

OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY



The newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

FREE

March 2012

Special stone near St Felix icon marks grave **Bishop Michael** **laid to rest in** **Cathedral chapel**

Bishop Michael's ashes were buried in the Chapel of the East Anglian Saints at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich and the simple service was attended by many people from across the diocese.

The burial took place with members of Bishop Michael's family attending alongside priests and people from across the diocese and the service was conducted by Diocesan Administrator Fr David Bagstaff.

In his homily before the interment Fr David said that the Catholic Church had instituted simple but dignified rites to mark the passing of a person from life to death focussing on the promise of eternal life.

It was Bishop Michael's wish for his ashes to be buried in the new chapel which he had dedicated only a few months before he died and he wanted just a simple service.

Fr John Warrington and Fr Mark Hackeson placed the casket containing the ashes into a cavity underneath the icon of St Felix, one of the secondary patrons of the diocese alongside St Etheldreda and St Edmund.

A specially inscribed memorial stone was then placed over the top into the floor of the chapel and visitors to the Cathedral can now see this.

The simple message is to pray for Bishop Michael.

Prayers were said as the interment liturgy continued. Bishop Michael's family remained for a while after the service and Fr David returned to main church to complete the liturgy.

Bishop Michael's wish to be laid to rest in the Cathedral of St John the Baptist reflected his own commitment to the building which was both his church as bishop and the Mother Church of the whole diocese, Fr David said.

"As such it is the setting for some of our most important celebrations.

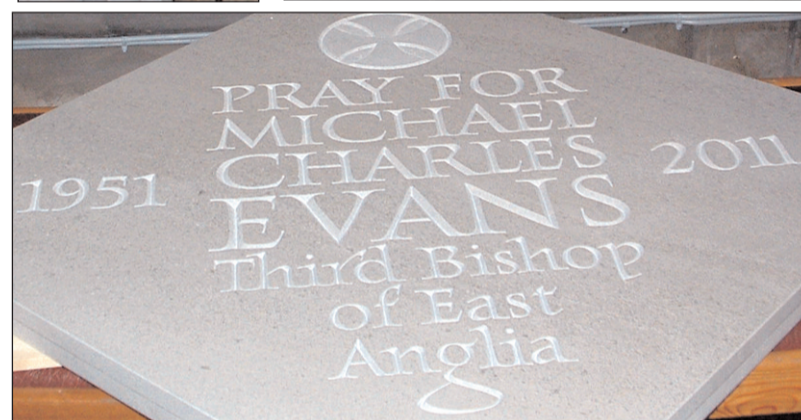
"Bishop Michael left us some freedom as to where in the Cathedral he should be interred. The chapel was thought most appropriate near to the icon of St Felix, the first bishop of the East Angles, whose name in latin means 'Joy'.

"As Bishop Michael said so many times that our ministry of the Gospel should be to bring joy to the people around us.

"So let us remember him as part of the communion of saints with us when the Eucharist is celebrated here. May Bishop Michael rest in peace."



Fr David Bagstaff at the service, above, with Fr John Warrington holding the casket, below left and Bishop Michael's family, below right.



The stone marking the place where Bishop Michael's ashes are laid to rest is pictured above and, below, the congregation that came to the service



Double CAFOD cash

The Department for International Development (DfID) is going to double any money that CAFOD raises in its Lenten appeal.

The Diocese of East Anglia raises a considerable amount each year but in 2012 CAFOD is celebrating 50 years of Family Fast Day as well as aiming to raise more alms during the Lent season.

CAFOD chief in East Anglia John Malley said: "A division of DfID called UK AID has a special fund to which CAFOD has successfully appealed. The good news is that there are no strings attached so CAFOD is free to use this extra money in any part of its work.

"This Lent we have a very special theme which we think everyone will identify with – the basic need of clean water. So it's a great time to help us double our usual £2m to £4m. That's worth drinking to!"

CAFOD statistics reveal that every 20 seconds a child dies because of dirty water and one in eight people in our world still does not have access to clean water.

John said: "We all take water for granted. Think for a moment how many times a day you turn on the tap, or flush the toilet. During Lent, we remember how Christ spent 40 days in the wilderness and commit to making changes in our lives. These changes can transform the lives of others too. So be a lifesaver and help us get clean water to those who are dying from what they are drinking.

"Please take an Fast Day envelope, or perhaps send us a cheque - and don't forget to Gift Aid! Because all your generosity will be doubled."

For more information see our website, take a leaflet from church or call the office : 01603 624714.



Bishop's secretary Fr Mark Hackeson plants an oak tree at Notre Dame School in memory of Bishop Michael. Chair of governors Linda Bennett said it was their gift and they had chosen an oak because it would be there for hundreds of years as a reminder of all the good work bishop had done for the school.

Life as Diocesan Administrator by Fr David Bagstaff



*Fr. David Bagstaff
Diocesan Administrator*

There are two questions I am continually being asked: "When will we know about a new bishop?" and "What do you do as Diocesan Administrator?"

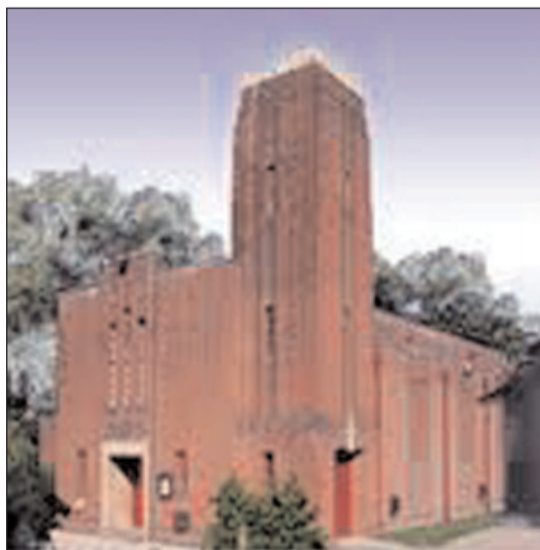
I have no idea about the first one – it's just a matter of waiting! The second I can say something about... ..

Back in July last year, just after the death of Bishop Michael, the Diocesan Consultors met to elect a Diocesan Administrator to administer the diocese until such time as a new bishop is appointed. And those I thought were my friends elected me!

At the present time, although there are a number of other dioceses waiting for an appointment of a new bishop (Wrexham, Brentwood, Portsmouth) we are the only diocese with an Administrator, as the others still have their bishop.

They have reached the age at which they are required by Canon Law to offer their resignations to the Pope. The Pope has accepted their resignations and they are probably looking forward to a more restful life but they stay on until the new bishops are appointed.

So what do I do?



*The Parish Church of the Sacred Heart,
North Walsham*

Well I still have a parish (*North Walsham/Aylsham/Hoveton*) and so it is important to balance my time between the parish and my temporary role as Diocesan Administrator.

I try to be at the Diocesan Offices in Poringland on a Tuesday and Friday for people to come and see me, or to contact me, and inevitably there is a certain amount of desk work to do while I am there.

I have attended a number of functions around the diocese –

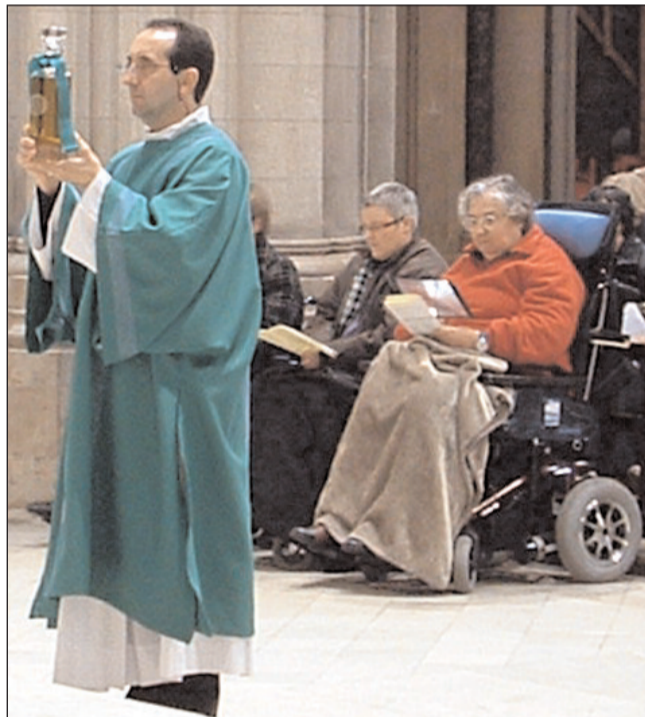
Presentation of Diocesan Certificates to those attending the Learning Together Programme; Presentation of the CCRS Certificates at the Margaret Beaufort Institute, Cambridge; Presiding at the final Mass in the old church at Diss prior to the commencement of the building of their new church; blessing the new Science block at Notre Dame School, Norwich; plus the inevitable round of diocesan and ecumenical meetings.

I am also expected to preside at some of our diocesan events taking place in the Cathedral. There have been occasions when I have represented the diocese at National Celebrations – the Mass at Westminster Cathedral to commemorate the first anniversary of the papal visit of Pope Benedict XVI, and the recent Mass in Westminster Cathedral to mark the 50th Anniversary of CAFOD.

Being Diocesan Administrator means that I am invited to attend the Bishops' Conference meetings at Hinsley Hall, Leeds – they are held twice a year (*November and the second week after Easter*).

I have to say that I went to the November meeting with a certain amount of trepidation – but they very quickly put me at ease and I even ended up preaching at the final Mass which was a Mass offered for Bishop Michael. I didn't sleep much the night before!

It's been an interesting six months – a challenge and an interesting insight into the life of the diocese but I couldn't do it without the support of my fellow priests and especially the Diocesan Consultors who meet regularly to discuss matters concerning the diocese.



*Deacon Claudio Chiappinelli carries the Oil of
Catechumens at a previous Chrism Mass*

The Staff at the White House are a tremendous group of people, and I am very grateful for their support. But the final word must go to the parish in which I am privileged to serve because without their being prepared to share me with the diocese and their understanding when I am not around as much as I used to be, I wouldn't have been able to take on this extra diocesan responsibility.

I guess we all hope that the wait for a new bishop will not be too long, but in the meantime we continue to pray our Diocesan Prayer :

PRAYER FOR A NEW BISHOP

Eternal God, shepherd and guide,
in your mercy give your Church in East Anglia
a shepherd after your own heart
who will watch over your people
with loving care;
a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth
who will inspire young and old alike.
So may your Church be built up,
your Gospel heard,
and your name be glorified.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady of Walsingham – pray for us!
St Felix – pray for us!
St. Edmund, King and Martyr – pray for us!
St Etheldreda – pray for us!

Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor to celebrate Chrism Mass

Last time we were without a bishop, it was decided not to celebrate the Chrism Mass in the Diocese in order to emphasise that we were awaiting an appointment.

The three oils that are blessed and consecrated for the ministration of the Sacraments through the coming year, were fetched from Northampton Cathedral instead. However, this time, it has been decided that the Chrism Mass should be celebrated.

The previous experience has suggested that the importance of this Mass, one of the great diocesan events of the calendar, is such that we should invite a bishop to celebrate this Mass with us.

Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor has kindly accepted the invitation and we look forward to welcoming him once more to the Diocese and to St. John's Cathedral in particular.

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 4 April, 2012 at 7.30pm in St John's Cathedral, Norwich.

LEARNING TOGETHER

These are the next two modules for our diocesan adult religious formation programme. Everyone is welcome.

3rd March 2012

Catholic Pastoral Centre, 14 Exeter Road,
Newmarket. CB8 8LT

The Passion & Death of Jesus

Fr Denis McBride explores the four Gospel accounts of the Passion and Death of Jesus as we prepare for Easter.

You can register for each module by e-mailing: learningtogether1112@yahoo.com or by going to the 'Adult Education' pages on our diocesan website and registering on-line, or by writing to: Diocesan Learning Together Programme, Parish Office, 14 Exeter Road, Newmarket CB8 8LT

31st March 2012

The Parish Hall, St Mary's Catholic Church, 322
Woodbridge Road, Ipswich. IP4 4BD

Reconciliation

Pat Deegan helps us to understand the theology and grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation at a time when many of us will be preparing for Easter by celebrating this wonderful Sacrament.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EXCLAMATION MARK!

For those of us who have to preside over the Liturgy, never has the importance of punctuation been more apparent! Many of the *Collects* or prayers proper to particular Sundays or other feast days, can only be prayed in an intelligible way by careful study of the punctuation. Only when it is duly noted, can the prayer be recited in the way intended by those who translated from the Latin.

Of course, this has always been the case – and anyone who has had to read the Second Reading at Sunday Mass when it is one of the Letters of St. Paul will know this well. Neither he, nor the liturgical translators have heard of ‘*sound-bites*’.

Thus, when preparing a homily for the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, the exclamation marks that are present were duly noted.

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: “If you want to” he said, “you can cure me.” Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him. “Of course I want to!” He said. “Be cured!” And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured.

(Mark 1: 40-41)

It is not good form to turn the reading of the Gospel into ‘ham acting’ – but the exclamation marks cannot be ignored. They denote an ‘imperative’ meaning to the words they follow – a strong emphasis, a command. The ‘*Of course I want to!*’ is no vague aspiration; it is a proclamation of the will of God – a proclamation of the Good News – the healing, reconciling and life-giving love of God seen in the words, the actions, the very person of Jesus. The ‘*Be cured!*’ is spoken with the same power as when ‘*God said, “Let there be light!” and there was light.*’ Genesis 1:4

In this miraculous healing of the leper, Jesus gives a sign of the Good News, a sign that

“The time has come .. and the Kingdom of God is close at hand.”

(Mark 1: 15)

Since Jesus began to proclaim this Good News, the Kingdom has entered a dynamic process of ‘becoming’: it is both a present reality, and a reality that is yet to be fully realised. The leper in the story has been healed, but many men and women still look for that ultimate and lasting healing which will satisfy their ‘pleading’. *(Mark 1:40)* The healing touch of which we hear, brings hope to all who still await that final realisation of God’s will for His sons and daughters.



The leper’s plea is in a sense the plea of all who have been cast to the outside, excluded from society, rejected, those who are a source of shame and revulsion. To them all, Jesus replies, ‘*Of course I want to!*’ Indeed this is the very purpose for His coming amongst us:

‘Let us go elsewhere ... so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.’

(Mark 1: 38)

He has come to bring salvation, not to the favoured few, but to the Many – the multitude to whom we refer at the consecration in the Eucharist Prayers of Mass.



For this is the chalice of my Blood ... which will be poured out for you, and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Roman Missal, 2010

The final fulfilment of the Good News will, of course, be experienced in the life of heaven. The Gospel message always draws us towards the future, a future which takes us beyond the limitations of this world. It is always has a spiritual as well as a material content. Whilst purely material philosophies are always destined ultimately to disillusion, corruption and failure; the Gospel always brings hope, always promises a future in which all that besets mankind has been overcome. If the preaching of this message is why Jesus came, then it is at the same time the purpose for which His Church exists. Paul VI summarises this in his encyclical *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (14):

“She (the Church) has a vivid awareness of the fact that the Saviour’s words, “I must proclaim the Good News of the kingdom of God,” (Luke 4: 43) apply in all truth to herself ... She exists in order to evangelize...”

If this is the case, then what must our response be as members of the Church, when we hear the pleading of those in need – those hiding or hidden away in the shadows or on the margins? It can surely only be the same response as that made by the Lord: ‘*Of course I want to!*’ and with the same sense of imperative urgency. And like the Lord, our words must not be empty, but a prelude to action. If the message that ‘*The time has come .. and the Kingdom of God is close at hand*’ is to give birth to that hope which frees the human spirit even in the midst of struggles, then the men and women of today need signs of salvation just as much as the people at the time of Jesus.

As the Lord Himself brought healing, forgiveness, peace, acceptance, justice and truth into the lives of those who called out to Him – so must we as His Church.

We fulfil our mission of bringing the hope of salvation when we place ourselves at the service of those relegated to the margins: in bringing healthcare and compassion into the lives of those suffering HIV/AIDS and other such feared conditions; in providing sanitation to those for whom disease is a constant

companion; in bringing education to children to enable them to build a brighter future; in bringing rehabilitation and reintegration to those who have been enslaved or abused; in bringing food, drink and clothing to those who are destitute; in calling for justice in the face of injustice and abuse of power. In all these actions and so many others the Church witnesses to the love and mercy that is the motive behind those words ‘*Of course I want to!*’

The preaching and martyrdom of Archbishop Oscar Romero, the anniversary of whose martyrdom we celebrate this month, is a clear example of the ‘exclamation mark’ effect. There is an urgency in his response to the suffering of his people. He once preached:

‘Very nice, pious considerations that don’t bother anyone, that’s the way many would like preaching to be. Those preachers who avoid every thorny matter so as not to be harassed, so as not to have conflicts and difficulties, do not light up the world in which they live.’

His willingness not only to call for change, but to offer his life with faith in the resurrection still brings hope to many who suffer, and inspiration to many more.



‘As a Christian, I do not believe in death without resurrection ... If God accepts the sacrifice of my life, let my blood be the seed of freedom and a sign that hope will soon be a reality.’

The words of the 4th Eucharistic Prayer for Various Needs provide us with a powerful prayer that we may too may hear the ‘pleading’ of our brothers and sisters and respond with the Lord, thus becoming authentic witnesses to salvation and bearers of hope.

*‘Open our eyes to the needs of our brothers and sisters;
inspire in us words and actions
to comfort those who labour and are burdened.
Make us serve them truly, after the example of Christ and at
His command. And may your Church stand
as a living witness
to truth and freedom,
to peace and justice,
that all people
may be raised up to a new hope.’*

The Diocesan Youth Office,
The White House, 21 Upgate,
Poringland, Norwich, Norfolk
NR14 7SH Tel: (01508) 494833
Mobile: (0781) 2004934 Email:
dys@east-angliadiocese.org.uk
Leave a message if no answer.

YOUTH MATTERS (Oh Yes We Do!)

Biggest ever celebration at Epiphany Mass night

About 120 people – more than ever – came to the now annual Candlelight Mass on the eve of the Epiphany.

This special Mass had been established by the Youth Council and Bishop Michael five years ago and it was really good to see it continue with such enthusiasm.

Fr David Bagstaff, Diocesan Administrator welcomed everyone and celebrated Mass.

As in previous years, people were invited to come and put a fragment of Frankincense into a burner and light a candle to place around the cross – both symbols of offering our lives to Christ.

After Mass, glow sticks, sparklers and presents were given out and people made their way down to the bottom of the White House garden for hot dogs,

jacket potatoes and hot chocolate.

Meanwhile the bonfire was being prepared and fireworks set up.

Youth director Hamish MacQueen said: “Each year has to ‘top’ the year before in the firework display, and this time there were significantly more than last year.

“Thanks to Josh who risked his life, so selflessly to set off the fireworks in fast succession and to everyone who helped make it such a good event.”

Online route to youth catechism

An online forum has been set up by the Diocesan Youth Service to focus on *Youcat* launched at World Youth Day 2011.

This forum for *Youcat*, short for Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church, “has the potential to go global”, Diocesan Youth Service Director Hamish MacQueen said.

Youcat is written in a contemporary way to make what the Church teaches more accessible for young people. So far it has been translated into over 20 languages.

In the forward, Pope Benedict wrote: “Study this Catechism with passion and perseverance. Make a sacrifice of your time for it!

“Study it in the quiet of your room; read it with a friend; form study groups and networks; share with each other on the internet.”

On the night of the WYD vigil Fr Luke Goymour and Hamish MacQueen

came up with the idea to set up an online forum for the East Anglia WYD group.

“The group came from all over East Anglia and we knew that back home meeting together in person to study *Youcat* would be difficult because of the geography of diocese.

“So we thought we could do it through the internet”.

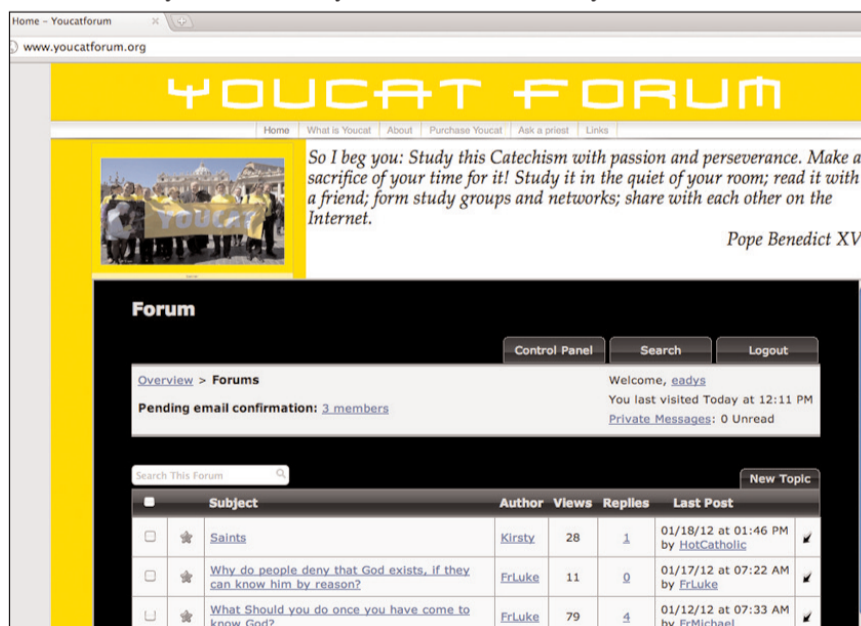
With Fr Michael Collis also on board, www.youcatforum.org was born. “Like any online forum you can

ask questions and discuss topics with others, anonymously if you want to.

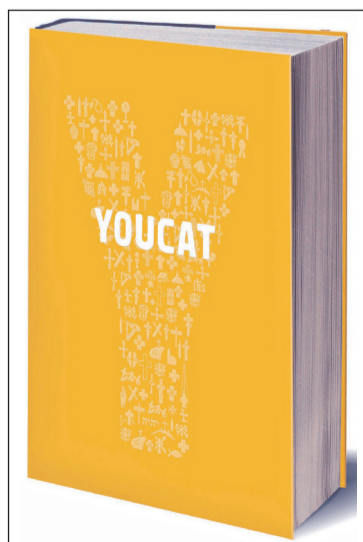
It soon became apparent that www.youcatforum.org could be useful far beyond the East Anglia World Youth Day group.

It could be used by anyone in East Anglia or further afield.

“People are logging on and we don’t know where they are from – they could be from anywhere in the world, but it’s great they are engaging with it, wherever they are from,” said Hamish.



A page from the website, above, and the youth catechism written for easy reading



Christmas is rounded off with a celebration at the White House at Epiphany and this has become a tradition with bonfire, fireworks, refreshments and a good time for all.

The event was set up by Bishop Michael who was once again in everyone’s mind at this year’s gathering which attracted the largest number of people ever.



CYMFED
Flame
NATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS 2012
2 Timothy 1:6-8

Building on the legacy from the Papal Visit...

The first event of its kind...

The very best of Catholic Youth Ministry in England and Wales.

Inspiring witness from Olympians, Paralympians and International speakers...

Wembley Arena
Saturday 24th March, 2012

Year 10 to Young Adult

CYMFED
CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY FEDERATION

cymfed.org/flame2012

Coming up in 2012

24th March

Flame (National youth event in Wembley Arena)

15th April

World Youth Day Rio 2013 Information Afternoon

8th January

World Youth Day reunion

7th May

Pilgrimage Walk to Walsingham

14th - 15th July

Youth Festival (note change from date previously publicised)

11th - 20th August

Pilgrimage to Taizé

Please see

www.catholiceastanglia.org/youth
for more information



Diocesan Administrator Fr David Bagstaff blesses the building helped by one of the pupils at Notre Dame High School and St Peter's pictured from the outside on the right above.



New science block boost for students

Diocesan Administrator Fr David Bagstaff has formally opened two new science classrooms and a refurbished science block at Notre Dame High School in Norwich.

The facilities are designed to boost the school's science specialism in addition to its role as a language centre too.

The well equipped St Peter's block is designed to offer students courses up to A level and international baccalaureate in Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

Head teacher Brian Conway said its development was a collaboration between the Diocese of East Anglia, Norfolk County Council's children's services, parents, teachers, staff and students.

"It was also built to a very tight schedule with the idea being finalised in July 2010.

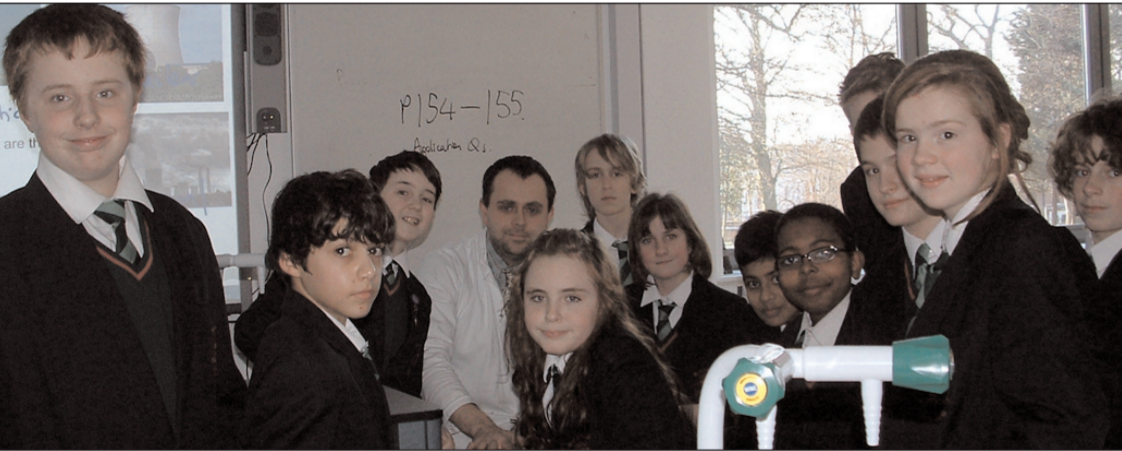
"Work began in December of that year and the building was completed by September 2011 to allow fitting out and for the students to begin their studies using its facilities."

He paid tribute to Andrew Firth who, until his recent retirement, had been responsible for schools building at the Diocese of East Anglia.

The Notre Dame School site close to Norwich city centre is very compact with little room for development.

Andrew identified a spot which housed a boiler plant which needed replacement and the design and school layout was modified to allow the new three-storey building to go up.

Fr David blessed the building and recited a prayer for the students and staff that would work in its laboratories and classrooms.



A class in the new block which has a range of science facilities covering chemistry, biology and physics, above. Students help to plant a tree in memory of Bishop Michael, left. Students and staff gather for the blessing of the building by Fr David Bagstaff.



News from Around the Diocese

Year book looks at Bishop Michael's achievements and today's diocese

The new diocesan year book and Ordo is on sale and contains a pictorial journal of the life and experiences of Bishop Michael since he came to East Anglia.

It highlights such achievements as establishing links with the Holy Land and Cambodia as well as his relationships with other denominations.

Diocesan Administrator Fr David Bagstaff in the foreword writes of the need "to give thanks to God for Bishop Michael's time amongst us and for his leading us in Word, Sacrament and the witness of his life, most especially in those final months as he bore so courageously his illness.

"Now is the time to move forward and be ready to welcome Bishop Michael's successor."

The year book also contains a wealth of useful information about the life and activities of the

diocese, obituaries of clergy, guidance on the Sacraments and an insight into the continuing pastoral plan.

Fr David has continued this plan by taking up the theme of the diocesan year as laid down by Bishop Michael.

This is "Justice and Peace" building on last year's theme of "Go out to the whole world: Proclaim the Good News to all creation".

It also fits in with CAFOD this year celebrating 50 years of Family Fast Days and efforts during the coming weeks for Lent.

Buy a copy now because there is so much in the year book about the Diocese of East Anglia, its life, activities, aspirations and links to the wider church across the three counties and Peterborough.



The deputy director of Local Government and Small Communities, Julian Bowrey, visited Peterborough in January, in order to meet with the ethnic groups that make up the City population. The police inspector responsible for cohesion, was keen that the role the Church plays in Welcoming the Stranger, was acknowledged, so asked to visit St Peter and All Souls, pictured above, in order to meet representatives of the various ethnic communities. A cultural buffet was arranged for his lunchtime visit giving the minister time with each of the four groups that managed to be free from work, for the occasion. After St Peter and All Souls, Julian Bowrey was taken to visit a traveller's site then on to Our Lady of Lourdes Church where the Polish Community are based.



Jenny Newing receives a long service award for over 10 years as local secretary to the APF – (The Red Mission Boxes). She has actually completed 12 years at St Mark's Parish Ipswich. She is responsible for collecting in the red boxes each year, counting the money, banking it, and keeping the accounts. Jenny was awarded a bronze medal and a certificate from Deacon Chris Brighten, Diocesan Director for APF pictured here with parish priest Fr Christopher Smith. She was very surprised on receiving the award, as Deacon Christopher had not told her in advance, and she was not even aware that these awards existed.

Thorpe community celebrate 40 years

The community based around the chapel of Our Lady Mother of God near Thorpe St Andrew on the east side of Norwich has celebrated the 40th anniversary since its dedication.

Before the chapel was built the people of this distinctive community within the larger parish of St George's at Sprowston celebrated Mass in a local school.

Fr Anthony Roberts made the decision to build the new chapel and Bishop Alan Clark carried out the dedication in February 1972.

The Thorpe St Andrew section of the

Catholic Women's League, very strong in the parish, brought the whole community together for a celebration Mass followed by a party at the church hall.

Fr Tony McSweeney presided at a Mass including in the congregation regular Mass attenders, the scout group that St George's supports, representatives of the many activities carried out at Our Lady's.

In his homily Fr Tony said: "It holds a very special place in the hearts and minds of the people who come to Our Lady's and long may this continue."



Gill Bannon from the Catholic Women's League who organised the celebration at Our Lady's with the cake she baked, above. Fr Tony McSweeney who said the parish was "a special place" left and below with the children's liturgy group. Below, some of the parishioners who attend Saturday night Mass enjoy the event.



New church for Haverhill parish

A new church has opened at St Felix in Haverhill where parish priest Fr Michael Teader has just celebrated the 10th anniversary of his ordination.

The parishioners led by Fr Michael have spent 10 years raising £900,000 for a new church to "inspire generations to come" according to Dr Paul Stephenson who chairs the committee responsible for the project.

The existing church on the Parkway Estate in Haverhill was opened in 1965 as a temporary measure designed to accommodate up to 200 people.

St Felix is now able to boast 240 at Sunday Mass and the former church "burst at the seams at Christmas and Easter".

"When a structural survey revealed that the

current building was almost unsound, it was clear that a new church was then only option to secure a bright future for the parish," Dr Paul said.

"It has taken 10 years and the combined efforts of hundreds of people to make this happen."

Parishioners raised money through sponsored bike rides, social events, lotteries and monthly donations. Other organisations were generous donating money and a local Salvation Army parishioner left money in his will to the fund.

Fr Michael said: "I am extremely proud of the way that parishioners have used their skills and talents to turn our vision for a new church into a reality. It has taken a great deal of hard work and commitment to raise the funds needed to start building."



Fr Michael Teader celebrates Mass at the new church which replaces a building that burst at the seams at Christmas and Easter and needed to serve a growing parish

As fundraising neared the £800,000 target in 2010, the parish received approval for a new church from Bishop Michael and the East Anglia Diocesan Trustees.

To fit the requirements of a diverse and growing parish the new church is designed with flexible meeting space, a side chapel, activity rooms and office.

The new church will now seat a congregation of about 280 people but up to 350 when required at larger events or celebrations.

A focal point is a tower above the baptismal font at the entrance to the building.

Dr Paul said: "It is a fantastic way to celebrate Fr Michael's 10 years as parish priest in a growing and vibrant community."



NEWS

from



THE
CATHEDRAL
OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST



Television personality, classical musician and friend of St John the Baptist Myleene Klass was married at the cathedral on 21 October.

Fr David Ward officiated when she married her long-time fiancé Graham Quinn at a quiet ceremony attended by about 24 family members and close friends.

Fr David said: "I have known Myleene and her family for about 25 years - we were parishioners together at St Peter's in Gorleston - which is why she asked me to celebrate the marriage.

"We kept it secret for six months while the preparations, were done. Myleene and Graham didn't want it to turn into a media circus.

"The marriage is more important than the wedding, she told me," Fr David said.

Survey on plans for art and craft classes

Plans are under way to start art and crafts classes at the Cathedral and a survey is being assessed to decide on the topics to cover.

Parishioners and visitors were invited to state any preferences from a large number of options that were on offer.

The Cathedral already has a well established embroidery group that has branched out into making church vestments.

The inspiration behind this group and the new plans is Barbara Scrutton who has been interested in crafts for over 60 years, she said.

It was logical that stitch work would be high on her list of possible classes and the suggestions were basic sewing,

embroidery, stump work, patchwork and quilting as well as working with beads, ribbons, cross stitching and other skills.

But there was also a demand for water colour art, drawing, pastel work and fabric painting.

Other subjects that Barbara was interested in include carving, crochet, decorative box making, lace, soft toys and picture framing.

Barbara said: "As public funding for, and the availability of, adult education decreases it becomes more difficult, and at time impossible, to find these types of class to join.

"With the Narthex we now have improved facilities which make it possible to start classes or groups to teach, encourage and foster creative art.

Plans are being formulated but Barbara believes there are talented



Barbara Scrutton at work
people within the parish community at St John's who would be able to share their skills with others.

It is hoped to begin taster sessions after Easter but Barbara would like to hear from anyone who is interested or who did not take part in the survey and would like to contribute now.

Please call her on 01603 458851.

Cathedral library formally opened

The formal opening of the Duckett Library by Fr James Walsh, the dean of St John the Baptist Cathedral, was due to take place as the newspaper went to press.

The library is named in honour of Canon Richard Duckett who was the first rector at St John's 1876 - 1910 .

Librarian and committee chair Peter Thorn said that the library was established as part of the recent renewal and extension

of facilities. It has over 3,000 publications.

"Subjects include biblical studies, theology, doctrine, catechetics, lives of the saints, pastoral issues, liturgy, church history, spirituality, biography, pilgrimage and religious art."

Pictures from the opening will feature in the next edition with a review of the library.

Centurion's view explored

A play, entitled 'The Centurion Returns' and written by Patrick Linehan of the Poringland parish, will be presented at The Narthex, at St John the Baptist Cathedral in support of the The Bal Vikas Ashram at 7.30pm on 23 March and all are welcome.

The Ashram, twinned with Poringland parish, seeks to rescue children sold or abducted into slavery and rehabilitate them in a safe environment before being reintegrated into their communities.

Patrick said the the idea for the play arose from a conversation with a new convert .

"Asked what it felt like, he said he had been given many small tools (10 commandments, six precepts, eight beatitudes, seven sacraments) to help him.

"The heavy lifting, however, was done by two main principles: he should love his Lord with all his heart and all of his mind; and love his neighbour as himself.

"The play explores imagined relationships between John, Mary, and a live-in housekeeper – the sister of Mary Magdalene.'

The play envisages a Roman Centurion, returning to Galilee with his soldiers on the 20th anniversary of the crucifixion of a prisoner called Emmanuel.

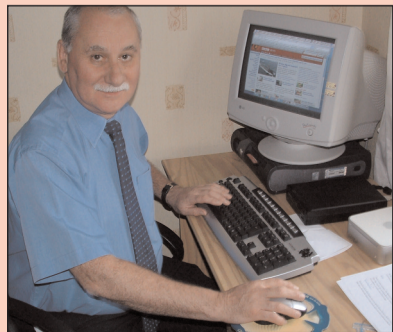
The centurion contrives a meeting with John, who has stayed in Galilee to look after Mary, the dead prisoner's mother.

The plot unravels and the centurion finds himself on the wrong side of his men but on the side of right.



Dora Cowton, the archivist at St John the Baptist Cathedral, often finds a treasure in its vaults. Last year she discovered this picture of three consecutive archbishops of Westminster with Bishop Alan Clark. The were Archbishops Basil Hume, Cormac Murphy O'Connor and Vincent Nichols all with Pope John Paul II.

Easy ways to contact the editor with news



Thanks to everyone who sends in material most of which is used but please send pictures as jpgs at 72 ppi and no bigger than 1mb.

Please also give documents a descriptive name - I get too many just labeled diocesan article.

You can also send photographs by post but please do not embed pictures in Word or other documents as quality is impaired by up to 60% when extracted.

Please send material to Patrick Byrne
The Editor, Our Diocesan Family,
The White House, 21 Ugate, Poringland, Norfolk
NR14 7SH.

Tel: 01603 627409 and NEW email:
patrick.byrne5@virginmedia.com
Deadlines: Our Diocesan Family is bi-monthly and printed early in the month before publication. Material for must arrive by 25 January for the MARCH 2012 issue.

BUILDING BRIDGES in The Holy Land

A grave problem at Kerak



The cemetery used by Greek Orthodox and Catholic parishes at Kerak is in dire need of renovation



For the past 10 years we as a Diocese have undertaken to raise funds for a specific project in our twin Diocese of the Holy Land. Over the years we have – amongst others – supported Sr Sophie’s orphanage, renovated flats in Jerusalem for newly married couples and supported student summer schools across Israel, Palestine and Jordan.

Having spoken with the Patriarch in Jerusalem, this year’s project will be to restore the parish cemetery in Kerak, a small town in Jordan.

Fr Wissam – the Parish Priest – writes: “Firstly I would like to send to you my best wishes and prayer that the Lord Jesus will bless you more and more with all the graces and blessing you may need.”

He then goes on to say that the parish is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary and consists of 80 families giving a total of 400 parishioners. There are four catechetical groups for young people in the parish and due to the difficulties of transportation in the city the parish sends seven different buses to bring people to Church on Sunday, which costs 350 Jordanian Dinars (£315) each month. About 200 young people attend Mass in the parish.

There is a Pastoral Council of nine who help in the running and organisation of the parish and the Rosary Sisters have a convent in the parish where there is an active Ladies Prayer group which meets to pray for the parish and now, for our Diocese of East Anglia.

The parish school (primary), including a kindergarten, has 350 students; interestingly all the teachers are Christians but the majority of students are Moslem, Fr Wissam says the



Entrance doors are difficult to open

school is popular amongst Moslems because the parish sees it as a goal to strengthen relations between the two faiths. For secondary schooling the Christian students from the parish go to the local Catholic secondary school elsewhere in Kerak.

One of the projects that the parish has been wanting to undertake, but has had to put on hold for lack of finances, has been the restoration of the parish cemetery.

The cemetery is used by both the Greek Orthodox and the Catholic parishes and is about 2,000 square meters in area. It has been neglected for several years as in serious need of work both to the surrounding walls and to the ground between the graves; the walls are in need of plastering and the entrance doors are difficult to use. Many “self-set” trees have grown up and prevent access to the individual graves.

The project will cost £12,000 and will include all renovation work along with new landscaping and planting, a new irrigation system, installation of new paths and work to facilitate easier access for families to visit the graves of their loved ones.

If you would like to make a contribution to this project, or enter into fundraising to support it, please either contact the Diocesan Finance Office or email Fr Paul Maddison for more details on pm@palestinepilgrimage.org.uk Remember, if you are able to make a donation it can be gift-aided.

Fr Wissam concluded his email by saying how grateful he is for this expression of solidarity between our two communities and that his parish will continue to remember our Diocese in its prayers. Thank you for continuing to strengthen the building of bridges between East Anglia and the Holy Land.



Trees have sprouted up uninvited between the graves

CAN YOU HELP?

Our two ‘Building Bridges’ projects this year are supporting Fr Franco’s work for the children of Kompong Chhnang, and restoring the parish cemetery at Kerak in Jordan.

Would you like to support these projects? Cheques should be made payable to the ‘RC Diocese of East Anglia’.

First Name.....

Surname.....

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, etc)

Address.....

.....

Postcode..... Amount enclosed.....

Anything you give will be divided equally between Cambodia and the Holy Land, unless you indicate below by ticking one or other that all your money should go to that project:

CAMBODIA (Kompong Chhnang)

HOLY LAND (Kerak cemetery)

GIFT AID DECLARATION (if appropriate)

I wish the RC Diocese of East Anglia to reclaim tax on this donation.

I have paid an amount of UK tax or capital gains tax equal to any tax claimed.

Signed.....

Date.....

Please send to:
‘Building Bridges’, 21 Uppate, Poringland,
Norwich, NR14 7SH
Registered charity no. 278742

Two J&P groups bring Romero legacy to life

Two Justice and Peace groups in the diocese have arranged events aiming to bring the legacy of Archbishop Oscar Romero to life and to find the relevance of his example in people's own lives.

At the Narthex in St John the Baptist Cathedral, Norwich, at 7pm on Tuesday March 20th Fr Campbell-Johnston SJ will speak under the title Walking with Oscar Romero.

"He will describe his work and friendship with Oscar Romero who was killed by the military authorities in El Salvador and discuss why the late archbishop's example is important to

all Christians in the 21st century," Colin Allen of Norwich J&P said.

In the parish hall of the church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Cambridge on Saturday 31 March at 2pm, Julian Filochowski will show The Last Journey of Oscar Romero.

Julian first met Oscar Romero in the 1970s whilst with the Catholic Institute for International Relations (now Progressio) and chairs the Romero Trust, so has unique insights into his life and legacy to share.

Bernard Shaw, from the Cambridge J&P group said: "One of the many gifts that Bishop Michael left us was a deep love and attachment to the example of Oscar Romero, the martyred Archbishop of San Salvador.

"The pilgrimages that Bishop Michael made to that beleaguered country, and especially the photograph of him celebrating Mass at the altar at

which Oscar Romero died, are well remembered."

Archbishop Oscar Romero was murdered on 24 March 1980 and people continue to look for guidance and inspiration from the way he responded to his vocation.

"As a martyr of our time he was exposed to many of the modern challenges and temptations with which we are familiar," John from Norwich J&P said.

"It is right therefore, as Bishop Michael understood very well, that we continue to look for ways in which we might imitate Romero's example, especially his loyalty and faithfulness to the mission of the Church and the courage and love he showed to the poor and the vulnerable in our world.

The two groups will be delighted to welcome you at either or both events.



Archbishop Oscar Romero still has much to offer people

Annual celebration of marriage date set

The 7th annual Diocesan Celebration of Marriage and Family Life will take place on Saturday 23 June at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich.

There will be a celebratory Mass at 11am, at which couples will be invited to renew their commitment to marriage, followed by refreshments in the Narthex.

Couples celebrating 1st, 5th, 10th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th and above, as well as those celebrating the birth of a baby since last year's celebration, will receive certificates.

All families are invited to attend. It is a great opportunity to really celebrate what it means to be part of your own families as well as members of the diocesan family.

As light refreshments will be provided, you are asked to let organisers know if you wish to attend by telephoning Edwina Griffin, Diocesan Co-ordinator for Marriage and Family Life, on 0203 0930474, or by e-mail to mflco-ordinator@east-angliadiocese.org.uk

This is essential if you wish to receive a certificate for a significant anniversary or a new baby.

However, everyone is encouraged to let the organisers know if they are coming to enable adequate catering arrangements to be made for this increasingly popular event.

Fr David says 'Thanks'

Fr David Jennings writes to say "Thank you" to all the people who responded to his questionnaire about the experience of joining the Catholic Church. He said it has been very useful to his project and now he is analysing the results.

National day of prayer

The religious community Family of Mary who led a National Day of Prayer in honour of Our Lady of All Nations at St John the Baptist will hold the event again this year on 21 April.

The superior of the community should be coming this year and also the mother superior. Fr. Andrej Maria Caja is one of the organisers of the day and will be circulating more information soon.

Solar panels making St Laurence's 'green'

St Laurence's parish in Cambridge has installed 17 shining solar panels on the roof of the presbytery.

These have been positioned to get maximum sunlight for conversion into electricity and also to show to all who pass by the church's concern for the environment, Sr Pat Robb said.

"In the first four weeks of operation, the panels, pictured right, generated 115 kWh."

The parish received a legacy that enabled it to fulfil a wish of Bishop Michael Evans that we green our churches.

In his 2008 document, Stewards of God, Caring for Creation, he said: "As stewards rather than owners of creation, we need to do all we can to preserve our resources for future generations, and to take care of this Planet Earth entrusted to us by God.

"We can only make a small impact on people's thinking and action, but the hope is that together with others we can make a significant contribution on a vital issue."

This follows the example of the Vatican which installed



2,700 solar panels in 2008 to harness solar power to provide energy for the auditorium where papal audiences are held.

Such initiatives attempt to reduce consumption of fossil fuel for energy, which produces greenhouse gases that stimulate climate change.

At St Edmunds Church, Acle, Tony Baker of Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association presented a cheque for £335 to Sandra Starkings the vice president of Great Yarmouth's St Vincent De Paul Society.

The presentation was made at the regular Saturday night Mass for the parish celebrated at Acle by Fr Gordon Williams. Also present was Deacon Peter Glanville. The money was part of the proceeds raised at Tony's annual Christmas Carol Concert held as usual at his house near Brundall.



Vocations initiative offering chance to listen to calling

The Diocesan Vocations Team is launching an exciting new initiative called the Samuel Group.

This is a discernment group for young single people in their 20s – 30s, which gives an opportunity to explore what God is calling you to, based around Lectio Divina (prayerful study of the scriptures).

In between group meetings, participants meet with 'a spiritual guide' (usually a priest or religious) who they can talk with individually.

Samuel Groups were started by Cardinal Martini in

Millan and now run throughout the world including several in England, mainly in the London area.

It is not just for those discerning a vocation to priesthood or religious life but for anyone who is discerning a major decision, such as a career change.

For more information and application forms, anyone interested should contact the Diocesan Director of Vocations, Fr. John Warrington on 01473 728115 Email: vocations@east-angliadiocese.org.uk But you need to be quick as the group starts in March!

Wondering what God is calling you to do with your life?

Samuel Group

"Speak Lord your servant is listening" (1 Sam 3:10)

A Group for young single adults (age 20's -30's) open to listening to the Word of God and putting it into action in their lives.

- 6 meetings from March 2012 – June 2012
- Meeting every 3 weeks
- Held in Cambridge

For more information and application forms please call: 01473 728115
Email vocations@east-angliadiocese.org.uk