"We are recruiting more volunteers in the parishes to help support the work of the agency, to spread the word about our work and to raise funds."

He has been joined by Abby Dalglish who will



Jon Malley and Abby Dalglish

help run the office.

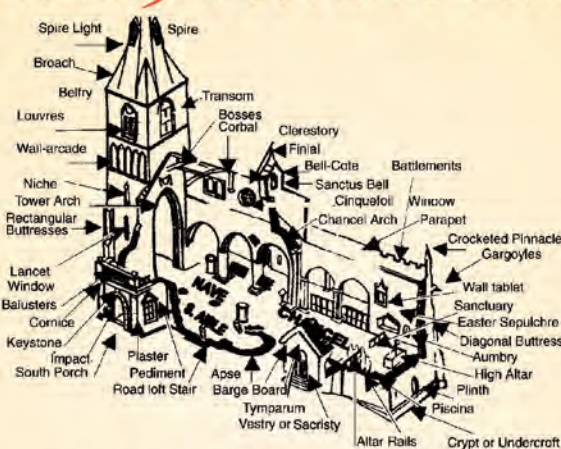
Abbey has worked for Age Concern and is studying for a master's degree in rural development studies at the University of East Anglia.

John sees his role as primarily visiting parishes and schools in the region, building relationships with clergy, communities, head teachers and others.

"Many of our volunteers see their work as part of the Christian vocation to respond to the needs of today's world."

If you feel that you want to be a volunteer or want to know more about CAFOD John Malley can be contacted on 01603 724614.

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NEWS FROM BISHOP MICHAEL

Clergy News

Fr Ken Whitfield died on Easter Tuesday, and I celebrated his Funeral Mass in Blakeney on 27th April. He had served as first an Anglican and then as a Catholic priest for nearly 50 years. May he rest in peace.

Fr Martin Fears has been appointed Assistant Priest in Bury St Edmund's.

Fr Edward Crouzet O.S.B. left the diocese on Pentecost Sunday. He had been parish priest of Bungay and the local dean, and he will be much missed. He is off to help a Benedictine monastery in Washington DC. The new parish priest of Bungay is Fr Charles Fitzgerald-Lombard, a former Abbot of Downside. I have appointed Fr Roger Spencer as the new Dean of the Coastal Deanery for three years.

Bishop's Update

After recent tests and scans, it has been decided that I will be having a month of daily radiotherapy sessions from 1st – 29th August. This means that I will be unable to join the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, and I will need to keep my September diary as light as possible. AS those of you who have been through such treatment know, it can take some time to recover afterwards. Thank you for your continued prayers.'

'All change' in Peterborough

A lot of changes happened in Peterborough Cathedral way back on 29th April. A large congregation of over 800 gathered for a Deanery Mass, during which I formally announced changes to parish boundaries and structures in the city. This was the fruit of over three years of careful discussion and planning in the Peterborough Deanery.

Two parishes were merged into one: Sacred Heart, Bretton, and St Oswald's. Our Lady of Lourdes in Dogsthorpe is now part of St Peter and All Souls' parish, while the area around Yaxley was moved into St Luke's parish. St Batholomew's Church has been closed.

Inevitably, such changes cause some upheaval and distress. A Catholic's parish and church are their family and home, and any changes arouse worry and even fear for the future. As yet, changes in our diocese are minor compared with some others. It will take time to settle and adjust to new ways, but hopefully we can look to a more secure future and move 'Forward and Outward Together in Christ'.

We were given a wonderfully warm welcome by the Dean and his staff at Peterborough Cathedral, recently listed as one of the ten most photogenic buildings in the UK. It was a splendid setting for this special occasion. It includes the tomb of Katharine of Aragon.

Fr Peter Brett is now parish priest of the new parish of 'The Sacred Heart and St Oswald'. Fr Martin Hardy, previously parish priest of St Oswald's, is the latest priest from our diocese to go and work in South America with the St James Society. Fr Michael Ryan, Fr Pat Cleary and Mgr John Drury went before him. Our diocese has a long tradition of lending a priest to South America which is in even more need of priests than we are. Fr Martin is off first to Bolivia to learn Spanish, and then he will be sent to a parish (probably in Ecuador or Peru). Please keep him in your prayers.

New Canon of the Holy Sepulchre

Warmest congratulations to Fr Paul Maddison, parish priest of St Ives, who has been made an

Honorary Canon of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem by the Latin Patriarch, in recognition of his work to encourage pilgrims to go to the Holy Land, to highlight the plight of the Palestinian people, and to establish and deepen the links between the Diocese of East Anglia and the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, one of our two 'twin' dioceses.

Diocesan Certificate

Our first year of the Diocesan Certificate modules seems to have been a success, with the numbers at the main teaching sessions ranging from 50 to 140. My thanks to all who have come along, to the teachers, to Deacon John Morrill and his team of organisers and the Commission for Evangelisation, and to the parishes that made us so welcome. I will be presenting certificates for those who have completed Level 1 at St John's Cathedral on Saturday 15th July at the end of Mass.

We are already planning the sessions for next year. These will probably include days on St Luke's Gospel, Methodist/Catholic dialogue, Christian/Muslim relations, Prayer, Life Issues, Music for the Liturgy, Creation, Persecution of Christians, and the 40th anniversary of Pope Paul's encyclical *Populorum Progressio* on social justice. We are also planning three training days for Readers (one each in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire/Peterborough. That is all in addition to those for Foundation Governors, Youth Workers, Communication Officers, etc, and the three Commissioning Days for Ministers of Holy Communion. So a lot will be on offer. More details in September.

The Commission for Evangelisation is also working to re-launch the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) in the diocese as soon as we can, probably in January 2007.

Diocesan Website

Have you looked at our diocesan website recently? It is gradually being added to. You will find a slide show of my February trip to Cambodia, as well as a 'Latest News' section which I try to update every few weeks. It includes some resources on the *Da Vinci Code*. Go to: www.catholiceastanglia.org

Off to Cambodia

Our twin diocese in Cambodia is being well visited this Summer. Jo Higgins was there for several months earlier this year. Our two second year seminarians, Michael Collis and Luke Goymour, are out there now: they opted to do their month's parish pastoral placement in Cambodian parishes. And at the end of this month, Paul Smith and Anna Younger are off to spend a few weeks there, with more to come in September and next January.

Ups and Downs

Skip this bit if you can't stand football! By now, we will know whether England have got anywhere near the World Cup Final on 9th July. I have managed to escape from my diary and go to two matches since I last wrote.

On 30th April, I was spotted criss-crossing the Norwich City pitch at Carrow Road, helping to carry goal posts for the children's six-a-side games that took place before the main one against Wolves.

And then, on 21st May, I was at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, to watch Leeds United lose the Championship Play-Off



Fr Paul and Patriarch Michael Sabbah

Final against Watford. No doubt some of you thought of me that afternoon. 40,000 other Leeds fans and I turned up in the rain, but unfortunately our team did not! It was a very

long way to go to watch Leeds lose - and it did no good at all to this bishop's immune system and state of well-being!



Bishop Michael before – not after – the match

in Beer-Sheva. It was a beautiful thing, and helped to make our Christmas a bit brighter.'

It will soon be Christmas!

I received my first invitation to a school Nativity Play next Christmas on 15th May (from someone who clearly knows the state of my diary). But I continue to have messages about last Christmas, and the cards so many of you sent to Cambodia and the Holy Land.

Matthew from St Abraham's Hebrew Catholic Church in Beer-Sheva, Israel, wrote: 'We received a huge number of Christmas cards from your diocese this past Christmas. It was very moving. We strung them all together as decorations in our fellowship hall at the church, and all of the members were intrigued by this sudden and unprovoked act of blessing from brothers and sisters we didn't know. So I wanted to say "Thank you" from all of us here

Archbishop Patrick Kelly, returning from the Holy Land, e-mailed me to say that cards from East Anglia had reached the tiny community in Nablus and were much appreciated.

And Sister Louise in Siem Reap, Cambodia, wrote to say they received over 150 religious cards from the people of their twinned parish (Bury St Edmunds): as she said, 'We are united in prayer and friendship.'

+ Michael

"FULL BELONGING" LAY PARTICIPATION IN PARISH PLANNING

Living our Baptism

Our diocese themes this year are 'Baptism and Welcome.' Our Baptism, along with our Confirmation and regular participation in the Mass, give each of us both an extraordinary dignity and a great responsibility. This means we must live out more fully the implications of what Pope John Paul II called 'the full belonging of the lay faithful to the Church and its mystery' (*Christifideles Laici*, n. 9). As I wrote in March, this calls clergy and lay people to work together in partnership. One aspect of this is the way pastoral planning is carried out in every parish.

The diocese has now adopted a new policy on 'Parish Structures for Lay Participation.' Every parish is already required by Canon Law to have a proper Finance Committee. Since the launch of our *Diocesan Pastoral Plan* in 2004, every parish is also required to have an additional structure for lay participation in pastoral planning and decision-making. We have now moved a stage further, and the new policy applies to every parish in our diocese. It was first discussed at deanery meetings and some parish councils, by the Council of Priests, College of Deacons and Council of Laity, and the final draft was agreed unanimously at the annual meeting of parish priests. It is now a formal, mandatory policy.



Unity in love

Everything done in a parish must be done in love. Everything a parish seeks to achieve should be seen as a ministry of love. Everything we say to each other and to the world should be spoken in love. All proposed structures, constitutions, guidelines, etc., are there simply to serve the growing together and serving together in love of a parish community, as the family of God in a particular place.

As Pope Benedict XVI noted in his first encyclical letter, *Deus Caritas Est*, 'As a community, the Church must practise love. Love thus needs to be organised if it is to be an ordered service of the community.' (20) There is no point establishing any structures unless they are seen and used in this context. To echo St Paul, even the most efficient parish council is but 'a gong booming or a cymbal clashing' if it does what it does without love, and it will do us 'no good whatever' (1 Corinthians 13.1-3).

Without such an approach, discussion of parish councils and the like can all too easily degenerate into arguments between those insisting on the 'merely consultative' role of such structures and others advocating 'executive powers' difficult to reconcile with Catholic teaching and Canon Law.

The life of every parish in East Anglia should be marked by a deepening partnership of ordained ministers and lay faithful. The key words are 'participation', 'cooperation', 'collaboration', and 'partnership', rather than simply 'consultation', while in no way undermining the distinctive role and responsibility of the parish priest in particular.

Such working together of priests and people should involve a shared vision of where the parish is going, always rooted in the Scriptures and Catholic teaching, and in harmony with the diocese and the universal Church.

THE BISHOP TEACHES

Diocesan Policy on Parish Structures for Lay Participation

1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1.1 The purpose of parish structures for lay participation can only be properly understood within the Catholic understanding of the nature and mission of the Church, and of the sacraments of Baptism/Confirmation and Holy Orders. Without a truly Catholic understanding of ordained ministry, our Catholicity falls apart.

We also need strongly to reaffirm the fundamental equality, dignity and responsibility which flow from our Baptism, our Confirmation and our regular participation in the Eucharist, and to live out more fully and effectively in our diocese, parishes and smaller Catholic communities the implications of 'the full belonging of the lay faithful to the Church and its mystery' (Pope John Paul II, *Christifideles Laici*, n. 9; cf. Canon 208).

1.2 Although any 'vote' of a Parish Pastoral Council or its equivalent is consultative rather than legislative, such structures are not simply about consultation. Because of their Baptism and Confirmation, all of the lay faithful should be enabled to play their full part in parish planning and decision-making, exercising their sharing together in the priestly, prophetic and royal office of Christ. Making decisions together should be the norm for parish life.

1.3 Any Parish Pastoral Council or equivalent should see its role as to facilitate rather than substitute for the active participation of the whole parish community in contributing to the life and mission of the Church.

The establishment of an effective Parish-in-Council or Parish Pastoral Council is but one dimension of working towards a more collaborative parish in which all members of the community are enabled to play their full part in deciding and implementing how the parish is to move 'Forward and Outward Together in Christ'.

1.4 No major decisions about the life, worship, mission or property of the parish should be made without adequate opportunities being offered for full and open discussion by the whole parish community.

Although the parish priest will also have to weigh other factors, including the requirements of the diocese of which each parish is an integral part, full consideration should always be given to the views expressed by the

parish, and to any vote taken. The way of consensus should be sought whenever possible, with ordained ministers and lay faithful working together in partnership.

When the Bishop, Diocesan Finance Board, etc., are asked to approve decisions proposed by a parish priest, a full report of the process of consultation and collaboration will be required, along with particularly detailed justification when a proposed decision does not appear to have widespread parish support.

The Bishop will also ask for the views of the local Dean when decisions on major proposals are to be made.

1.5 When such a major decision is being proposed, an established Parish Pastoral Council or steering group should facilitate an open meeting of the parish to discuss the matter rather than limit discussion to the members. This might simply mean opening a particular meeting of the Council to all parishioners.

2. DIOCESAN POLICY

2.1 It is diocesan policy that every parish have an established public forum to enable lay participation, collaboration and consultation in parish pastoral life and planning.

Each parish is free to organise the precise arrangements for such a forum, within the norms laid down below and with the agreement of the parish priest. This should be decided at an open meeting of the parish rather than by the clergy alone, as should any proposal to change an already established arrangement (e.g. when a new parish priest is appointed).

2.2 The alternative options for such a forum are as follows (or combination of the same):

(a) *An established Parish Pastoral Council*, with its members elected, appointed *ex officio*, and otherwise selected as agreed. At least one meeting each year should be open to the whole parish (i.e. Parish A.G.M.).

(b) *An open Parish-in-Council* to which all parishioners are invited. This will require a steering group to ensure that recommendations ratified by the parish priest are put into practice.

2.3 Any parish forum should meet at least twice a year, but preferably more often. Additional special meetings should be arranged when an urgent



topic needs discussion. Differing parish circumstances require a flexible approach, but any agreed *forum* should have a constitution or standing orders in keeping with the guidelines given in Section 3.

2.4 The forum should normally elect a lay chairperson from its midst, who then acts as parish representative on the Diocesan Council of Laity. The parish priest, however, presides over the *forum*; he is ultimately responsible for calling the meeting, should normally be present, and no final decisions can be made without his ratification.

2.5 In order to ensure that any *forum* is truly 'pastoral' in nature, the agenda should normally focus on key pastoral issues rather than reports from parish groups, committees and organisations. As with the Diocesan Council of Laity, it may be fruitful to focus on one key issue at each meeting, with clear action points to be implemented. Such an approach requires members with vision and initiative.

2.6 It may be also appropriate for smaller communities within a parish, especially those now or once centred on a place of worship, to have their own *forum* for supporting their local Catholic community life.

Such a local community and its *forum* should, however, be fully integrated into the wider life of the parish.

It is always the main Parish Pastoral Council or Parish-in-Council which is to be seen as the primary *forum*. Local communities could be represented formally on any Parish Pastoral Council, or take a full part in any Parish-in-Council.

The policy then goes on to give requirements and guidelines for the constitution or standing orders for such a council.

+ Michael

So many signs of life and hope

People talk far too easily about Christianity in general and the Catholic Church in particular ‘dying’ in England. We face challenges and concerns, but there are plenty of signs of life, and good reasons to have hope for the future.

Nearly 100 people from the diocese were at St John’s Cathedral in March for the Rite of Election, along with their sponsors, families and friends. Since then they have been welcomed into the Catholic Church through Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion.

Our annual Mass Count in October 2005 was up again, the third year in a row. Last year I gave you figures for the last decade, showing a dramatic decline from 24,061 in 1994 to 19,595 in 2002, but our numbers are now gradually increasing, partly due to the many migrants living in East Anglia and the new housing developments, but also to parishes making a real effort to be welcoming and to develop their life of worship and witness.

The average for 2005 was 20,726, over 700 up on the previous year. This was due largely to a big increase in the Polish community in Peterborough.

And although our declining number of priests is a very real concern, and lies behind some of the difficult decisions being made about the number of Masses and places of worship in the diocese, we have three seminary students at Oscott at the moment (Patrick in Year 1, Luke and Michael in Year 2), and we hope to add to that number this coming September.

Towards greater participation

The Diocesan Council of Laity meets again on Saturday 20 May. Having discussed ‘Reaching out to the Lapsed’ and ‘Keeping our Young People’ at the first two meetings, they

have chosen to discuss this time ‘Working Together in Partnership’. This includes reflection on how we can better put into practice ideas of collaborative ministry, co-responsibility, and the full belonging to the Church of lay people through their Baptism and Confirmation. Part of this discussion will focus on the draft Diocesan Policy on Parish Pastoral Councils, so that lay people can participate in a much more fruitful way in the pastoral planning of their parishes. This always needs to take full account of the Catholic understanding of the role of the priest as sacramental representative of Christ the Head and Shepherd of the Church, the Christ who came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for the people entrusted to him. In the next issue of this newspaper, I will present the basics of our new diocesan policy.

What is essential is that Parish Councils of any kind focus on key pastoral issues, for example those presented for implementation in the *Diocesan Pastoral Plan*. It has been good to hear that the policy will be nothing new for many parishes, which already have excellent examples of priests and people working together in partnership.

Diocesan Certificate

Some of you will have noticed that there is no “Bishop Teaches” page in this issue. This is because I wanted to use both central pages for my trip to Cambodia, and there is a limit to how much of the newspaper I should take over. But there has been plenty of other teaching in the diocese over the last eight months since we began the new Diocesan Certificate Programme, and I have been delighted by the number of people who have been attending the sessions. So many have come again and again that we already have people who have qualified for the first stage of the certificate, after attending four study days (including at least two

teaching sessions and at least one pastoral session). The Diocesan Certificate Office will be contacting those who have qualified. There will be a simple Mass at St John’s Cathedral at 11.00 a.m. on Saturday 15th July. I will present the certificates. There will be a drink afterwards, and then a chance to wander into Norwich for lunch and sightseeing. Certificates will be posted later to those who cannot be there. Many thanks to all who have made such an effort to come to the various sessions. I hope you have found them valuable. There are still three main sessions this Summer, as well as special days for Parish Communications Officers and Youth Workers.

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS



STEVE GOYMER



Staff at the achievement centre at Notre Dames School.

Helping youngsters reach full potential

A centre to support students who may be faced with barriers to learning because of personal, family, health or other problems has been set up at Notre Dame High School in Norwich.

The aim of head teacher John Pinnington is to provide students with mentoring, support and other services so pupils have the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

He said: "Society is very complex today and this has an effect on the health and well being of many young people.

"Marginalised people need educational opportunities and huge efforts are made to deal with truancy which is linked with young people being disaffected.

"We have set up a student achievement centre at the school where young people can get the help they need whether it is advice, counselling, mentoring, help with course work, personal or health

problems or study issues."

The school is putting resources into this work to ensure students get the most out of their education.

The centre is linked with Norfolk County Council's Connexions programme for the age group 13-18 aimed at preparing them for the transition at the age of 16 to further education or work.

Andrew Kingston has worked at the school for about 18 years and has seen the new programme grow out of the county careers service to take on more of the issues affecting young people.

"It's a partnership of different agencies covering many issues such as homelessness, youth offending and problems of all kinds.

"We have a very good training structure and are able to call on different experts. Our discussions with pupils are one-to-one and highly confidential.

"I see about 30 to 40 students per week playing a variety of roles up to

intense support."

The school's centre is headed by Steve Goymer who says he has a very wide brief.

As well as supporting students the centre has a quiet area where young people having problems in class or are acting in a disruptive way can reflect on their behaviour or find the support they need.

But Steve also deals with students whose native language may not be English, gifted and talented young people, work placements and many other issues.

"We also deal with outside agencies who can offer help, social services, community police, family support groups and education welfare experts.

"Some students face problems such as struggling with particular subjects in the curriculum, drug habits, bereavement, parents divorcing and many other issues."

The school takes pride in this level of support for its students.

Austrians share lessons and see Ipswich Town FC win



Young people from Austria on the return leg of an exchange visit to St Alban's School in Ipswich pictured outside Christchurch Mansion in the town. The visitors had a full day of lessons at the school as well as several day visits to the air museum at Duxford, Colchester, Aldeburgh and Thorpeness. When they went to see Ipswich Town FC play Derby County they brought good luck as the home side registered their first win in eight games. When the St Albans pupils visited Austria they saw the sights of Salzburg and ventured into Slovenia and Italy. Report by Ben Green and Kathryn Hogan

Moving way to start Lent

Moreton Hall Roman Catholic Prep School in Bury St Edmunds marked the beginning of Lent with an evening of pancakes, pyjamas and stories for pupils of all ages as part of its Book Week.

Year 7 pupils returned victorious from the Sudbury Festival after a winning performance of a Roald Dahl poem, a theme continued in the Junior Prep production of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'.

Many of the children could hardly wait for Lent to be over so they could enjoy their Wonka bars!

The Lent term culminated in an Easter Prom concert featuring singing, dance, dramatic sketches and instrumental music and involving all the children from Year 3 upwards.

On the final morning of term, Year 8 gave a moving assembly based on the Stations of the Cross, and used a beautiful Christian ballad by Adrian Snell as a thought-provoking accompaniment.

Pictured below are The 'Red Sparrows' at the Easter Prom and an assembly on the Way of the Cross.



Visiting the Holy Land

Children fast for charity

During a pilgrimage to the Holy Land Fr Edward Crouzet OSB and Wendy Walpole visited the Latin Patriarchate School in Zababdeh, West Bank and Sister Sophie's Orphanage in Bethlehem.

Pupils in St Edmund's school Class 4 in Bungay organised a sponsored fast to raise funds for the school in Zababdeh. "The total amount received, including donations, was £394.72," James Leese, head teacher said.

"Wendy will be returning to the orphanage in the school holidays and if anyone would like to donate further please call in and see her at school."



The children at Sr Sophie's Orphanage

Diocesan Youth Office, The White House
21 Upgate, Poringland, Norwich, Norfolk NR14 7SH.
Tel: (01508) 494833, Mobile: (0781) 2004934
Email: dys@east-angliadiocese.org
Website: www.catholiceastanglia.org and click on 'young people'.

Riding high

It was an early start for the first group of people the coach picked up in Norwich.

Then onto Bungay and Ipswich before arriving at Thorpe Park – Surrey's answer to Alton Towers!

With queuing for some rides taking up to 90 minutes, in small groups we decided which rides we were *desperate* to go on and which rides we would only go on if there was time.

Amongst other attractions, there was 'Detonator' – an explosive, gravity defying drop ride that winches riders 100ft in the air before firing them back

to earth at 75km per hour with a G-Force of 5.5, the most G's the body can take! There was 'Rush' – the world's biggest full throttle speed swing. There were also the two legendary rollercoasters – 'Nemesis' and 'Collosus'.

As well enjoying the rides, the day gave young people and youth leaders from different parts of the diocese an opportunity to get to know each other. A good time was had by all – even some of the leaders admitted enjoying the rides they were dragged on and no-one was sick!



Some of the group enjoying their day at Thorpe Park and some of the rides that left them gasping.



Spend a gap year on the new youth team

Looking for people to join full-time Youth Team

Are you bored of your job?

Want to do something different?

Just about to leave school or university?

Interested in Youth Work as a career?

Aged 18 –30?

(or know someone who is?)

If the answer to any of these questions is 'Yes' you may think about joining the new Diocesan Youth Ministry Team for a year.

Hamish MacQueen, Director of the Diocesan Youth Service explains more.

"This is really exciting! The team will come together next October 2006 and after two months of training will spend the next seven months working with young people, mainly in the diocese.

"Whatever gifts team members bring to the team such as music or drama, they will have an opportunity to

develop these and use them to communicate the Gospel Message.

"One of the strengths of this is that it will be young people sharing their faith with other young people in a relevant way they can relate to. Training in youth work, evangelisation and communication skills will be provided along with board and lodging. Team members will also receive a monthly allowance."

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

Your Deanery Needs You

To be part of your Deanery Team for

The **BIG** One



Competing in 'It's a knockout' style games

Also Live music, Side stands, Mass with Bishop Michael, Barbecue

and much more ...

Our main Diocesan event this summer for young people of secondary school age.

Held at St. Benedicts School, Bury St. Edmunds

July 16th 12:30pm – 6pm

Or if you don't want to be part of a team, just come along and enjoy the day

Youth Ministry Team

We are now looking for people aged 18-29 to join the new full-time Diocesan Youth Ministry Team

Sharing the Gospel Message with Young People

through music, drama, multimedia presentation and other contemporary ways of communicating

Diocese of East Anglia

From October 2006 – June 2007 Ideal as 'gap' year after school or university or between jobs

make a difference

Mass in a hangar - that's unusual

For this year's 'Mass in an Unusual Place', the Youth Council suggested Wattisham Airfield.

This is now an army base and as we entered, the site of armed guards confirmed this was certainly a more 'unusual' place than a park or a beach where we had been before!

We were met by the base Padre, Rev Phil Fanning who led us round to outside the hangar that housed the gliders.

After Rev Phil explained a little

about the hangar, the enormous doors were opened and we were shown in. Rev Phil had positioned a glider wing so that it could be used as an altar.

After Mass, there was an opportunity to sit in the gliders and work the 'flaps'.

Rev Phil said he would have taken some of us up but the weather was not good enough.

Initial disappointment turned to relief when he later clarified that gliders do not have engines!

18+

Why not join us and let your very presence give support and encouragement to our brothers and sisters in Palestine?

Details available soon from the Youth Office.
Tel: 01508 494833

Youth Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Would you like to visit the people and places of the Holy Land?



10th to 17th September 2007

Estimated cost—£600 per person

Sharing good practice and discussing issues

Headteacher pilgrims’ conference in Rome

Headteachers from across the Diocese went on a three-day pilgrimage and conference in June this year.

It was a great opportunity for them to pray together, share good practice and discuss issues affecting all phases

of Catholic education today.

The headteachers celebrated Mass in St Peter’s and the church of San Pellegrino within the Vatican. They visited the Catacombs, the Basilica of St Paul outside the Walls and the Vatican Gardens.

They were given a tour of the English College and met with Fr Bruce Burbidge, a

priest of our Diocese, who described the educational formation of seminarians attending the College.

The group of 22 were led by Fr David Jennings and Julie O’Connor, Diocesan Director of Schools’ Service. They were delighted to be joined by Rev Roger Sparks, Chair of the Schools’ Service Commission.

A highlight of the conference was a meeting with Archbishop Michael Miller, Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education in the Vatican.

The archbishop was anxious to hear of the opportunities that arise and the challenges that our Diocesan schools face, as well as the many successes they celebrate.

He spoke of the pressure that secularisation places on maintaining a true Catholic distinctiveness.

In addition, he emphasised that it is essential for us to foster and nurture the spiritual development of our headteachers in order that they can truly be spiritual as well as educational leaders within our schools.

Fr David said; “The pilgrimage was the first of its kind for headteachers within the Diocese of East Anglia and proved to be very worthwhile.

It is important to have the opportunity to come together as a group to discuss our common goals.”

Julie O’Connor, Diocesan Director of Schools’ Service



Diocesan priest Fr Bruce Burbidge, above left, met the heads who also saw Vatican education experts at their pilgrimage/conference.



Pyramids enjoy Walsingham

Year 4 pupils from St Joseph’s in Sudbury have produced the report on the annual pilgrimage to Walsingham by St Benedict’s Catholic pyramid of schools.

The older students from St Louis Middle and St Benedict’s Upper helped St Edmund’s, St Felix, St Joseph’s and St Louis during an extremely hot day.

The Year 4 students said: “We began a circular tour of Walsingham where we looked at some of the places of interest.

“The Orthodox church was very interesting as it used to be the railway station. We were pleased to sit in the shady gardens at Elnham House to have our lunch. Next everyone gathered at the coach park where we collected out banners before walking the Holy Mile.

“As we walked we stopped three times

to say prayers. Bishop Michael met us half way and accompanied us to the Chapel of Reconciliation where we celebrated Mass.

“Mass was a very happy occasion with children and students singing, playing instruments, serving at the altar, reading and taking up gifts and candles at the offertory. After Mass we proceeded to the Holy Spirit chapel where we lit six candles (one for each school in the pyramid) and said quiet prayers.

“There was just time to visit the shop for last minute gifts and we finished the day with a lovely cooling ice lolly.” Charlotte, aged nine, said: “It was a very hot day, but it was worth it.”

Toby, aged nine, said “I enjoyed singing and playing my guitar at Mass.”

St Thomas More raising money for orphanage

A Peterborough school has raised almost 50% more than its original target of £10,000 to build an orphanage for 18 children affected by Aids in Uganda.

St Thomas More School has been involved in a project at Gaba in Uganda for a couple of years and sponsor the education of a child, Umar.

They have now raised £14,335 for the orphanage in a new village called Bethany while at the same time forging links with Marantha school. Head teacher Anne-Marie McElhinney said: “Through the dedication, commitment and enthusiasm of the children, staff, parents, governors and parishes involved with the school we have completed our fundraising project six months ahead of schedule.”

As part of the process of ensuring the work is underway and progress is steady four members of staff - Mrs McElhinney, Mrs Phillips, Mrs Smith and Fr John Warrington - went to Uganda in June along with Alan Stevens

from Signpost International, his sons Kristian and Alex and Steven Gabriel from Sawtry Community College. Mrs McElhinney said: “However, we must now continue to raise funds to furnish the orphanage and find sponsors for the 18 children who will live there.” Whilst the members of staff were in Uganda they assessed how much will be needed to support the education and accommodation of the children and are now once again raising funds. They are also trying to raise enough to provide foster parents for the children. Mrs McElhinney said: “We want to give them the care we take so much for granted and which we are able to give our own children.

“I am grateful to the children, staff, governors of St Thomas More, Fr John Warrington and the communities at St Luke’s in Orton and St Benedict’s in Sawtry who have given generously and worked tirelessly so that we can build the orphanage in Bethany, Uganda.”

Chilling out by sea

On July 19, the hottest day of the year, St. Laurence school, Cambridge closed its doors and set off in five coaches to Felixstowe for the day!

The 215 children were accompanied by teachers, teaching assistants, the secretary, caretaker, governors and a number of parents together with Fr David Paul, and Jan Southgate, the Headteacher.

They all had a fantastic day building sandcastles, making water gulleys, paddling in the sea and eating ice-cream. Several residents remarked how wonderful it was to see the whole school come out for the day together!



Schools at the seaside and on pilgrimage at Walsingham.



Unique gifts brought

Unique gifts which represented the character of each of their schools were brought to the altar at a Walsingham pilgrimage in June.

Pupils from the Norwich pyramid of schools came to the shrine and all arrived on time despite a detour to the Anglican centre by one coach driver.

Bishop Michael celebrated Mass and the children contributed by miming the readings, saying the bidding prayers and taking part in the special offertory procession.

Music was provided by students from Notre Dames High School who contributed to the distinctive youthful character of the Mass.

Song and sand day

Children from some of the year groups at All Saints School, March, St Alban’s school and St. Laurence school visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham on the Feast day of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

They walked the Holy Mile together and attended Mass. After a picnic in the grounds and a visit to the Slipper Chapel and Holy Spirit Chapel, they then continued on to Wells for a play in the sand and sea.

It was a lovely day, and a good opportunity for the children to get together from the different schools, as they then head off to St. Bede’s Inter-church school in September.



A new bell has been blessed by Fr Peter Rollings from the parish at Sudbury for the church of Our Lady of the Annunciation under construction at Walsingham.

The parish of Our Lady of Sudbury have donated the bell which was cast at the foundry in Loughborough in the medieval tradition and inscribed in Latin, ‘I am Gabriel’.

For the Blessing ceremony it was placed at the entrance to the building site.

Fr Michael Simison SM, Parish Priest, greeted the assembly and gave an introduction and a brief homily in which he talked about the significance of bells in both the religious and secular traditions.

Before the blessing on the Monday of Holy Week, the solo ‘The Angel Gabriel, from Heaven came’ was sung by Iris Sandiford.

The celebrant then blessed the bell with holy water, honoured it with incense and placed the thurible beneath it.

To everyone’s delight Fr Peter, (using a hammer!), then rang Gabriel’s first Angelus.

Children from Sudbury children and some local people passed the hammer between themselves each striking one note.

Nolan reviewed again

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O’Connor has asked Baroness Cumberlege to chair a commission of experts tasked with reviewing progress made by the Catholic Church in the protection of children and vulnerable adults. The review comes six years after the Archbishop of Westminster asked Lord Nolan to chair the independent Review in summer 2000. Lord Nolan’s First Report was published in April 2001. In Nolan’s Final Report, published in September 2001, he suggested that his recommendations be reviewed after five years.

The commission is expected to complete its review in spring 2007. The Cardinal said: “Lord Nolan’s concluding suggestion in his Final Report was that his recommendations be reviewed after five years.

I have therefore asked Baroness Cumberlege to chair an independent review commission, consisting of outstanding professionals from the statutory and voluntary sectors as well as representatives from the Catholic Church.”



The editor Patrick Byrne working on the latest edition of Our Diocesan Family. If you see me at any of the events, camera in hand, please speak to and tell me about your parish or community. Otherwise send news contributions to home@patrickbyrne.go-plus.net or to the White House.

Special celebration of more than 2000 years of marriage

About 350 people responded to Bishop Michael’s call to join him in celebrating significant and special anniversaries of marriage. He noted the combined years of marriage of just the 120 people who had notified his office of their presence added up to over 2000 years! The celebration of married life coincided with the patronal feast of the Cathedral, the birthday of St.

John the Baptist.

In his homily at the celebration Mass at St. John’s on Saturday June 24, Bishop Michael said that it was an appropriate feast day on which to ponder on the wonderful vocation of Christian Marriage. Just as John the Baptist was a prophet, calling the attention of the men and women of his time to the presence of God in their midst, so Christian

married couples in our day are called upon to make people aware of the presence of the God who is love. In what some people see as the current wilderness state of marriage, the generous, enduring and faithful witness of Christian marriage makes the amazing love of God visible.

The Bishop reminded those present that they were

called to be ‘mirrors of God’s everlasting love’ (Preface of Marriage) and ‘images on earth of the wonder of God.’ (Pope John Paul II) He thanked them for their witness over so many years and prayed that they would continue to grow and mature in their married lives by opening themselves each day to the wonder of God’s love. Following his homily the Bishop invited the

married couples who were present to renew their commitment to one another, and to making the love of God present to others through their marriage and they received a special blessing. The event was organised by the new Diocesan Commission for Marriage & Family Life which has been set up to support and promote people throughout the Diocese of East Anglia.





CATHEDRAL FOCUS

NEWS FROM OUR MOTHER CHURCH

Cathedral receives support from Heritage Lottery Fund

Our Cathedral has received support from the Heritage Lottery Fund for its project to improve access and provide essential new facilities for visitors.

We have been reporting for some time on the fundraising effort for a new Narthex at the cathedral and the appeal for the project received a major boost in July when the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) announced that it has earmarked a grant of just under £1m for the project.

HLF has awarded a Stage One Pass* to the cathedral's application.

The Narthex will provide much-needed amenities for all who regularly use the cathedral, for occasional visitors and for the cathedral's expanding education programme.

Crucially, it will generally improve access to the 100-year-old neo-Gothic church, designed by George Gilbert Scott Junior and built in the Early English style at the personal expense of Henry Fitzalan Howard, XVth Duke of Norfolk

St John's Cathedral – which together with its Anglican sister cathedral was the joint focus of Norwich's magnificent Two Cathedrals' Flower Festival last month – is recognised as one of the nation's finest Victorian Gothic churches.

"This project is so important for St John's, if

we are to achieve our aim of bringing more and more people into this wonderful place," said cathedral dean, Fr James Walsh.

"So many visitors to the Flower Festival had never visited us before and were quite overwhelmed by the splendour of the cathedral.

"It belongs to everyone – not just to the Catholics – a house of God, for God's people, where are all welcome."

Naomi Perowne, cathedral development officer who coordinated the bid, explained that the news would unlock further funding for the project.

"Fundraising for a major capital project is a long process when you are starting from scratch – people need to be convinced the project is viable before committing large sums of money. Now we can show that it really will happen and other funders will come on board. "Individuals throughout the diocese have continued to be generous throughout this appeal and we hope that this success might encourage further individual donations."

Mike Loveday, chief executive of Norwich's Heritage Regeneration Trust (HEART) said: "This is really great news for the city – once again, Norwich's fantastic built heritage has received support from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

"The cathedral is committed to working with HEART in bringing together and promoting the city's fine heritage sites.

"This collaboration is crucial and we will be



Cathedral wins funding to improve facilities for visitors and people who use it regularly.

working jointly to help to achieve a successful outcome at Stage Two."

Robyn Llewellyn, Heritage Lottery Fund manager in the East of England added: "This award will be hugely beneficial for everyone from local people to the thousands of visitors that come to Norwich from around the world to explore its history.

"The planned work will rejuvenate the Cathedral, providing much needed community facilities and a fitting welcome for all visitors."

*A 'Stage One Pass' means money has been earmarked by the Heritage Lottery Fund for the project in question. Competition at this stage is tough, and while a Stage One Pass does not guarantee funding, it is an indication of positive support, and money for the scheme is set aside. The applicant can then progress to Stage Two and submit a further, fully developed application to secure the whole grant. On occasion, at Stage One, funding will also be awarded towards the development of the scheme.

Events for Priest's musical ministry open days

Once again, the Cathedral will be hosting special events during 2006 Heritage Open Days.

From Thursday to Sunday September 7-10, there will be a special exhibition of vestments and plate, daily tower tours, lunchtime organ recitals (at 1pm) and a children's trail on Saturday.

Last year, over 1200 visitors passed through, many of whom had never visited the Cathedral before.

This is yet another way of welcoming people into our Cathedral.

Music ministry specialist Fr Liam Lawton will be giving a concert in the Cathedral on Saturday September 30, at 7.30pm.

Fr Liam is extremely popular in Ireland, where he has released two albums with EMI which to date have sold double platinum in his home country.

He has undertaken major sell-out Irish tours of churches, cathedrals and venues in Ireland playing to over 60,000 people.

So why is there such a demand now for Fr Liam's message and music? Fr Liam's music brings us into the presence of the Divine,



FR LIAM LAWTON

using the ancient Celtic prayers of early Irish monks and the inspiration of a wild and beautiful landscape to imbue his music.

It is music, both of the soul and for the soul. It is the music of his homeland.

In a world that is scarred,

frantic and fragmented Fr Liam's music 'soothes the soul, reaching down into the deep recesses of hearts and minds.'

Fr Liam Lawton will be accompanied by a five-piece backing group, including traditional Irish instruments and three singers.

The concert in the Cathedral is part of a major tour of mainland Britain, taking in Newcastle, Lancaster, Salford, Plymouth, Swansea, Bristol and Cardiff, as well as our own.

Tickets cost £15.00 and are available from the Cathedral Shop (or at the door on the night.

Fine Russian choir ready to perform in Norwich

The Cathedral is delighted to welcome the Rossica Choir from St Petersburg on Friday October 13.

The Rossica have already performed to great acclaim in East Anglia and elsewhere in the UK, appearing at several of our region's major music festivals.

The choir was formed in 1976 and today numbers about 24 singers, including the basses and deep basses so familiar in Russian choral music.

The Rossica (the name is derived from the Latin meaning 'of Russia') performs frequently in the best concert halls and fine

cathedrals of St Petersburg, Moscow, Kiev and other great cities.

Tickets (£10.00 each) are available from the Cathedral Shop (01603 765035 Tuesday to Saturday 10.30 – 4pm) or at the door on the night.

We are looking for kind folk to offer overnight accommodation in and around Norwich for these musicians and if anyone would like to offer them hospitality, please telephone Naomi on 01603 615288.

Helpful Hint – those 'in the know' coming to concerts at the cathedral often bring a small cushion to counteract the penitential pews!

BUILDING BRIDGES in the Holy Land

St Ives Youth Group

Last February, six members of St Ives parish youth group were fortunate enough to be invited by Father Paul Maddison to visit the Holy Land. After much fund-raising and through sponsorship, we set off early in the morning on our long plane journey, eagerly anticipating our landing. We arrived on the Monday evening and fell into our beds, exhausted from the journey.

The next day we were up early and visited the Mount of Beatitudes, Peter's Primacy, Capernaum and enjoyed a boat trip on Lake Galilee. We then enjoyed a delicious lunch of fish, freshly caught from Lake Galilee.

That afternoon we set off for Mount Tabor, where the Transfiguration took place and we endured the perilous taxi rides up and down the mountain. At the top we visited the church and reflected on readings on the Transfiguration.

On Wednesday we set off for the village of Al Rameh to look around the village school. We were greeted with a dance by the children and offered rosaries made from olive wood as a present. We were then invited into several of the classes and saw the children hard at work. Several older children from the High School next door came to greet us and showed us around their village including the church and the kindergarten area.

Before making our way to the barbeque lunch we swapped email addresses with all our new friends and vowed to stay in touch. Unfortunately it seemed we had brought the British weather with us, so we cut our plans short and before trekking back to the hotel. We managed to visit Mary's house and the synagogue that Jesus prayed in at Nazareth.

On Thursday morning we left our hotel in Tiberius and travelled to Jerusalem where we would stay at the Knights Palace Hotel for two nights. On the way to Jerusalem we visited the river Jordan, the scene of Jesus' baptism, and stopped in Jericho for lunch.

We managed to squeeze in a quick ride each on Sammi the camel. Sari, our guide, bought us a bunch of bananas each from Jericho and we all agreed, after eating about five each, that they were the best, by far, that we had ever tasted.

We then donned our swimming costumes and hobbled into the Dead Sea which was lovely and warm. After this unique experience, salty and damp, we climbed aboard the bus and stopped in Bethany to visit Lazarus' house.

Friday was by far one of our busiest days; Sari guided us along the Way of the Cross which went through Jerusalem and finished at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We took our time admiring the beautiful works of art in the Church and were fortunate enough to have the chance to touch the place where Jesus was crucified and then allowed to visit the tomb of Jesus.

After lunch we visited the house of Caiaphas, the High Priest, and saw the cell where, perhaps, Jesus was held before he went on trial. Next, we went to the Mount of Olives and Clare read a passage from Scripture about Jesus asking his disciples to keep watch over him as he prayed.

We were extremely lucky to be allowed into the Garden of Olives and touch one of the 3000 year-old olive trees. That evening we were

invited out to dinner by the organiser of our trip and had a traditional dinner of Middle-Eastern food.

On Saturday morning, we packed our bags again and left Jerusalem. We visited Bethlehem and the place where Mary gave birth to Jesus. Above it is built a magnificent church looked after by the Catholic and Orthodox churches; it has many chandeliers hanging from the ceiling and shafts of light filtering in from the windows.

We then visited Sister Sophie's Orphanage and had the best time ever playing with the children. We were all heart-broken having to leave them and watch them march back into their rooms. It was time now to visit Aboud and as we entered the village we were all extremely excited but also a little nervous. We were put at ease when we met Father Feras, the village priest.

We were dropped off in our pairs to our hosting families. Later that evening we met up for dinner at the convent and each of us boasted about how lovely and welcoming our families were. Before heading to bed, we had a game of basketball with the boys in Aboud and watched as Father Feras and Father Paul battled it out for the highest score of hoops.

On Sunday we attended church in the morning. Mass was celebrated in Arabic and afterwards we met the parishioners and had coffee with them. We were then shown around Aboud and walked up to Santa Barbara and saw where the Israelis are building the separation wall directly through land owned by Palestinians, preventing them from reaching their own land. From speaking to the families we learned how frustrated and distressed they are at their helplessness to change the situation.

We were then shown around the play park and had fun playing with the kids. We presented a cheque to the mayor of Aboud from the money raised by the Parish. After lunch we were shown around the soap factory in Aboud and saw how they manufactured the soap from olives picked in Aboud. That evening we were treated to a spectacular performance by the Scouts Marching Band.

The Scouts are a youth group for the young people of Aboud. Becky then presented a rounders kit from our youth group to the scouts and we each headed home to our families and shared farewell presents with them.

On Monday morning we packed our bags, said our goodbyes to the families and headed to the



school. We were shown around the school's library which is now well stocked with books, many of which were donated from fund-raising in St Ives parish. We were then shown around several of the classes and invited to join in some lessons.

They start learning English at an early age and we were impressed by their use of English, especially the younger children. We later sat in on one of the Year 8 English lessons (12-13 yrs) and helped them practice their English on us. We also had time before lunch to have a game of football with the younger children. After lunch we waved a reluctant goodbye and left for the Airport.

Christine McDermid

OLEM goes to Birzeit

On Easter Monday, a group of 11 people set out from Cambridge to visit the Holy Land. The main purpose of the trip was to stay in the parish of Birzeit, a town north of Jerusalem, with which the parish of Our Lady and the English Martyrs is twinned. We were also to stay in Jerusalem and Mount Beatitudes.

Most of us did not know quite what to expect in Birzeit, and how the families with whom we were to stay would react to these total strangers plunged into their midst. Well - traditional Arab hospitality certainly lived up to its reputation and we could not have been made more welcome. Their Easter fell a week after ours this year, so we had the strange experience of partaking in two successive Easter Tridiums.

The advantage was that we really were part of their parish community for that period and the fact that we wanted to stay in the community and be with them, was one of the aspects of our visit which was most warmly appreciated, particularly at a time when many are deciding that it is too dangerous or uncertain to travel to the Holy Land at all and their economy is suffering as a result.

What have we brought back with us from this visit? The dialogue has certainly provided a more solid and tangible base for our twinning activities and hopefully will encourage others to visit in future. Numerous ideas are circulating as to how we can best provide ongoing and effective support for them.

What impressed us all was the dignity, cheerfulness and buoyancy that these people maintain, rising above the day-to-day grinding erosions of their liberties and the constant and often seemingly random obstacles placed in the way of their ordinary and very reasonable aspirations and daily lives.

The strength of their faith is an undoubted element in this determination not to give up. Their parish community is a strong focus for them, as are their own close family ties. It was only when there was a reference to 'the situation' that a brief shadow would come



across their faces, usually followed by a philosophical and sometimes puzzled expression and shrug at the frustration of it all.

Even after a short visit of just four nights with the families, we all found it hard to leave, and want to keep up the personal contacts and support them in whatever ways we can.

But let no one say this is a one way relationship - they have much to give and we have a great deal to learn from them also.

Sally Livsey (OLEM Cambridge)



Warm welcome



SUCCESS The people who received certificates at St John's Cathedral after completing the course. Bishop Michael said at the presentation Mass he hoped they were now more confident to take the Gospel out to his people in the parishes of East Anglia. "It was not a course for personal edification but a gift to bring to everyone in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk." They were to go out and touch the lives of people bringing them the deeper understanding of the faith that they had learned on the course.

Certificate success

Deacon John Morrill, chair of the diocesan Commission for Evangelisation, reports on the successful launch of the new programme

Almost 300 people from the diocese have attended one or more of the Diocesan Certificate days organised since last October by the Commission for Evangelisation.

And there were more with Ipswich postcodes than Cambridge, Norwich or Peterborough postcodes, but all fairly close!

More than 80 have attended three or more sessions, and almost 40 attended the four sessions needed to earn the Diocesan Certificate.

They had to attend at least two 'teaching' days where our faith is explored, and at least one 'practical' day in which support is given to those undertaking or seeking to undertake a range of lay ministries.

Twenty four of these were in St John's Cathedral on 15 July for a celebratory Mass and to receive their certificates from Bishop Michael.

In all there were six teaching days covering the Papacy; the meaning of Christmas; gift of Scripture; Baptism; the meaning of Easter; The Trinity.

In addition, 11 practical days on such subjects as the ministry of holy communion, school foundation

governors, parish treasurers and youth leadership as well as an open training day for those visiting the sick at home and in hospital.

After each of the sessions, those attending were invited to fill out a questionnaire, and the content and value were consistently affirmed - usually more than 80% being happy or very happy with the day.

Some of our parish halls and schools have uncomfortable seats, variable heating and other lack of creature comforts, and the commission was not always able to get reliable information to those finding some of our more concealed diocesan venues!

But no-one actually got lost, and the commission office in Newmarket has had much support for the on-going programme. The office promises to issue better maps and try to improve the seating!

The certificate programme and the certificates themselves simply require attendance. There are no tests or exams! It is just great that so many people want to deepen and widen their understanding of the Faith. But in fact, the programme has had some marvellous side-effects.

Three people have reported they now intend to take up programmes of study leading to qualifications including degrees in pastoral theology and that these study days have inspired them to take the plunge.

And one group got together with their parish priest after the training day on visiting the sick and proposed a parish visiting scheme.

Campaign against gold miners

A CAFOD campaign targeting the mining and extraction industries has inspired novel efforts in the diocese. A-Level students from Notre Dame High School staged a protest at a Norwich jewellery store to persuade them to only use ethically produced gold in their products.

Many communities across the world are finding the quest for gold is resulting in agricultural land being washed away or polluted by cyanide used in the process.

The CAFOD stall at Walsingham is seeking more support for the gold mining campaign. They are hoping to encircle the area of the Slipper Chapel with a chain of golden Hail Marys. Each link in the chain is offered with a Hail Mary and it will be completed and offered to Our Lady House of Gold at the Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage on Sunday September 10.

Golden links are available at the Walsingham CAFOD stall or from John Malley, CAFOD East Anglia, Notre Dame High School, Surrey Street, Norwich NR1 3PB or 01603 624714.

BISHOP MICHAEL'S ENGAGEMENTS

(All of these events are dependent on the short-term side-effects of Bishop Michael's radiotherapy treatment during August)

SEPTEMBER

- 2nd Diocesan Youth Council Retreat
- 7th Diocesan Schools Service Commission at Poringland at 10.30am
- 8th Mass at Margaret Beaufort Institute, Cambridge, 5.00pm
- 9th Diocesan Child Protection Representatives Mass & Lunch at Poringland
- 10th Dowry Pilgrimage to Walsingham
- 13th Diocesan College of Consultors at Poringland at 4.00pm
- 14/15th Christian-Muslim Forum residential meeting
- 16/17th Parish Visitation to St James, Ipswich
- 17th Pilgrimage Walk to Our Lady of Grace, Ipswich
- 19th CWL Mass at St Pancras, Ipswich at 7.30pm
- 20th Confirmations at Woodbridge at 7.30pm
- 21st Diocesan Finance Board at Poringland at 10.30am
- 22nd Magdalene Group Commissioning in Norwich at 11.00am
- 23rd Confirmations at Downham Market at 6.00pm
- 24th September - 2nd October: Bishops' In-Service Week at Valladolid

OCTOBER

- 4th Diocesan Prison Chaplaincy meeting at Poringland at 10.30am
- 5th Confirmations at Costessey at 7.00pm
- 6th School Service Commission Symposium at Poringland

- 7th/8th Parish Visitation to All Souls, Peterborough
- 9th Diocesan Commission for Evangelisation at Newmarket at 7.30pm
- 10/11th Committee for Christian Unity (Hinsley Hall, Leeds)
- 12th Diocesan Council of Priests at Poringland Diocesan Social Concern AGM at Wymondham at 7.30pm
- 13th Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's, Walsingham at 7.30pm
- 14th Diocesan Committee for Dialogue & Unity at Poringland at 11.00am
- 15th Friends of the Cathedral Mass & AGM at the Cathedral at 11.00am
- 16th Cathedral Trustees meeting at Poringland at 2.00pm
- 18th Shrine Council Mass & Meeting at Walsingham at noon
- 19th Mass for Diocesan Head Teachers at Poringland at 3.00pm
- 21/22nd Parish Visitation to Dereham
- 23rd Standing Committee of Bishops' Conference at Archbishop's House, Westminster
- 25th Mass & Lunch with Retired Priests at Poringland at noon
- 28th Commissioning Day for Lay Ministers of Communion at Wisbech
- 29th Diocesan Youth Council at Poringland 3.00-7.00pm
- 30/31st Overnight meeting of Westminster Province Bishops in Nottingham
- 31st Suffolk Churches Together at 5.30pm

PILGRIMAGES FOR GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS



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