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Bishop Alan Hopes speaks to  
Fr Michael Smith (also right)  
during his ordination.

## Michael ordained to the priesthood



**After spending most of the last four years studying at the Pontifical Bede College in Rome, Deacon Michael Smith was ordained a priest in the Diocese of East Anglia on Saturday July 3. Keith Morris reports.**

■ The Mass of Ordination took place in front of a socially distanced congregation of up to 150 people and 25 priests at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich and was celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes.

Fr Michael had recently arrived back from Rome after a 10-day period of Covid-19 quarantine. Aged 57, he has worked for 20 years on the Cambridge Science Park in a publishing role for the Royal Society of Chemistry.

During his ordination homily, Bishop

Alan said: “Dear brother, dear Michael, you have been chosen out of the priestly people of God, to be set apart to share in his High priesthood so that you can serve his holy people. You are called, in a special way, through your life and through your ministry, to proclaim to God’s people and to the world that Christ is risen.

“As you reconcile men and women to God through the Sacrament of Confession, anoint the sick, celebrate the Sacraments and carry out your pastoral ministry in many different ways, you will encounter the Lord you serve. Conversely, your ministry will invite the people you serve to encounter the Risen Lord Jesus Christ, to touch his glorious wounds, where they will find resurrection and hope in his healing presence.”

Speaking about his ministry, Fr Michael said: “I don’t think you can ever feel fully prepared for it but ultimately it is about trusting in God that he will give you the strength to do his

work – which is really important, because it is not about me and what I can do, although I will bring my talents to the role. It is really about letting God work through us so that we can serve one another and we can love and help one another, particularly after the pandemic. There is lots to do to reconnect people and to be of service to one another to build community again.”

Talking about his journey to the priesthood, Fr Michael said: “I had a sense of being called to ministry in my 20s and I joined a religious order and spent three years with them. I left them as I wanted to be absolutely sure that this is what I wanted to commit the rest of my life to.

“I then got involved in a career in science publishing, which was quite absorbing. It did not take me away from the church or from prayer but it did take me away from thinking about the priesthood. But the little voice

■ Continued on page two.

## “Sunday – it is our day,” say English Bishops

**The Catholic Bishops of England have issued a statement on attendance at Mass on a Sunday and the Sunday Obligation.**

■ On July 19, the current legislative powers which assist the mitigations against the Covid-19 virus transmission were rescinded by HM Government. Nevertheless, there will be an encouragement to personal and corporate responsibility in this area; as the Prime Minister said in his most recent statement “The pandemic is not over.” Even without this legislation in place, the Church in England and Wales will be adopting a cautious approach to capacity and activity within our buildings, especially at corporate acts of worship.

### Sunday Obligation

We are mindful of the certain fact that the Covid-19 virus is still circulating in society. Vaccines provide genuine protection against the worst effects of the virus, yet we recognise the legitimate fear on the part of some who otherwise desire to gather for Holy Mass. It is our continuing judgement, therefore, that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God.

It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021 (November 28).

In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church.

In April, following our Plenary Assembly, we offered a reflection on the experience of the extraordinary long months of the pandemic. It was titled The Day of the Lord. We also began to look at the way forward. We spoke about the important invitation to restore the Sunday Mass to its rightful centrality in our lives. We asked for a rekindling in our hearts of a yearning for the Real Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist, as our response to the total, sacrificial love that Jesus has for us. We said: “The Eucharist should be the cause of our deepest joy, our highest manner of offering thanks to God and for seeking his mercy and love. We need to make it the foundation stone of our lives.”

May this continue to be our striving during these coming months as we journey back to the full celebration of our Sunday Mass and our renewed observance of The Day of the Lord.



## news in brief

### Chance to join March for Life in September

■ March for Life UK will be taking place in September as an actual, in-person event to inspire, educate and motivate the nation to value all life from the moment of conception.

The March will be in London on Saturday September 4. In the morning the Life Fest will take place from 10am to 1pm at the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham St, London, SW1P 3D.

Pro-Life organisations from around the UK will be showcasing their work. There will be inspiring speakers, moving testimonies, live music, pro-life merchandise, pro-life tots, kids and teens' activities, selfie stands and much more.

The March will take place from 1.30pm to 4pm. Pilgrims from the Diocese of East Anglia are encouraged to congregate together outside the Emmanuel Centre at 1pm and walk under the banner of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Please contact Sarah Ward on [sarahcamping@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahcamping@hotmail.com) to let her know you will be attending.

### Secret Catholic chapel found

■ A clandestine domestic Catholic chapel has been discovered in Barnham Broom Old Hall in Mid Norfolk.

The chapel, reported first in the Catholic Herald, was hitherto unidentified and would have been secretly used during the Elizabethan period when Catholics were routinely forced to dissemble or suffer for their faith.

The chapel was first uncovered when wallpaper was removed in a first floor bedroom, revealing a much faded wallpainting underneath featuring bands of black and white decorated with drops representing the blood and water that flowed from Christ's side during his Passion.

**Catholic East Anglia**

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

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

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# Michael is ordained as a priest

■ Continued from front page.

inside never went away and so in the end, if you start to listen to it, it comes up stronger.

"In my first year as a priest I am really looking forward to working with people and helping them in their faith and in their prayer life. Also to be involved in a parish community as someone who can hopefully make a difference and grow and strengthen our community at this difficult time we have been through," said Fr Michael. "It is not all about me helping others but us all helping each other and ministry in the church is very collaborative and everyone brings their talents to build the Kingdom of God."

After the summer, Fr Michael will be appointed to St John's Cathedral in Norwich.

You can watch the ordination Mass on the St John's Cathedral live stream.

See a full picture gallery of the ordination Mass at: [flic.kr/s/aHsmW8ZTWp](http://flic.kr/s/aHsmW8ZTWp)



# CAFOD group drink coffee to build peace

**The CAFOD group at St George's in Norwich recently enjoyed a summer coffee morning to raise money for a peace building project in Colombia.**

■ The event took place in Gloria and Colin Iron's lovely garden, organised within the current government guidelines.

Fr Sean was on hand to cut the ribbon on a scrap book the group have made during lockdown celebrating all they've achieved in over 30 years of CAFOD fundraising.

Photos, newsletters and press articles record how the parish community has become involved in creative and imaginative fund raising initiatives, whilst CAFOD materials illustrate the projects they've supported over the years.



The group are currently supporting vital peacebuilding work through Hands On Magdalena Medio in Colombia and enjoy following the progress of the project through regular CAFOD updates.

Gloria Irons said: "We thought it was about time that the parish heard that we're up and running again. The coffee morning was a lovely chance

to thank everyone for their generosity and support."

The coffee morning raised £500 for CAFOD through the sale of coffee, cake, plants, books, a tombola and some very generous donations.

Jane Crone from CAFOD in East Anglia said: "CAFOD's mission is based on the Gospel values of Hope, Dignity, Solidarity and Compassion. By

putting their faith into action, the St George's group stand alongside our sisters and brothers living in poverty and suffering from injustice as a powerful sign of a better future.

Parishes across the country are organising summer FUN-raisers, for more details visit: [cafodeastanglia.wordpress.com](http://cafodeastanglia.wordpress.com)



The new catechists with Bishop Alan Hopes outside St John's Cathedral.



# Catechists honoured for passing on the faith

**At a special Mass for diocesan Catechists at St John's Cathedral in Norwich, Bishop Alan Hopes spoke of the courage required to pass on the faith. Eldred Willey reports.**

■ He presented certificates to the new catechists who had completed their training. Under the guidance of Fr Andrew Eburne, they had followed a course produced by the School of the Annunciation, which is based at Buckfast Abbey in Devon.

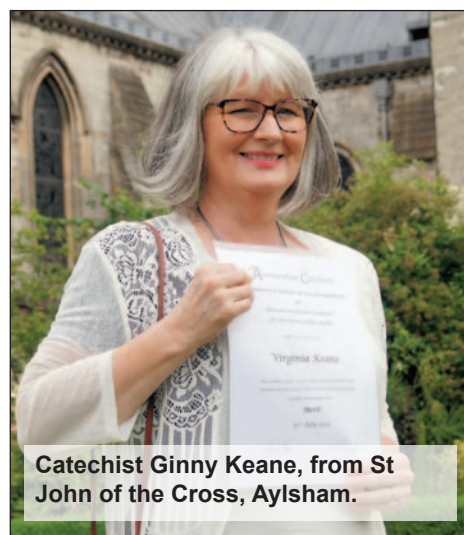
"Opposition to the Gospel is inevitable," said Bishop Alan in his homily. "It takes courage to witness to our faith as Chris-

tians." If we find that we are not facing challenges, said the Bishop, that suggests that perhaps we have become too comfortable.

"Some followers of Jesus Christ fall away from the Church when they realise the commitment they are called to," he went on. "But others find a new purpose. You have already committed your lives to a specific ministry within the Church."

He encouraged the new catechists to place their hope in God during difficult times: "The Lord tells us four times in the Gospel today not to be afraid."

After the Mass, the Bishop presented the certificates, and then there was an opportunity to gather in the garden and enjoy a meal in the Narthex.



Catechist Ginny Keane, from St John of the Cross, Aylsham.

## news in brief

### Clergy moves and summer appointments

■ The following clergy moves and appointments have been announced by Bishop Alan Hopes to take place over the summer.

Fr Padraig Hawkins: Parish Priest, St Joseph, St Neots (was at Poringland).

Fr Andrew Eburne: Priest-in-Charge, Our Lady of the Annunciation, Poringland.

Fr Christopher Smith: Parish Priest, Sacred Heart, Southwold (was at Newmarket), following retirement of Fr Richard Ireson.

Fr Leo Michael: Parish Priest, Our Lady Immaculate and St Etheldreda, Newmarket with Kirtling (from St John's Cathedral).

Fr Michael Brookes (right): Parish Administrator, St Edmund, Bungay (following retirement of Fr Charles Fitzgerald-Lombard) (right).

Fr Andrew Neate: Parish Priest, St Anthony of Padua Fakenham (Fr Andrew was formerly Assistant Priest King's Lynn with responsibility for Fakenham).

Fr Antony Arockiam: Assistant Priest, St Edmund, Bury St Edmunds (from St John's Cathedral).

Fr Michael Smith: Assistant Priest, St John the Baptist Cathedral, Norwich (recently ordained).



### Bishops offer guidance on Step 4 worship

■ The Bishops Conference is now offering updated Covid-19 guidance to the Dioceses of England and Wales, as the country moves into Step 4 of the Government's Covid-19 Response Roadmap. It covers topics including: social distancing and church capacity, congregational singing, acts of worship, celebration of Holy Mass and the Sacraments, home visits, social activities and church groups.

"It is important to reiterate that as Step 4 is reached, the general principles of continuing to create a safe environment in places of worship and their ancillary buildings are not abandoned," say the Bishops.

"Indeed, the way forward must be a collective endeavour of all involved in the daily life of the Catholic Church in England and Wales." Read the full guidance at: [www.cbcew.org.uk/covid-guidance-collective-worship/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/covid-guidance-collective-worship/)

## Cathedral fraudster must pay back £1

**A former treasurer of St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich, who is in jail for defrauding the Cathedral of £235,000, has been ordered to pay back just £1 because he has no assets.**

■ Volunteer treasurer Rene Mugenzi is currently serving 27 months in jail for the Fraud by Abuse of Position, which spread over a two-year period from April 2016 to May 2018.

At a short Proceeds of Crime hearing at Norwich Crown Court on June 2, the prosecution and his defence team agreed that there was no money left and Mugenzi had no assets.

Judge Maureen Bacon QC said that of the £235,500 taken, Mugenzi would have to pay £1. He was given seven days to pay.

Bishop Alan Hopes said he was disappointed with the ruling which he said was "not proportionate to the scale of the theft from the Cathedral parish."

He added: "It is in stark contrast to the support and generosity of so many parishioners at the Cathedral and across the Diocese when they learnt of the theft. We continue to be very grateful for this support."

Mugenzi blamed his gambling addiction for his crime. His barrister said the 45-year old had used gambling like a drug to deal with mental health issues.

Canon David Paul, the Cathedral Dean,

said: "The Diocese and the Cathedral Parish Finance Committee have now put more robust measures in place to ensure, as far as possible, it will not happen again."

"We have fully reimbursed all third-party charities, where some of the money given to us in second collections was intended to go. All the losses are now against cathedral funds. Fortunately, we have been able to recover some of the funds from our insurers to help mitigate the losses."

A full investigation has been carried out by the Vicar for Finance, Deacon James Hurst. On top of actions already implemented by Director of Finance and Resources, Matthew Fernandez-Graham, James made far-reaching recommendations for every parish in the Diocese.



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# Diocese marks tenth anniversary of death of Bishop Michael Evans

■ Bishop Alan Hopes led the Diocese in Masses and prayers offered for his predecessor, Bishop Michael Evans, over the week-end of July 10/11 at St John's Cathedral, Norwich, to mark the tenth anniversary of his death.

At the end of Mass he went to Bishop Michael's place of rest near the Bishop's Chair, blessed it and offered prayers for him.

Parishes across the Diocese led prayers for Bishop Michael at every Mass in the Bidding Prayers. May he rest in peace.



# Developing a habit of prayer and space to pray



In part two of his article from the last edition, Fr Paul Maddison shares his thoughts on developing a habit of prayer and finding the space to pray.

■ Fourthly, is it valuable to commit to regularity in prayer, even down to trying to pray at the same time each day. The devil will help us to find all sorts of reasons and excuses not to pray, but to literally "get into the habit" of praying is a great opportunity to kick that distraction into touch.

Most people find that first thing in the morning works for them, maybe before anyone else is up and about, and before the bustle of the day begins. Some people find that last thing at night works for them.

Choose the most appropriate time for you and try to stick to it, if the time you initial choose proves to be difficult, then change to

■ Fr Paul Maddison, who recently returned to the Diocese, has set up an on-line service providing spiritual direction.

He says: "I am convinced that the pandemic has led to a massive increase in prayer, and many of us would like to discover greater depth and strength in our spiritual lives.

"During the pandemic many of us have become used to doing things on-line. We shop, hold meetings, chat to family, even attend Mass on our computers.

"Spiritual Direction can be described as an open-ended gentle conversation, led by you, where we explore, ponder, question, reflect and freely consider your spiritual path. It is not therapy or counselling; but a safe place where we can explore all that you want to explore in freedom and confidentiality, through reflective listening, discovering the spirituality given you as a gift from God."

To discover more, visit: [www.divinethread.org](http://www.divinethread.org)

a different time; prayer should not become a burden or task.

The fifth area to look at is the length of time we should pray. Again, there are no hard and fast rules here, it depends on what works for you. The important thing is to avoid the distraction of not committing to a regular, habit-forming length of time.

Sometimes we can use the excuse of being busy to shorten our prayer time; Charles Wesley – the great Methodist preacher – knowing his day would be particularly busy, would get up an hour earlier and pray for a

longer period than usual to support his busy day!

Praying is not an exam, race, or endurance test; the regularity and depth of our prayer should be our focus. Much like an athlete in training, the benefits come from the regularity and intensity not the length of time spent on the exercise. Be gentle on yourself at first but stick to your commitment. Delia Smith, the cook, and spiritual writer, started out by praying for 10 minutes each day and used an egg timer to alert her when the time was up, so she did not have to keep peeping at her watch.

Finally, focus is so important when we are trying to pray. Distractions will come, but if there is something to draw us gently back to what we are here for it can be extremely helpful. Use a word or phrase repeated with each breath, a picture, an object, even something in your hand; and gently bring yourself back from things drawing you away from your primary purpose which is to be "...still and know that I am God."

There is a great little App called Centering Prayer (the American spelling is correct!) which I find invaluable in helping me. It can be set up to give a pre-determined time of silence as well as leading into and out of that silence with music.

Regularity is the most important thing when trying to pray. Make a commitment and try to stick to it, yes there will be days when all does not go quite to plan, but there will be other days when you find yourself in a wonderfully enriching time of communing with the Divine. Many spiritual writers talk about developing a habit of prayer, making the effort to develop such a habit will be well worth it.

■ Part one appeared in the previous edition.



# Concert marked St John's Cathedral anniversary

■ A 13-piece orchestra joined the Cathedral Schola singers in a concert made possible by the government's Cultural Recovery Fund for Heritage, and which celebrated the anniversary of the dedication of St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich.

The unique occasion, on June 19, was the first time such an orchestra has played in the cathedral for at least six years, and also saw soprano Rosamund Walton and conductor Daniel Justin perform music from Mozart.

A socially-distanced audience of around 200 enjoyed Mozart's stirring Coronation Mass, the virtuosic cantata Exultate Jubilate and his setting of Vespers of a Confessor, featuring the very famous Laudate Dominum.

Master of Music at the cathedral, Daniel Justin, said: "We were celebrating the dedication of the cathedral, 64 years ago on June 26, 1957. We are staging the concert this year as a pilot to launch an annual concert to celebrate the role of music at the heart of the church.

"It is the first time since I joined the cathedral and diocese in 2015 that we have been able to use an orchestra thanks to the grant funding.

"The Cathedral Schola sing at Mass and Vespers every Sunday and the orchestra were made up of local professional musicians. It was funded by a grant from Heritage England, Historic England and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport as part of the government's Cultural Recovery Fund for Heritage," said Daniel.

A retiring collection was made for the Cathedral Music Fund.



Picture by Keith Morris.

# Papal honour for Priscilla

**Bishop Alan Hopes has invested Priscilla Barlow as Dame of the Order of St Gregory for her service to Christian unity. Laurette Burton reports.**

■ The presentation took place on Sunday June 13 at Our Lady of the Assumption and the English Martyrs in Cambridge. This Papal decoration was awarded in recognition of her dedication to Christian unity at county, diocesan and national level.

Priscilla served in Cambridgeshire for 16 years as County Ecumenical Officer and continues to be a member of the Diocesan Commission for Dialogue and Unity. At a national level she served both on the Committee for Christian Unity of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales and on Churches Together in England's Local New Housing Group. This award not only honours Priscilla but also provides a formal recognition of the importance which the Catholic Church places on ecumenism.

Priscilla was joined by her



husband Geoff, her sister Sarah and her and niece Susie Markson.

Guests from other denominations included Rev David Cornick, a former United Reformed Church General Secretary, and until 2018 General

Secretary of Churches Together in England. Other representatives came from the URC and the Methodists.

Also present were Dr Geoffrey Cook, a permanent deacon who has chaired the Diocesan Commission for Dialogue and Unity

since 1984, and Jenny Bond, who is Principal Officer for Intermediate Ecumenism, Governance Support and Resources at Churches Together in England.

Bishop Alan commented: "It is a compliment to Priscilla's ded-

ication to serve ecumenism that many of her colleagues from the other churches are with us here today."

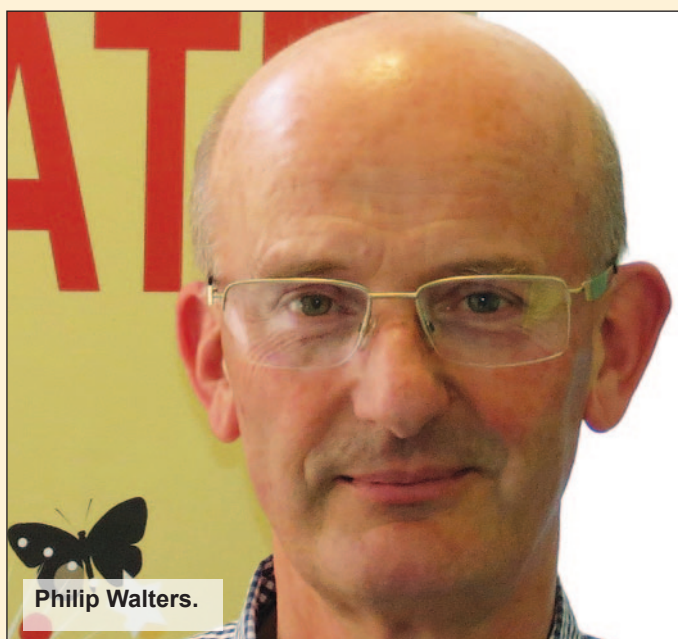
The Papal orders of Chivalry are awarded in the name of the Pope both as head of the Catholic Church and head of State of the Holy See. The Holy See, a recognised subject of international law and sovereign entity, has awarded distinctions of chivalry since the early medieval period. They include the Order of St Gregory the Great and are conferred on those who have made a significant contribution to the life of the Church.

The Order of St Gregory the Great, instituted on September 1, 1831 by Pope Gregory XVI, is the fourth highest Papal order and acknowledges conspicuous service to the Church. It was St John Paul II who, during his pontificate, opened the award to women by the establishment of Dame of the Order.

Laurette Burton is Catholic Denominational Ecumenical Officer for Norfolk and Waveney.

■ Pictured above, from the left, are Dr Geoffrey Cook, Jenny Bond, Priscilla Barlow and Bishop Alan. Photo: Laurette Burton





Philip Walters.

## Bringing streams of Charismatic Renewal together

**Philip Walters has been appointed as the leader of the new CHARIS team in the diocese for Charismatic Renewal. He explains the background.**

■ Pope Francis refers to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) as a current of grace for the whole Church. To give it an official place, he has recently set up CHARIS as a Church-wide channel of communication and support.

Having been the chair, for a number of years, of the diocesan team that promotes renewal in the power of the Holy Spirit, I am delighted to be asked to oversee the establishment of the new CHARIS team (CDSC) for our diocese. I have been instructed that the objective of CHARIS is to serve and create 'communion' between the different 'realities' existing in Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and to be in relationship with the Church as a whole, for the proclamation of the Gospel in the world.

Most people will know the CCR in our diocese through the New Dawn Conference that takes place each year in Walsingham, and through the Celebrate Weekends and Days of Renewal that are advertised in every parish. These events directly promote the renewal of our Baptismal and Confirmation commitment by encouraging everyone to be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit and allow his power to be active in their lives.

Many will know some of the other 'realities' in the diocese that use particular charisms of the Holy Spirit: for example, the Little Way Healing Ministry uses the different charisms involved in healing, Mothers Prayers uses the charisms involved in intercessory prayer, Prayer Groups use different charisms to discern God's will in their lives and to grow in their love of Jesus. There are many other 'realities' also, like Lectio Divina, that are embedded in the life of parishes.

We would hope that other 'realities' would identify their charisms and make themselves known to us, so that as a CHARIS team we can celebrate these works of the Spirit more by inviting everyone together in fellowship at least once a year and by making their works of service better known to everyone. In supporting these I would also hope that we give wider significance to every Christian's own God-given charisms through which the Spirit wants to work.

"Charisms, whether they be the more outstanding or the more simple and widely diffused, are to be received with thanksgiving and consolation for they are perfectly suited to and useful for the needs of the Church." (Vatican Council document Lumen Gentium section 12).



## Catholic boy from estate becomes L

**For the second time in a row, an active member of St John's Cathedral parish has been elected Lord Mayor of Norwich. Here Kevin Maguire shares his story and his vision for the city.**

■ I am so proud to have been elected as Lord Mayor of this city. I was going to say "greatest city in the world" but that is not the Norwich way: one of the reasons I love Norwich so much is that it does not boast; it is a wonderful place of understatement where superlatives only detract.

Thank you, Vaughan, for your remarkable magisterial role for the last two years. You have been Lord Mayor in a most historic time facing a pandemic the like of which the city has not seen for over a hundred years. You have done so with great statesmanship and kindness.

I will use my year to give voice to everyone in the city. That will include promotion of the city's fantastic commercial, scientific, and innovative industries. To this end, the Sheriff and I will work particularly hard in strengthening the links with our twinned cities in

both Europe and beyond.

I want to say a little bit about my background in order to explain my plans for the year. I grew up on a council estate. As a Roman Catholic, I became the beneficiary of a peerless, state-funded education provided by Jesuits.

As a Catholic in 1950s and 60s, I experienced the bigotry that many experienced. As late as the 1980s, I was refused a job for being a Catholic (this was before the Equalities Act and faith was not then a protected status). My faith has been an important guide throughout my life, especially in relation to ethics and action. And the civic life is all about helping others.

It is for this reason that I want, during my year, to call upon the major faiths in Norwich plus the Humanist Society to provide members of a seminar group to meet three times over the year to discuss





# council ord Mayor

some of the ethical dilemmas faced in public service. I see them as the modern equivalent of the long-pensioned-off office of Lord Mayor's Chaplain.

I have learnt over my life how essential education is. For a truly inclusive society, everyone must get the best start: they have a right to reach their full potential. It breaks down the class system and gives opportunity for a person to make their full contribution to our society.

It is for these reasons that I want, during the Civic Year to promote Early Years Education and, to this effect, I am writing to Norwich's Higher Education Institutes (which includes two world-leading universities) and ask them to support a series of Lord

Mayor's Lectures. The lectures will be there to promote to everyone interested major aspects of early-year development.

■ Labour councillor Kevin Maguire became Lord Mayor in a joint ceremony in which Caroline Jarrold, Community Affairs Adviser at Jarrold and Sons, was appointed High Sheriff. They replace councillor Vaughan Thomas and Dr Marian Prinsley respectively. The ceremony was the first in two years, since the pandemic had forced the former Lord Mayor and High Sheriff to stay in post.

Kevin's four children all attended Catholic Schools. Three went to university (UEA, Durham, Oxford), and he now has two granddaughters.

## Church tower is restored

**Skilled tradesmen have carried out a fine restoration of the Victorian tower of Our Lady and St John in Sudbury. Michael Evans reports.**

■ A quinquennial review at the parish church of Our Lady and St John, Sudbury, found that the top of the tower of this Grade II listed building was in a very poor state of repair and that it needed urgent attention. Several pieces of masonry had begun to break off and fall to the ground and without swift action, the deterioration would only get worse.

Fr Peter Brett, parish priest, and a small working group from the finance committee, established a project with a specialist consultant to begin restoration and renovation of the upper levels of this Victorian tower that had a number of unique features. With help from the Historic Churches Committee of the Diocese, a faculty (permission to undertake work on a listed place of worship) was obtained and the rebuild with



new stonework and bricks began in October 2020 with a schedule to complete in February 21, no easy feat in view of some inclement weather.

However, the consultant, David Eusden, and the contractor, Weldon Stone, working together completed the project as planned on February 22, very close to budget in spite of some unforeseen issues that arose

along the way. The detailed, specialist masonry is a lovely piece of tradecraft and we are extremely pleased with the excellent quality of the final finish, which has really improved the look of the Church and the tower in a picturesque location in the town of Sudbury, opposite the meadows of Gainsborough.

***Pictured above is the restored tower in Sudbury.***

## Historic churches role for Eloise

**Eloise Limmer has been appointed as Historic Churches Support Officer, a new role within the diocese supported by Historic England.**

■ This is a three-year, part-time post focused on the listed churches within the diocese. Eloise will be working closely with parishes responsible for listed churches to help them to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of their historic church buildings. This will build on the work completed as part of the 'Taking Stock' review which created a catalogue of the churches within the diocese describing their architectural details and highlighting features of significance. The review can be accessed at: [taking-stock.org.uk/diocese/east-anglia/](https://taking-stock.org.uk/diocese/east-anglia/)

Eloise will also support parishes in developing effective maintenance programmes and organising major repair projects alongside helping them through the relevant faculty, planning, and grant applications.

Eloise has an undergraduate degree in Archaeology and Anthropology from University College London and a Masters



degree in Historic Building Conservation from the University of York. She comes from a local authority background, having worked first at Cambridge City Council as a Planning Officer before moving to East Suffolk Council as a Conservation Officer and most recently South Norfolk and Broadland as a Heritage Officer.

She has a lot of experience working with listed buildings and advising their owners on maintenance and sensitive changes. She applied for the Historic Churches Support Officer role because she wanted to work on a longer-term

project that allowed her to focus on a small number of buildings and work closely with the communities that use them. "There is such a diversity of architectural styles and features in the churches within the diocese," she writes, "each has its own unique opportunities and challenges."

Eloise grew up near Mildenhall and her family attended St John the Baptist, Mildenhall. She went to school through the Catholic pyramid: St Louis Primary in Newmarket, St Louis Middle and St Benedict's Upper in Bury St Edmunds. She now lives with her husband Isaac and two cats in Ipswich although they are in the process of selling their house and moving to Norwich to be closer to family and friends.

She started on June 1 and spent the first few weeks getting up to date with all the reports and information available about the listed churches.

She will then be getting in touch with the parishes to arrange to visit the churches and meet the people involved with looking after them to understand from them what the key opportunities and challenges are.

Eloise works Tuesdays-Thursdays and can be contacted at [historicchurches@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:historicchurches@rcdea.org.uk)



## SCHOOLS IN FOCUS



### Autumn wins national award for painting

■ Autumn Trenchard (pictured above) from St Edmund's Primary School in Bungay was the national winner of the KSC Nativity Painting Competition for Primary Schools 2021.

Bro Jason Wickard, Provincial Grand Knight of East Anglia Province 27 of the Knights of St Colomba, presented awards on Wednesday May 26 at St Edmund's School.

Autumn Trenchard received awards as the National Winner of the KS2 group and Overall National Primary Age Winner. The Knights also presented cash prizes of £30 to her and £150 to her form teacher, Mrs Curtis, on behalf of the school.

The Rouse Columba Cup was inscribed with Autumn's name and school and will be kept at the school for a year.

Bro Christopher Brooks, Past Provincial Grand Knight, arranged the presentation during an outdoor assembly of Autumn's appreciative classmates, one of whom, Lucas, agreed to be the Knights' photographer for the occasion.

Pictured below is the CAFOD youth delegation in Cornwall, including Joe Savage (also bottom).



## Joe helps put CAFOD message at G7 summit

**Joe Savage, a student volunteering with CAFOD in East Anglia, joined its youth delegation to the G7 conference in Cornwall. Here is his report.**

■ Along with 15 other young adults between 18 and 30 from across England and Wales, I had the chance to join CAFOD's G7 youth delegation from June 10 to 13. We came from different places, including CAFOD's 'Step into the Gap' gap-year programme, and courses on international development at undergraduate or master's level. We were brought together by our common interest in climate change and global justice.

Over the course of four days, we had many opportunities to make sure that our voices were heard on issues such as climate change, debt cancellation and vaccine distribution.

This started on the Thursday evening with an interfaith event at Truro Cathedral where we were joined by a large online congregation as well as spokespeople from different faiths and cultural groups from around the world, sharing their messages for the G7 leaders.

On the Friday morning, we went to St Mary's Catholic School in Falmouth where we set up our main stunt for the trip. As part of the 'Eyes of the World' campaign, school children were invited to decorate a pair of eyes



with their messages to the G7 leaders, to show that the eyes of the world were watching them. Our display was made up of 1,500 pairs of eyes decorated by school children from across Cornwall, Devon and Dorset.

That evening, we held a vigil in Porthkidney Beach, right next to Carbis Bay, in memorial to the 3.7 million people who had died worldwide because of Covid-19. This was a particularly moving part as it allowed us to feel close to the G7 event and, due to the time of day, we had a beautiful sunset across the sea which we could appreciate while praying for the victims of the pandemic.

On the Saturday, we returned to the beach, this time in Falmouth, to join Surfers Against Sewage in their paddle out. While we were unable to join them out at sea, we campaigned along the shore with placards made the day before, on topics such as climate change and environmental protection. Later that morning, we were joined with representatives of the Jubilee Debt Campaign and went along the beach raising the issues of the global debt crisis.

Later in the day, we went into Falmouth where we dressed up in white crime scene suits to campaign for easier access to vaccines for Global South countries through better distribution and the removal of patents to allow for the cheap and easy production of the vaccines worldwide. This included demonstrating in front of the media centre in Falmouth where we were joined by other protesters and members of the public.

Finally, on Sunday morning we attended a local Mass where we were commissioned as campaigners by the priest. That afternoon, several members attended the start of the Young Christian Climate Network's (YCCN) relay from Truro cathedral to Glasgow in time for the COP26 conference in November.

If you would like to hear more about my experiences in Cornwall, or how to contact your MP before the November summit, please feel free to email me at [jsavage@cafod.org.uk](mailto:jsavage@cafod.org.uk) to arrange a talk with your local parish or community.

[cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)

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## YOUTH MATTERS

# Inspiring YouTube show

The Ignite Team has recently concluded its series of First Fridays YouTube chat shows which shared the inspirational stories of Catholics from around the Diocese and beyond.

■ Each episode featured the faith journey of a different guest as well as a musical segment and a time of prayer.

Interviewees have included Sr Theresa from the Dereham-based Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, Fr Simon Davies from St John's Cathedral in Norwich, lay missionary Shelina Guedes from Peterborough and many others all sharing their diverse and unique experiences.

"We've had quite a variety of people on the show," remarked show presenter and Ignite Team Leader Ciaran Losasso.

"The stories they've shared have ranged from fighting poverty to trying seminary to teaching others about sex and relationships and everything in-between!

"It's been a real privilege to hear each of their stories and quite enriching for me personally. I found that each guest gave me something to think about afterwards and there is always something powerful about hearing how God has worked in someone's life."

The musical segments of the shows are also varied and have included contributions from local teenagers as well as from more accomplished artists. The latest episode even includes a song from Great Yarmouth priest Fr Alvan Ibeh.

The full series is now available on Ignite's

YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/igniteyea](https://www.youtube.com/igniteyea) along with a selection of other content for young people including highlights from the recent Ignite Festival Online.

A podcast of selected First Fridays interviews is also available on Spotify and other major podcast platforms under the name First Fridays with Ignite.

■ Pictured above is Ciaran interviewing Hamish MacQueen and Fr Luke Goymour on the final First Fridays.



## Retreats are available at Walsingham

■ The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham will be running two retreats, on theology of the body and spirituality.

Places are still available on the Theology of the Body retreat for women this August, entitled 'Reclaiming Authentic Femininity'. It will run from August 6 – 8. "We have invited guest speakers, Mrs Christine Ward and Fr David Marsden SCJ," said Sr Theresa, "and we're really looking forward to all they have to share with us. The retreat is open to women of all ages, married or single."

You can bring a friend and share a beautiful twin ensuite room for just £125 each for the weekend or you can have your own standard or ensuite room (£140 / £160). This includes all costs including meals and refreshments.

A fourth Walsingham Spirituality series retreat is also taking place from September 10 – 12. The retreat is available both residentially and on Zoom. You can find out more about it at: [www.dowry-house.org.uk](https://www.dowry-house.org.uk).

You can also email [dowry-house@walsingham.org.uk](mailto:dowry-house@walsingham.org.uk).

## Still time to join the next Ignite Team

Hamish MacQueen, Director of Diocesan Youth Services, reflects on the last year and plans for the future for the Ignite Team.

■ It goes without saying that the past year hasn't been easy. Although we have developed online resources, one of the things we have really missed is going into schools and parishes.

Thankfully we were able to start doing this again towards the end of last term – and it was fantastic to be working with young people again, face-to-face!

Knowing that our face-to-face ministry was likely to be limited, last summer we took the decision to only run a very small Ignite team – just Ciaran with Fr Luke and myself.

However, now it appears the worst of the pandemic is over, we are keen to expand again. So if all or some of the statements below apply to you, do get in touch.

- You are between 18 and 35
- You want to share your faith with others
- You've just left school, university or a job and not sure what to do next
- You want to grow in your own faith
- You want to develop skills such as in music, drama and technology.
- You want to gain experience working with children / young people
- You can commit to working full-time (with



Hamish MacQueen.

accommodation, food and a monthly allowance provided) for a year from September 2021 (Autumn Intake) or for 6 months from January 2022 (Winter Intake). Ideal as a 'gap' year or part of a 'gap' year.

We would also be interested to hear from people who are interested in joining the team in September 2022 and January 2023.

If you are unable to join the full-time Ignite Team but would like to help out as and when you can, we also run 'Ignite Lite'.

Please see [www.rcdea.org/youth](https://www.rcdea.org/youth) and click on the link about joining the Ignite Team for more information.

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## FEATURES

# New Walsingham pilgrims' way

**A new waymarked walking route between Norwich and Walsingham is being launched to celebrate the tradition of pilgrimage.**

■ Called the Walsingham Way, the new 37-mile path is inspired by a network of pilgrimage routes that once crossed the county as pilgrims from across Europe travelled to north Norfolk's Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Founded in 1061, it is thought to be the oldest shrine in the world dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Mgr Philip Moger, Rector of the Catholic Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, said: "Walsingham is much more than a pleasant Norfolk village, but, for centuries, has been a place of pilgrimage, where people from all sorts of backgrounds have journeyed to Our Lady's shrine to find peace, restoration, new hope, a fresh start. I warmly welcome the Walsingham Way, on which pilgrims, enquirers, the curious, may journey on foot following ancient routes from Norwich, to reach the place, known for many centuries, as 'England's Nazareth'."



The project to waymark the Walsingham Way has been made possible thanks to a partnership enabled by Norwich Cathedral and involving many different organisations and individuals.

The modern-day Walsingham Way route – which will take about three days to complete on foot – can be started from either Norwich Cathedral or the city's Roman Catholic Cathedral of St John the

Baptist.

Walkers will be guided by signs featuring the new Walsingham Way logo of two linked Ws that together form the letter M. The M, which is adorned with a crown, is a tribute to

the Blessed Virgin Mary to whom the Walsingham Shrine is dedicated.

Along the way, walkers will enjoy beautiful views of the Norfolk countryside, including the river valleys of the Wensum and Stiffkey, and pass by many of the county's villages and historic churches, before reaching Little Walsingham. Known as England's Nazareth, the village is today home to both an Anglican and a Roman Catholic shrine as well as the ruins of the original priory church.

The project has been supported by funding from the European Union LEADER funding for rural economic development, the Diocese of Norwich, the John Jarrold Foundation, and Norfolk County Council, and by the considerable goodwill of volunteers, landowners and parish councils.

Volunteer groups along the route have also already started projects to welcome new pilgrimage visitors. At Great Ryburgh, for example, the church has established an area for campers and will offer hospitality to walkers.

More information about the Walsingham Way can be found at [walsinghamway.blog](http://walsinghamway.blog)

## Men invited to life of prayer and virtue

**Twenty-six men from across the diocese and beyond joined Fr Henry Whisenant for a men's retreat at Walsingham on Saturday July 3. Eldred Willey reports.**

■ They were drawn from a variety of East Anglian towns – Cambridge, Bury St Edmunds, Norwich and Cromer – as well as places further afield, including Hertfordshire, Essex and London. One man had made a five-hour trip from Warrington, another had cycled to Thetford, taken his bike on the train to Sheringham, and then peddled the final 20 miles to Walsingham.

The retreat had been organised by Damian Wallace and John D'Mello from the Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Commission. Both are on the staff at St Benedict's Upper School in Bury St Edmunds, teaching RE and Physics respectively. This was the third men's retreat they had arranged, the first being in Newmarket, and the second having been postponed due to Covid.

In this Year of the Family, Fr Henry took as his theme St Joseph as a model of prayer and virtue. He recalled some of saint's traditional titles – Nursing father of the Pastor of the Universe, Redeemer of the world's Redeemer, model Workman – and then suggested one of his own: Friend of the Angels.

St Joseph, he suggested, was "an intimate of the heavenly host" who had been guided in dreams by angels on four occasions: in the annunciation encouraging him to take Mary as his wife, in the warning to



flee to Egypt and in the directions to return to Israel and then move to Galilee. He was, commented Fr Henry, "not a distracted man" and therefore a good teacher of the interior life.

Fr Henry laid before retreatants the wisdom of many saints down the ages, among whom St Teresa of Avila and St Alphonsus Liguori emerged as clear favourites. The practice of mental prayer or contemplation, he said, "brings truths out of dusty drawers and gives them the power of action". He encouraged the men to clear the debris of

distraction so that they could pray well in a world where "click-bait makes us spiritual rubbernecks".

Turning to St Joseph as a model of virtue, Fr Henry took a very practical approach, looking at the actual process of laborious change towards a more virtuous life. "What helps, carry on with. What doesn't help, ditch," he suggested.

Joseph, he pointed out, was unique: living with the Son of God and the Immaculate Conception, he did not have to exercise at home what used to be called "the virtue of

vengeance", correcting the actions of his family. For him the just life was simple like light whereas for us "virtue is refracted into its constituent colours" as we live closely alongside the imperfections of others.

Unlike St Joseph, he said, we have to deal with concupiscence, "like a flat tyre making it hard for us to drive straight." Still, he was essentially hopeful about living a virtuous life: it was pessimistic, he felt, to suggest that people couldn't help living in mortal sin. As a step towards a remedy, he recalled a simple adage from the psalms once quoted by the Curé d'Ars: "turn from evil and do good". And if that is hard then, as St Alphonsus wrote, "God gives graces to those who ask."

The two talks were punctuated by a Mass celebrated by Fr Philip Moger – in the open air for the men, as the Church of Reconciliation was full of Marist pilgrims. Afterwards the men walked – mostly barefoot – the Holy Mile into the village of Little Walsingham and knelt for a final prayer and blessing at the abbey gates.

Back in Withermarsh Green in Suffolk, Fr Henry will be relaunching his popular "Peter's Pints" events, combining spiritual uplift with real ale. This time there will be a focus on poetry and art.

He has also initiated a 'Guild of St Joseph' for men, which has a simple rule of life, including monthly confession and a daily rhythm of half-an-hour's meditation, an examination of conscience, and praying five decades of the rosary. So far it has twelve members.

For more information, contact Fr Henry at [henry.whisenant@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:henry.whisenant@rcdea.org.uk)



# Procession takes to the Norwich streets

The parish community of St John's Cathedral took to the open air on Sunday June 6 for the Corpus Christi procession.

■ Fr Simon Davies celebrated the Mass in the Cathedral, which was followed by a silent procession into Earham Road and Unthank Road. The congregation paused for a time of adoration and congregational singing in the cathedral garden before processing back into the building.

"We are let loose on the world, said Fr Simon in his homily, "to set it on fire with prayer, with virtue and with goodness."

He spoke of the power of Christ truly present in the sacrament. "Jesus Christ nourishes us with Himself," said. "The greater absorbs the lesser. When we con-

sume this gift of Himself, He conversely absorbs us."

The procession was symbol of

the Christian calling. Speaking as if on behalf of Christ, Fr Simon encouraged his listeners: "Break

out of the Upper Room and go out into the street and tell the world that I am alive."

choir led singing in English and Latin.



The Corpus Christi procession around St John's Cathedral. Picture by Eldred Willey.

He evoked the Eucharist as the source and summit of our faith. "The Eucharist is the source of the bubbling river which is the Christian life," he said. "It is us standing on the Mount of Olives and at the foot of the Cross...us running towards the empty tomb...This is the gate of heaven."

In the sacrament, he went on, the Lord is present to us in reality, not in our imagination. "Not a moment with Him is a waste. He is alive and is our life. The Lord leads us through our wandering and dryness looking for His promise, out of our loneliness into His true and eternal home."

Canon David Paul, Dean of St John's Cathedral, joined Fr Simon at the end of Mass to lead the procession through the street and back into the garden, the rain holding off while the

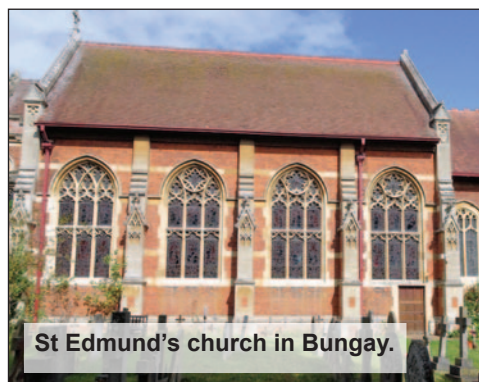
## Monks to leave Bungay after 350 years

More than 350 years of Benedictine association with the parish of Bungay in Suffolk will come to an end this summer. Mary Kirk reports.

■ The Abbot of Downside, whose monks have served Bungay and nearby Beccles for many years, has informed the Bishop of East Anglia that when the present incumbent, Dom Charles Fitzgerald-Lombard, retires in August they will not be able to find any monk from the English Benedictine Congregation to replace him.

Fr Charles, who has now passed his 80th birthday, thanked Bishop Alan for coming to speak to the parish in Bungay in June. The Bishop urged the parish to be ready for a new mission, bringing people to God, working hard for families. "You cannot do as you have always done," he said.

The Waveney Valley area of Suffolk and Norfolk is the setting of one of the oldest post-Reformation Catholic missions in England, as the first Benedictine priest (William Walgrave, of St Gregory's) arrived at nearby



St Edmund's church in Bungay.

Flixton Hall in 1657, and the line of service has been unbroken since, with a Catholic church first being built in Bungay in 1823.

The Abbot, Dom Nicholas Wetz, said: "It was with a heavy heart that the Chapter of Downside Abbey recently decided to pass the ownership and administration of the parishes of Bungay and Beccles to the Diocese of East Anglia... recognising our diminishing numbers at Downside and our inability to serve the parishes in future."

Dom Martin Gowman, parish priest of Beccles, will continue to work in the diocese as a Benedictine.



CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY  
THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY, WALSINGHAM  
Walsingham "England's Nazareth"

■ The Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham is seeking to recruit the following staff who are committed to customer service.

### DOMESTIC/GENERAL ASSISTANT

Key responsibilities:

- To maintain and manage a good standard of cleanliness at Shrine accommodation.
- To report any health and safety issues or maintenance problems that may occur and help with any other work that may be assigned.

Summer hours (April to October) minimum 27.5 hrs per week; winter hours (November to March) minimum 16.5 hours per week. Includes weekends. £9.50 per hour.

### KITCHEN/GENERAL ASSISTANT

Key responsibilities:

- To help with the general food preparation and serving meals and drinks when needed.
- To wash-up and maintain a good standard of cleanliness and high standard of health and hygiene in the kitchen. To help with any other work that may be assigned.

Summer hours minimum 27.5 hrs per week; winter hours minimum 16.5 hours per week. Includes weekends. £9.50 per hour.

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Key responsibilities:

- To cook and prepare meals for Elmham House dining room.
- To supervise bar duties.
- To maintain and manage a good standard of cleanliness, health and hygiene.
- To supervise the general day-to-day duties of the kitchen staff and to report any health and safety issues or maintenance problems that may occur.
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Minimum of 35 hours a week. Includes weekends. £10.35 per hour

All positions include pension, health and life insurance. Each role will require the successful candidate to undertake a DBS check.

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**Closing date: Monday August 9, 2021 at 9am.** More details at: [www.walsingham.org.uk/job-opportunities-at-the-shrine](https://www.walsingham.org.uk/job-opportunities-at-the-shrine)



# News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese

## A Celebration of Priesthood Mass and lunch took place at Our Lady of the Annunciation in Poringland and at the Bishop's White House on June 23.

■ Around 50 priests from across the Diocese of East Anglia joined Bishop Alan on the Feast of St Etheldreda.

Diocesan priests celebrating jubilees of ordination this year include: Fr Peter Brown and Fr Tony Rogers, both marking 50 years of service, Fr Michael Ryan (40 years) and Fr David Smith, Fr Christopher Smith, Fr John Ashman, Fr David Baker, Fr Michael Rear and Fr Mark Hackeson (all marking 25 years).

Also congratulated were three priests who marked jubilees last year when the Celebration of Priesthood had to be cancelled. They were Fr Dick Healey (40 years) Fr John Barnes and Fr David Paul (25 years).

In his homily, Bishop Alan Hopes said: "I just want to take the opportunity to thank all of you, especially those who are celebrating jubilees or special anniversaries of ordination this year. All of you have transformed the joys and hopes and visions of countless thousands of people that you have served over the years."

"As we look to the future, and hopefully come out of this period of lockdowns, let us remind ourselves that not only is our religion an incarnational and sacramental one, but it is also a religion of hope as well as faith. Let us go from here and place all our faith and all our hope in the Lord whom we serve."

Pictured right, with Bishop Alan (centre) at Our Lady of the Annunciation in Poringland, are from the left, jubilarian priests Fr Mark Hackeson, Fr Michael Rear, Fr David Paul, Fr Christopher Smith, Fr Peter Brown, Fr John Barnes and Fr Tony Rogers.



■ Fr David Finegan from St Etheldreda in Ely presented Rodger and Terry Germany with a papal blessing on their diamond wedding anniversary.

The occasion had been delayed by the retirement of the Papal Nuncio and took place on the 61st anniversary of their wedding day. The Queen had also sent a card, but as she had gone into lockdown in Windsor, and her staff were furloughed, it didn't arrive until September. It was still gratefully received.

"My big blessing," writes Rodger, "is that in 1957 an aunt left me some money and I decided to take a holiday, that June, in Ireland, being interested in Irish history. A pin in a map took me to Co Wicklow, where I stayed in a guesthouse, which is now part of the Ardmore Film Studios."

"On a visit to Dublin I took the wrong bus from Busaras and finished up walking over Bray Head to Greystones, where I met Terry in a cafe. She was on her summer job after five years studying, in Gaelic, at the St Louis Convent Monaghan. I persuaded her to apply for a job at Cambridge University where she got a position in Applied Maths in West Road."

"We were engaged within two months and married in Our Lady and the English Martyrs, on Easter Monday 1960. During the wedding I was received into the Church and

made my first communion."

The couple were blessed with two daughters, Gráinne who was born in March 1961, and Annemarie, born in January 1963. They have four grandchildren – Brendan, Siobhan, Ellis and Samantha – and one great-grandson, Oscar, who was born in February last year. The family are all living close by, within a ten-mile radius, and can now be visited with ease.

The couple had a hard time during Rodger's several redundancies, and Terry took several jobs whilst he got back onto his feet. Last June

Rodger was given just 72 hours to live due to sepsis but, with all the prayers in Ely, Devon, Co Wicklow and America, made a successful recovery. He writes historical articles for an Irish magazine.

Terry spends her spare time, when there is some, making jam and marmalade, crocheting, and sharing the gardening.

"The secret," say the couple, "is hard work, understanding each other, and prayers."

Pictured above is Fr David Finegan with Rodger and Terry Germany.



■ Tony Baker from Norwich has been appointed as provincial president of the Catenian Association, covering an area which stretches from London to King's Lynn.

Tony and his wife Val (pictured below) will celebrate 50 years of being members of the Catenian Association in July this year. Tony joined the association in 1971; his father George had been a very popular member in Norwich for several years.

He has occupied many posts over this period and has held the office of Norwich Circle President three times; his president's charity raised over £2000 for charities including the St Vincent De Paul Society (SVP).

Tony has been married to Val for just over 50 years and they have two sons and four grandchildren.

Tony was elected as Provincial President for Province (2) in May. This province covers 16 Circles from the City of London to Kings Lynn and includes Cambridge and all areas east.

The Catenians are an association of Catholic men who are committed to faith, family and friendship.

They support the Catholic Church, young people and those in need. Life-long friendships are developed by meeting once a month and enjoying a varied programme of social and family events.

