

# Chrism Mass celebration Diocese comes together



*About 1,500 people from across the diocese came to the Chrism Mass.*

**O**ne of the largest annual gatherings of people from the parishes came to our cathedral on the Wednesday of Holy Week for the Chrism Mass.

The incense and oil used at the Mass came from the Holy Land. Bishop Michael told a packed cathedral that these were signs of our unity with Christians and others in Palestine in their suffering.

In his homily he also called for a ministry of love in parishes expressed by clergy and laity together.

The Chrism Mass is a highly musical preparation for the Holy Week and Easter celebrations with the diocesan choir led by Christopher Bell and accompaniments to the liturgy by

Stephen Dean.

Highlights of the evening are the renewal of commitment to diaconal and priestly service by the diocesan clergy and the blessing of the oils which will be used in administration of the sacraments and the liturgy throughout the year to come.

The Oil of the Sick is used in the Sacrament of the Sick which is being celebrated across the diocese more frequently and fulfils the precept the Letter of St James for priests to lay their hands on the sick and anoint them with oil.

The Oil of Catechumens is used in the Sacrament of Baptism as a sign of wisdom and strength that comes from above.

The Oil of Chrism is consecrated after perfume is added. Chrism is used to anoint priests, prophets and kings, especially in Baptism, Confirmation and the ordination of priests and bishops.



*Bishop Michael at the Chrism Mass with deacons Patrick Limacher and Paul Hirons.*



*The deacons participating in the blessing of the oils are Andrew Neate, Nick Greef and Bill Dimelow.*



*Diocesan priests renewed their commitment at the Chrism Mass.*



*The deacons who serve in the parishes also renewed their commitment.*



*Christopher Bell conducts the choir during the liturgy.*



# NEWS FROM BISHOP MICHAEL

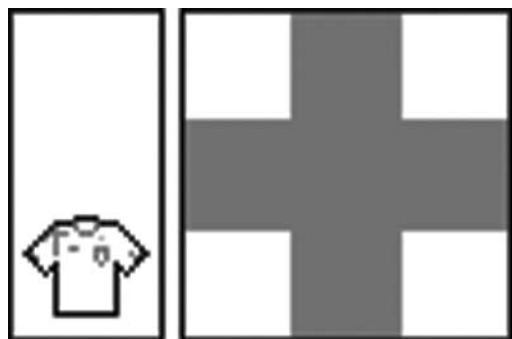
## A busy summer ahead

May and June are always a busy time in the diocese, as you can see from the list of my main engagements elsewhere. These include twelve celebrations of Confirmation across the diocese, always for me a high point amid the many national and diocesan meetings we need to keep moving forward in different areas of our life as Christ's Church.

In mid-May, I have an appointment at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital to determine whether I am ready for a month of daily radiotherapy sessions, probably in the mornings.

If so, my weekday diary may well be disrupted, and I apologise in advance if I am unable to fulfil all my engagements over the summer, either because of hospital appointments or the effects of any radiotherapy on my energy levels.

I am deeply grateful for your continued prayers, concern and care. That means a lot to me.



Over and above the many events in our parishes and diocese, there is also, of course, the World Cup in Germany. No doubt flags of St George will reappear in abundance as the first match approaches on June 10.

We can only hope for great things. And this particular bishop is also hoping for great things for Leeds United – promotion back to the Premiership remains a remote possibility through the plays-offs!

## A call to pilgrimage

As always during the summer, the National Shrine at Walsingham plays a major part in our diocesan life. I hope very much to see many of you there for at least one of the main events.

**Children's Pilgrimage**  
**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

**Adult Confirmations**  
**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 3.00pm**

**Diocesan Pilgrimage**  
**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June**

**SVP Pilgrimage of the Sick**  
**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July**

Other pilgrimages this summer include the Young Adults Pilgrimage to Taizé at the end of July, and the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes at the end of August.

There should be details in your church porch. It has also been good to see many pilgrimages from the diocese to the Holy Land over the last year.



*The shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham – at Siem Reap in Cambodia*

## So many signs of life and hope

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

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

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

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

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

## Towards greater participation

The Diocesan Council of Laity meets again on Saturday 20 May. Having discussed 'Reaching out to the Lapsed' and 'Keeping our Young People' at the first two meetings, they have chosen to discuss this time 'Working Together in Partnership'. This includes reflection on how we can better put into practice ideas of collaborative ministry, co-responsibility, and the full belonging to the Church of lay people through their Baptism and Confirmation. Part of this discussion will focus on the draft Diocesan Policy on Parish Pastoral Councils, so that lay people can participate in a much more fruitful way in the pastoral planning of their parishes. This always needs to take full account of the Catholic understanding of the role of the priest as sacramental representative of Christ the Head and Shepherd of the Church, the Christ who came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for the people entrusted to him. In the next issue of this newspaper, I will present the basics of our new diocesan policy.

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

## Diocesan Certificate

Some of you will have noticed that there is no "Bishop Teaches" page in this issue. This is

because I wanted to use both central pages for my trip to Cambodia, and there is a limit to how much of the newspaper I should take over. But there has been plenty of other teaching in the diocese over the last eight months since we began the new Diocesan Certificate Programme, and I have been delighted by the number of people who have been attending the sessions. So many have come again and again that we already have people who have qualified for the first stage of the certificate, after attending four study days (including at least two teaching sessions and at least one pastoral session). The Diocesan Certificate Office will be contacting those who have qualified. There will be a simple Mass at St John's Cathedral at 11.00 a.m. on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July. I will present the certificates. There will be a drink afterwards, and then a chance to wander into Norwich for lunch and sightseeing. Certificates will be posted later to those who cannot be there. Many thanks to all who have made such an effort to come to the various sessions. I hope you have found them valuable. There are still three main sessions this Summer, as well as special days for Parish Communications Officers and Youth Workers.

## DIOCESAN CERTIFICATE

These are the next three modules for our diocesan adult religious formation programme. Everyone is very welcome at each of them.

**13<sup>th</sup> May 2006**  
**at Newmarket Pastoral Centre**  
**'I was sick and you visited me'**  
**(P5)**

Deacons John Morrill and Andrew Neate will lead a workshop on practical aspects of visiting the sick & housebound.

**3<sup>rd</sup> June 2006**  
**at St Thomas More Primary School,**  
**Peterborough**  
**We believe in God**  
**– but what kind of God?(T6)**

Bishop Michael will help prepare for Pentecost and Trinity Sunday by exploring the heart of the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and the deepest nature of God.

**24<sup>th</sup> June 2006**  
**Wymondham Catholic Parish Hall**  
**Preparing our children for First**  
**Holy Communion (P6)**

Mrs Julie O'Connor and others will share good practice for parish catechists and anyone involved in preparing children for First Communion.

You can register for each module by e-mail: **deacert\_programme@yahoo.co.uk** or write to:

**Diocesan Certificate, Parish Office,**  
**14 Exeter Road, Newmarket CB8 8LT**  
All modules are on Saturdays, with registration and coffee at 10.30 and finishing at 3.00. Bring your own packed lunch. Donations to cover costs will be welcome.

Have a good Summer.

*+ Michael*



## Cursillo has new external affairs man

Frank Devlin, a parishioner at St Thomas of Canterbury, Brandon has taken over as the external affairs representative for Cursillo in England and Wales. Cursillo is a movement for Christian renewal. Frank has been active in Cursillo since completing his weekend course in 2003.

He will represent England and Wales in European meetings and world forums, feeding back to the National Secretariat anything of interest.

Pope John Paul II, speaking in St Peter's Square in July 2000, said of Cursillo: "You have experienced that true happiness is found in following the Lord. This personal and community experience must be passed on to others."

Frank said: "This is done through national and international agencies.

The next meeting is at St John the Evangelist, Mildenhall on Saturday May 6 2006 and all are welcome.

## Special marriage Mass

A special celebration of married life is to take place during the summer and it is especially for couples who are marking a significant anniversary.

If you are celebrating a special Wedding Anniversary this year (eg, 15, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60, 75) please contact Andrew Clark who is helping to organise the Diocese of East Anglia Celebration Mass for Married Life with Bishop Michael Evans.

It takes place at St John's Catholic Cathedral, Norwich on Saturday 24th June 2006 at 11.00am with a drink served afterwards.

Andrew Clark can be contacted on (01603) 250649

## KSC publicity officer

John Carter has just been appointed publicity officer for the Knights of St Columba Province 27 which embraces the organisation's councils within the Diocese and he can be contacted on 01953 603601.



*Charles West-Sadler, newly elected president of Peterborough Catenian Circle, selected Heart Link as the charity which would benefit from his year of office. He recently presented a cheque for £1,040 to Graham Brown from Heart Link - the two are pictured above.*

*Heart Link is based at Glenfield Hospital, Leicester and is committed to improving facilities for young children suffering from heart related conditions and for their families, and also for providing much needed valuable medical equipment.*

*Mr West-Sadler's grandson Jack, now aged four, was a patient at Glenfield Hospital when he was six months old and required surgery for a hole in the heart.*

# Around the Diocese

## Gift of healing in parish

**An early highlight of Holy Week at St George's in Norwich is a special Mass when the Sacrament of the Sick is administered.**

In his homily Fr Tony McSweeney described the importance of the healing mission of Our Lord.

Jesus Christ has given himself Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Eucharist.

"How much more does He want us to be well?" Fr Tony asked.

He has given us the Sacrament of the Sick but doctors, nurses, carers and others are part of that healing mission.

Pictured here are Fr Dick Wilson, Fr Tony McSweeney and Fr John Drew administering the sacrament.



## Deeper understanding for women

Bishop Michael pictured (right) with students at the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology in Cambridge.

Vice-principal Dr Clare Watkins said the institute offers a rare, if not unique, place where lay women called to a deeper, more fundamental theological and pastoral formation can come and stay to study together, in the context of prayer and sacraments.

"As a residential centre in Cambridge, we offer a variety of part time or full time courses, at undergraduate and post-graduate levels, and a real accompanying in prayer and Catholic faith through studies in Christian theology and pastoral practice.

"Our undergraduate degrees are publicly funded, and there are a few bursaries generously donated by religious order, who recognise in our work a continuation of their own



teaching and pastoral charisms.

"All this is a remarkable drawing together of gifts for the life of the Church, today and for the future."

But Clare also asks a question about the role of the institute: "Who is to receive these gifts into the church's heart?"

She answers it in this way: "There will, of course, only ever be a minority of lay people who want, and are able to, pursue thorough long-term study of their Christian faith. But I suspect there are rather more of

us than is generally supposed.

"Indeed, my own sense of things is that there is here a vocation of theological care and thoughtfulness to which growing numbers will be called as the church grows into its future life and organisation: a vocation to teaching, pastoral care, articulating faith, witnessing in society, with a deepening knowledge and understanding of the scriptures and the tradition of the church.

"Look around for signs of that vocation; encourage it, nurture

it, and so share with us at Margaret Beaufort the inspiring sense of discerning future life in faith.

"Our church does need lay men and women who are more and more theologically educated; and there are more and more ways in which this education is being made available.

"Perhaps in our prayers for vocations we can remember the pastoral theological vocation along with all the rest."

## Dominican appointed to Catholic theology post

Rev Dr Aidan Nichols OP, who was based at Blackfriars in Cambridge for many years, has been appointed to the lectureship in Catholic theology at Oxford University.

Fr Nichols, a Dominican, took up the newly created John Paul II Visiting Lectureship in April. The two-year post will cover

Catholic theology from the Council of Trent to the present day, and is combined with a fellowship at Greyfriars Hall. It was made possible by the generosity of a group of benefactors. Fr Nichols is the author of over 30 books. In 2003 the Dominicans made him Sacrae Theologiae Magister.

## Clare's 750th anniversary

The Order of St Augustine is 750 years old this year and its parish at Clare in Suffolk is celebrating but still have a strong focus on their mission.

The order has helped to build a new HIV/AIDs clinic in Babadogo, Nairobi, where the friars run the parish of the Sacred Heart.

The parish is twinned with Clare Priory parish in Suffolk, the Augustinians motherhouse.

Catholics at Clare Priory

formed a parish partnership with Babadogo five years ago, initially to finance the education of AIDS orphans and street children.

Last year around £11,000 was sent to the Kenyan parish from regular donations and fundraising by Clare parishioners, friends and local schoolchildren.

This paid medical fees and rent for families in hardship, and bought books, equipment and 100 desks for a primary school.



# World Youth Day launch

Young people from all over the diocese came together on Palm Sunday to launch preparations for World Youth Day in July 2008 in Sydney.

Hamish MacQueen, organising the day, said: "It may seem a long way off but we need to start early to raise the approximate cost of £1500 for each person going.

"It sounds a lot but we have lots of fundraising ideas and in the past, we have always been amazed at people's generosity and how the money has come in more easily than we thought."

As with previous World Youth Days, two weeks of catechesis and celebration will culminate in Mass celebrated by the Pope to which hundreds of thousands of young people are expected to attend. "It can be, and often is, a faith - and life - enhancing event" said Fr. Michael Johnstone from Swaffham who has been to four World Youth Days.

## Reaching us at the Youth Service

The Diocesan Youth Service can be contacted at Diocesan Youth Office, The White House 21 Ugate, Poringland, Norwich, Norfolk NR14 7SH. Tel: (01508) 494833, Mobile: (0781) 2004934, Fax: (01508) 495358

Email: [dys@east-angliadiocese.org](mailto:dys@east-angliadiocese.org)

There are often times when there is nobody in the office.

Please do leave a message and someone will return your call as soon as possible.

During the launch day some young people gave a presentation of their experience on the last World Youth Day and we watched a short DVD of it.

After learning more in deanery group discussions, we looked at what we know so far about World Youth Day 2008.

The day ended with a special Palm Sunday Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael with young people enthusiastically taking on parts of the Gospel.

*If you would be interested in going to World Youth Day 2008, to guarantee a place you need to return an initial booking form and £75 deposit by June 1, 2006.*

Bookings received after this date will be only be accepted if there is space available. Download an information pack at: [www.catholicseastanglia.org](http://www.catholicseastanglia.org), click on 'Young People' and follow the World Youth Day links.



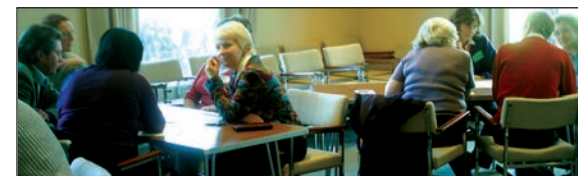
Young people planning to attend the World Youth Day.

## Looking forward to fun

This June on the Friday of half-term week we are running a coach to **Thorpe Park** – similar to Alton Towers but a little closer. There will be a limited number of places, so to guarantee a place, please book early.

In July we are running a coach from the diocese to the 'Life of Christ' play on the Wintershall Estate in Surrey. This **spectacular production** charts the life of Christ from Nativity to Ascension. The audience follow the cast of over 200 actors (together with horses, sheep, camel and donkey) around the grounds, bringing to life these remarkable events. Nearer home we will join with 1300 other Christians from East Anglia for **Rave in the Nave** in Ely Cathedral. This is an evening of music, fellowship, worship and prayer. Our main event this summer is simply called **The BIG ONE**. We will be inviting each deanery to put forward a team of 12 people or more of secondary school age to take part in 'It's a Knockout' style games. There will also be side stalls, live music, a barbecue, and Mass with Bishop Michael.

All these events are open to anyone of secondary school age. For more information please contact the Diocesan Youth Service or go to [www.catholicseastanglia.org](http://www.catholicseastanglia.org) and follow links to 'Young people' and 'Events'.



## Consultation views service

Early in April, Bishop Michael, Hamish MacQueen, (Director of the Diocesan Youth Service) and the Diocesan Youth Commission extended an invitation to the whole diocese to come for Consultation meeting. Some who attended are pictured above.

This was to discuss *What's been achieved for our young people in the last three years and where are we going in the future?*

People who came had an opportunity to express their views of what had worked well, what hadn't worked well, training needs, how to make communication and publicity better, how to overcome the difficulty of transport and ideas for the future.

Hamish commented "It was an extremely constructive and worthwhile meeting. My thanks to everyone who took part."

## Training opportunities

**May 20th 2006 at Newmarket Pastoral Centre**  
Introduction to Catholic Youth Ministry

**July 1st 2006 at St. Peter and All Souls, Peterborough**  
Evangelisation and Young People

For information contact the Diocesan Youth Service or go to [www.catholicseastanglia.org](http://www.catholicseastanglia.org), then click on 'Young People' and then 'Training'.

## Dates for your diary

**June 2nd Trip to Thorpe Park**  
As good as Alton Towers and a little bit closer. For everyone of secondary school age.

**June 25th Hobble with the Bishop**  
Join young people of secondary school age from across the diocese for our third sponsored walk through Thetford Forest.

**July 2nd Life of Christ Play**  
We will be running a coach to this spectacular 'must see' play around the grounds of the Wintershall Estate in Surrey.

**July 6th Rave in the Nave**  
Ecumenical event in Ely Cathedral celebrating the best in contemporary Christian music.

**July 16th The BIG ONE**  
An event with faith, fun and food for everyone of secondary school age.

**July 22nd-31st Taizé Pilgrimage**  
Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage for those aged 17-29 led by Bishop Michael. This year we will be joining with other Churches from East Anglia.

For information please contact the Diocesan Youth Service or go to the website at [www.catholicseastanglia.org](http://www.catholicseastanglia.org)



## Raising money for Cuba

Two young men from the diocese studying for the priesthood are raising money for a seminary in Cuba.

Luke Goymour and Michael Collis are joining fellow seminarians and staff from Oscott College to do a sponsored bicycle pilgrimage from Birmingham to Walsingham (some 160 miles) during June 18th and 20th.

The seminary in Havana, Cuba, has very limited resources due to government restrictions. Luke Goymour explains: "The Rector of the seminary ensures that his seminarians have a cup of coffee and a slice of bread with some sort of spread for breakfast so that they are able to have enough energy to study.

"They barely have enough money to

ensure even this! Recently the seminarians and priests responsible for their education had to move down one floor as the roof of the seminary had collapsed."

To celebrate the sponsored cyclist's (hopefully!!) successful arrival, a Youth Mass, planned to start at 7pm followed by a BBQ, is taking place at Walsingham on the evening of Tuesday June 20. Come along and support our seminarians!

To donate to this appeal or for more details, please send cheques or write to: Cycle for Cuba, Oscott College, Chester Road, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5AA (payable to Oscott Action for Justice and Peace). Thank you for your generosity.

*Michael Collis 2nd and Luke Goymour 4th from left, with the other students and staff from St Mary's seminary training for their long cycle ride to Walsingham.*





Dancers at Ta Hen church

**Cambodia is fast becoming my second home, a place where I feel at ease as soon as I step out of the airport. There is always such a warmth of welcome.**

On Friday 10th February 2006, I arrived at Pochentong Airport in Phnom Penh for my third visit to Cambodia. There to welcome me were the Apostolic Prefect of Battambang, Mgr Kike Figaredo (known simply as Bishop Kike); my old friend Fr Franco Legnani, Italian parish priest of the place I know best, Kompong Thom; and a group of young people from our twin diocese of Battambang. Young people are by far the biggest age group in the Catholic Church in Cambodia.



This map may help you to follow my journey, from Phnom Penh anti-clockwise round the great Tonle Sap lake. Our twin diocese is the light green north-west area of Cambodia.

### Kompong Thom

After a night recovering from the journey, I headed to Kompong Thom with Fr Franco. When I was parish priest of Tunbridge Wells, we established links with Kompong Thom, one of the poorest areas of the country. There are so many people there I know well, including three Thai Sisters and Fr Viney, a Cambodian priest who stayed with us for 6 months in Tunbridge Wells. I am known as Bishop Chillli by some of them: I can't think why!

The weekend was spent with the community there: visiting homes with Fr Franco, supper with the young people, Mass on Sunday morning in Kompong Thom and Sunday afternoon at M'Niu. And lots of dances! I am now well used to the Blessing Dance being performed for me (I love it each time), but there were many other dances as well.



Fr Franco at M'Niu

One of my aims during this visit was to see the various projects our diocese has been involved with over the last two years since our twinning began. In 2005, all three projects were in the village of Kompong Ko, close to Kompong Thom. Fr Viney is the priest for this community, once a thriving Catholic village before the Khmer Rouge took control in 1975.



Bishop Michael & dancers at Kompong Ko

Our first project was to restore a school building for use as a kindergarten. I arrived by boat with Fr Viney, and we were greeted by over 100 children who attend St Mary's Kindergarten. There were messages of thanks, and yet more dances. It was clear from my visit how important this project is for the whole community. Here the children are given some basic pre-school and health education, as well as food and fun. The daily programme includes making sure they brush their teeth properly.



Health and hygiene is a vital part of the community's development. Our second project was to fund the training of two young nurses for the village. They are half-way through their training, and they will be a great asset to the community. One of them is a young woman called Narin who performed the Blessing Dance for me on my very first visit to Cambodia five years ago.

Our third project in Kompong Ko was to help build a new middle school. We paid for almost five classrooms, and a Spanish charity paid for the other five (and a bit!). These three projects together mean that East Anglia has made a big contribution to village life.



The new middle school at Kompong Ko

### Siem Reap

On Tuesday morning I waved goodbye to my friends in Kompong Thom and headed north to Siem Reap, which is twinned with Bury St Edmunds Deanery. The priest there, Fr Heri, visited our diocese last November, and Fr Philip Shryane had visited him in Siem Reap just before I arrived. His parish includes the great temples of Angkor Wat, but also some very poor and isolated communities.

It is easy to get a false picture of Cambodia from Siem Reap. It is a lively town, full of foreign tourists. There are palatial luxury 5-star hotels, internet cafes, shopping centres, massage parlours, cocktail bars and night clubs. But you only have to look at the row of houses immediately across the river from the newly-expanded wooden Catholic church to see the lot of the vast majority of people.

Siem Reap parish serves a number of very poor and isolated communities. I visited four of them during my stay with Fr Heri. At An Long Sar, the parish has erected a simple structure next to the police station. Over 100 children (nearly all Buddhist) gathered for simple games and Fr Heri's now famous and very nourishing rice soup. Later in the afternoon, we visited the village of Botrong: Fr Heri hopes to provide much the same for the 125 children there, and I have committed the diocese to providing the £600 needed to build a shelter.

### Ta Om

I spent Wednesday night and Thursday morning in Ta Om. This is the place of our first diocesan project. We contributed £15,000 to build a learning centre there, and it is already being well used.

At Ta Om, there are lessons for the children, plenty of rice soup, and a warm welcome and loving care. While I was there, I had my first ever experience of clipping children's fingernails, before their hair was washed and they plunged into the river for a quick bath. Along with the learning centre, we helped build a reservoir from which water is drawn and purified during the dry season.

### Svay Sisophon

On Thursday afternoon Fr Heri and I sped off by taxi along the dirt road to Svay Sisophon (roughly where Banteay Meanchey is on the map). There we were met by Bishop Kike, and the two priests responsible for the area, Fr Greg (from Indonesia) and Fr Sushil (from India). North Walsham parish is now twinned with Svay Sisophon. There is a youth hostel next to the church. A wonderful display of Cambodian dancing was followed by Cambodian food at its best.

### Battambang

After supper, we headed off in the dark to Battambang, the second city of Cambodia and heart of the diocese. I was to stay with Bishop Kike for the rest of my visit, experiencing a wide range of communities and celebrations, and yet again the warmth of welcome so characteristic of the church in Cambodia.

At 6.30 on Friday morning, I was greeted from below my window by children from the Arrupe Centre, on their way to school. They are all disabled, some through stepping on landmines, others through polio or road accidents. Their sense of fun is tremendous, and an inspiration. All morning was spent with Bishop Kike and Fr Heri, reviewing our twin-



The learning centre at Ta Om

ning so far, and looking ahead. We agreed a series of small projects which East Anglia will help to fund.

On Friday afternoon, I visited two rural communities – Ta Pung and Nikum - with Fr Sophal, a Cambodian priest. In Ta Pung, the Khmer Rouge had come and destroyed all the houses, but one woman pleaded with them and they left her house untouched. She was a Catholic, and eventually her house became the centre for the revival of the community and the church. There are now 60 people coming to the new church most Sundays.

Saturday included one of the highlights of my visit: a Catholic Cambodian wedding, combining Catholic ritual and traditional Cambodian elements. One I liked in particular. Once the couple had exchanged their vows, the Gospel account of the Washing of the Feet was read. Fr Sophal washed the couple's feet, and then the new husband washed his wife's feet and the wife her husband's. In a traditional Cambodian wedding, only the wife washes the feet of her husband!



The nuptial washing of feet

On our way to the wedding reception, we met a Buddhist monk with whom Bishop Kike regularly visits the lonely elderly people of the neighbourhood.

Sunday was a very full day. Over 250 people came to the 8.00 Mass in Battambang. There was full use of Cambodian dance. The Gospel story of the paralysed man was acted out by the children. There were lots of speeches, and plenty of presentations were made, celebrating the deepening friendship between Battambang and East Anglia. At the end of Mass, I gave out special prayer cards focusing on the key word 'Mittapheap' – friendship.

We went to a parishioner's house for lunch – with her and the 60 children she looks after there! Pharum began in 1999 with a handful of children, and now she has a very large family, about a third of them orphans, who receive there food, family and love. We might well pass onto her through Bishop Kike some of any extra money our fundraising provides.

After a brief nap, it was time to head off to Ta Hen, twinned with Costessey parish. Many of the Arrupe Centre children came with us, and once again there was dancing and food. Fr John Shannon had visited there recently.

Another highlight came that evening back in Battambang: watching Manchester United lose to Liverpool on the Cambodian national sports channel, with Cambodian commentary.

### Down south

Monday was a day on the road from Battambang back down to Phnom Penh. We stopped to visit Fr Hernan, parish priest of Pursat and Kompong Luong (twinned with St George's, Norwich) at the special



A fond farewell

centre which provides a kindergarten, English lessons, a place for retreat, and experiments in optimal agriculture designed to help the local people. From there we headed further south to Kompong Chhnang, where a new church is being built for the Catholic community there.

### Back to Phnom Penh

And then it was back to Phnom Penh for the next two nights. On Tuesday I had lunch with the entire hierarchy of Cambodia – Bishop Emile of Phnom Penh, Mgr Antony, the Apostolic Prefect of Kompong Cham, and Mgr Kike – along with Fr Franco who has joined us again from Kompong Thom.



Bishops Antony, Kike, Michael & Emile

From there Fr Franco and I went to one of the Killing Fields, a stark reminder of the all-too-recent history which still overshadows the lives of so many people in Cambodia.

We had supper at the Catholic Student Centre in Phnom Penh, home to 50 Catholic young people from all over Cambodia who are studying at the university in Phnom Penh.

Finally, on Friday morning, before heading to the airport, there was time to visit a Catholic-sponsored NGO which provides much-needed relationships' education for children and young people. I agreed to sponsor a weeklong course in Kompong Thom. I suggested there was much work to do on this in East Anglia as well – when they had the time!

I left Phnom Penh with the temperature at 35 centigrade, and arrived at Heathrow in the snow! It had been a tiring visit, calling on 18 communities in 10 days, but it was very clear how much our friendship and support means to the Catholic Church in this part of Cambodia, from the prayers to the hundreds of Christmas cards they received, from people who have bothered to go out there and visit to the building projects we have taken on and completed. I send the whole diocese the warmest thanks and friendship of the priests and people of Battambang, and my own thanks for all the help you give them.

### OUR PROJECTS FOR 2006

These are the main funding projects Bishop Kike and I agreed our diocese would try to support this year. Any money you send will go towards these.

Building a simple shelter in the remote village of Botrong, to be used for pre-school activities and the distribution of rice soup by Fr Heri (Siem Reap) and his team of catechists (c. £600/\$1000)

Supporting the running costs of a health education project run for women by the Sisters in Poipet (c. £1200/\$2000)

Buying five second-hand computers and printers for computer classes for young people in Siem Reap (c. £900/\$1500)

Contributing to the costs of developing *Dei Moranasakrey* (Land of the Martyrs) at Spien Kbal village. This is the site of the martyrdom of Mgr Paul Tep Im Sotha, Apostolic Prefect of Battambang, by the

Khmer Rouge in 1975. The diocese hopes to develop the site, providing a shelter, a library, and a memorial to the martyrs. A contribution of about £2900 (\$5000) is suggested.

Sponsoring three young people from the Diocese of Battambang to go to the Asian Youth Day in Hong Kong (this is the regional version of World Youth day). It will cost about £290 (\$500) for each young person.

មិត្តភាព  
MITTAPHEAP  
(friendship)  
would you like to help?

Would you like to support our new projects in Cambodia? Cheques should be made payable to the 'RC Diocese of East Anglia'. Anything you send will be warmly welcome.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Postcode.....

Amount enclosed.....

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:  
Bishop Michael, 'Mittapheap', 21 Upgate, Poringland,  
Norwich, NR14 7SH

Registered charity no. 278742

+ Michael



# DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS



*This year's president of the Peterborough Catenian Circle, Charles West-Sadler, left, recently handed over a cheque for £250 to Kevin Clements, to sponsor the purchase of cricket strip for St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School, Peterborough to encourage local talent. Kevin, a member of the Hunts County Cricket Board, is helping to spearhead a local initiative, which is a pilot for a national campaign, to encourage young cricketers and find new county and country players. The initiative is under the eye of Lords and involves local schools in a League. Basic funds are being raised with help of English Test Players (including Fred Truman and Geoff Miller) while local groups are acting as School Sponsors. Charles West-Sadler (on the left) handing over a cheque for £250 to Kevin Clements for St John Fisher School.*

## Teaching maths is a circus matter

Maths teacher Andy Eaton has come up with an innovative method to inspire pupils from Notre Dame to revise the subject without the aid of a safety net or rather with the aid of a tightrope, juggling balls and other circus paraphernalia. For two days in April 26 pupils spent time studying key maths revision sessions and recover their mathed out brains with circus skills sessions with Dr Ken Farquhar. Dr Ken researches the positive effects circus skills can have on motivation and concentration in high school pupils.



*Bishop Michael pictured during his St Patrick's Day celebration visit to St Laurence's School in Cambridge.*

## Pupils pray with women

**S**tudents from St Laurence's School in Cambridge took part in the recent interdenominational Women's World Day of Prayer, and these are some of their impressions.

On a lovely Friday morning Mrs Quail took me and my friends to St. Laurence's church for the Women's World Day of Prayer. There we listened to readings and sang songs. After the service we had a small party with food, drink and lots of people. We liked the Women's World Day of Prayer. It was fun as well as praying.

### Autumn Stamford Year 3

The Girls in Year 3 and Year 4 went to the Catholic Church for the Women's World Day of Prayer service. I really liked it there. There were elderly people there in the church with us. It was great.

### Rovenna Mendonca Year 3

When all the girls in Years 3 and 4 went to the church for the Women's World Day of Prayer, Mrs Quail told us all about South Africa. When we went into the church we sang "We are marching in the light of God". We had to draw a cross on each others hand.

At the end we got something to eat. There were cakes, biscuits and 'Happy Hippos'.

### Ismay Hawksley Year 3

I felt proud to be at the Women's World Day of Prayer because it made me realise that I was lucky to have a choice of clothes



*Some of the children in St Laurence's Church.*

and food.

### Maria Dixon Year 4

On Friday 3rd March Year 3 and 4 girls went to St. Laurence's church. We first practised the song we had to sing during the service. Then we had a lucky dip to see who would be chosen to take up the offertory. Carmela and Daniella were chosen. During the service Sr Pat explained that in South Africa people weren't as lucky as us. The service was good. Afterwards we had some refreshments and then walked back to school.

### Caitlin Shortall Year 4

On Friday 3rd March went to the Women's World Day of Prayer to pray for the women in South Africa. Sr Pat was

there. We listened to some readings about South Africa. The service was good

On the Women's World day of Prayer day Year 5 girls walked to Arbury Baptist Church. It was very different to our church. For example, we saw pictures of people who aren't as lucky as us.

Also instead of shaking hands with the person next to you, you made the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand. After that the year 5 girls went on to the altar and sang in front of everyone, "We are marching in the light of God". After the service we went into another room and had juice and biscuits.

**Evangeline Hawes, Eilish Duignan and Helena Campbell Year 5**

## Day of opera for Year 6

**Year 6 students at St Laurence's Catholic Primary School in Cambridge recently took part in an Opera experience. Oliver Stoneman and Danny Frattasi described the impact it had on them and the school.**

We were expecting to hear about fat ladies with high voices but instead, we came face to face with a whole different view of the wonderful world that they call opera.

We were being prepared for an opera called "The Gentle Giant" which we later went to at the Mumford Theatre.

We started off by simply acting out all the characters of a normal village by a lake. We had plenty of fun making up our own accents and movements.

We then went off into groups and made up actions to build an imaginary house for made up characters to live in. We joined up with the rest of our class and showed the three favourite movements and sounds.

After all that, we combined the groups' favourite sounds and made a world premiere of building 'a house thingy' as Gareth, one of the workshop leaders called it. Our very own Damian Thompson conducted this and it sounded magnificent.

Just to top off our wonderful village, we made a lake using: a big blue cloth (lake), plastic fish, torches (the light) and our own bodies to make movements underneath the cloth.

It was very effective and David said it was probably better than the real one at the Mumford theatre.

We quietly discussed words to describe how the giant looked, smelt and sounded if you were to see him. While we did this, David crept into the corner and dressed up as a giant while we talked about words we would say if this giant came near us.

We decided on three hurtful phrases. They were: "Did you eat my best friend?", "I bet you feel like wet mould!" and "You're mean, go away!". David got out of his giant costume and told us that we were laughing at his expense just because of a few rumours. We then realised what we had done was wrong although it was only a joke, and we moved on to our next activity.

This was our final activity and in some people's eyes, it was the most enjoyable. We went of into groups once again and came up with sounds that described the giant which we did earlier.

We came together and made a spectacular piece of music which can be heard on the BBC Cambridgeshire website. You can hear that some used their voices, some percussion and some even went as far as using the school piano. It was a superb day and Year 6 at St. Laurence school recommend this workshop to everyone. To read and hear more please go to the link:- [http://www.bbc.co.uk/cambridgeshire/content/articles/2006/03/02\\_gentle\\_giant\\_feature.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cambridgeshire/content/articles/2006/03/02_gentle_giant_feature.shtml)



*Year 11 students at Notre Dame High School in Norwich took on staff led by head of girl's PE Mrs Carrick to raise money for charity in a series of "wacky races" recently as a fond farewell to Mrs Carrick.*

## More protection

Eileen Shearer, director of the Catholic Office for Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults is to be a member of an independent panel of experts on child protection.

The panel, chaired by Sir Roger Singleton, will oversee List 99 which contains the names of individuals who are restricted or barred from teaching or other work with children in education settings.

The role of panel members is to provide advice to the Secretary of State about the use of powers enabling her to prohibit individuals from involvement in education.

*This year's president of the Peterborough Catenian Circle, Charles West-Sadler, left, hands over a cheque for £250 to Kevin Clements, to buy cricket strip for St John Fisher Comprehensive School, Peterborough, to encourage local talent. Kevin, a member of the Hunts County Cricket Board, is helping to spearhead an initiative to encourage young cricketers.*





# CATHEDRAL FOCUS

## NEWS FROM OUR MOTHER CHURCH

# Invitation to joint flower festival

**A**s we go to press, the Steering Committee is beavering away with the final arrangements for the Two Cathedrals' Flower Festival June 1-4.

Flower arrangers are finalising their designs, schools are helping with their contributions for displays and both Cathedrals are getting to grips

with the complicated logistics involved.

Bookings are coming in thick and fast from flower clubs throughout the region and groups from several parishes in the diocese.

It is not too late to book, if you are thinking of getting together a coach party. Simply contact Doris Waymark on 01953 604879. Or just come along yourselves.

There are several large car parks within walking distance of our Cathedral. There will be a shuttle bus between both Cathedrals.

Lunch and refreshments will be available at both locations. Disabled drivers will be able to park on site. This is a great opportunity for our Cathedral to welcome many new and old friends.

Norwich Citadel Band are to perform a Gala Concert of music for a summer evening on Friday 2nd June. Tickets (£7.00) are available from the Cathedral Shop (01603 765034) or on the door.



*Signing the Book of Life at the Rite of Election.*

## Welcome for families at Rite of Election

St John's Cathedral was packed on the first Sunday in Lent for the Rite of Election. Dozens of families, friends and sponsors came to support the Candidates and Catechumens who were beginning the last lap of their journey in faith to become full members of the Church.

Bishop Michael welcomed them and looked forward to Easter when they would become the newest members of the Diocese of East Anglia.

Bishop Michael said in his homily that he hoped the parishes would also give them a tremendous welcome whether they were to receive Baptism, Confirmation or Holy Communion for

the first time.

"You have a tremendous amount to receive but also to give as an example to others. I hope the whole community will be refreshed in their receiving of the Sacraments because you are a source of inspiration for all in your communities.

"You can go home from here today and show the parish community how to believe more deeply and love Jesus Christ more deeply.

"I'm delighted and so are the parish priests and communities that you want to become part of the Catholic Church and the Diocese of East Anglia," Bishop Michael said.



*Candidates and Catechumens included people of all ages.*



Once again our Cathedral tower is open for regular tours for an amazing view of Norwich and much of Norfolk, including our sister cathedral (above).

This follows completion of essential works in the roof spaces, providing hand rails and walkways to ensure safe passage. On Saturdays at 1pm, 3pm and dusk, escorted by doughty (and energetic) Cathedral volunteers,

you may climb some 270 spiral steps, en route transversing the nave roof and the gallery above the crossing (aagghh – dizzy heights!!) to arrive breathless at the top of the tower. Here you are greeted with an amazing vista.

On a clear day you really can see as far as Great Yarmouth!

This picture, taken by a Tower Tourer during last September's Heritage Open Day gives a great

idea of what is in store.

The cost is £3 with proceeds going to Cathedral funds.

This makes a great day out and another good reason for coming to visit the Cathedral.

If you want a preview, take a look at the backdrop to Anglia Television News. This is taken from a live web cam at the top of the tower and shows what's in store.