

# OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY

The newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

FREE

September 2007



## Knights at the blessing of new altar at St John's

*East Anglian Knights of St Columba attended a special Mass where a new altar was blessed at St John's Cathedral in Norwich by Bishop Michael. Photographer Brian Lafferty of the Knights of St Columba pictures them here around the specially designed and commissioned altar. See also page 8.*

# Call to Dowry pilgrimage

**B**ishop Michael is to lead the annual Dowry of Mary pilgrimage at Walsingham on Sunday September 9 and has asked as many people as possible from the Diocese of East Anglia to attend.

He said the event should be "international and multicultural".

He said: "The Dowry Pilgrimage to Walsingham each year is a major event for many Catholics throughout the country, and Walsingham is clearly seen as England's National Shrine.

"England is now a multi-cultural society, and the Catholic Church here has been enriched by people from so many different countries - India, the Philippines, Vietnam, Portugal, Eastern Europe and so many other

places. This year's Dowry Pilgrimage will reflect that unity in diversity, especially appropriate on a day which is Racial Justice Sunday. Everyone is warmly welcome - come and be part of a Catholic Church which embraces all the world."

Devotion to Our Lady has a strong tradition dating back to the piety of Edward the Confessor and the work of Richeldis to found Walsingham. The roots of the Dowry are

attributed to the English King Richard II who is pictured with his consort holding a chart in his hand in front of a statue of Our Lady.

It is said the Latin words on the parchment proclaim "This is your dowry, O pious Virgin"

The painting once hung in the English College in Rome and showed the king who reigned 1377 - 1399 kneeling and offering England to Our Lady as her Dowry in Westminster Abbey in 1381.

## Harry Potter lesson at Taizé

Bishop Michael is pictured right with a group of young adults from East Anglia who were not the only invaders of the community at Taizé on July 22.

Many copies of the latest and (probably) last Harry Potter book - all 600 pages - were being read on the coach and during the week at Taizé itself.

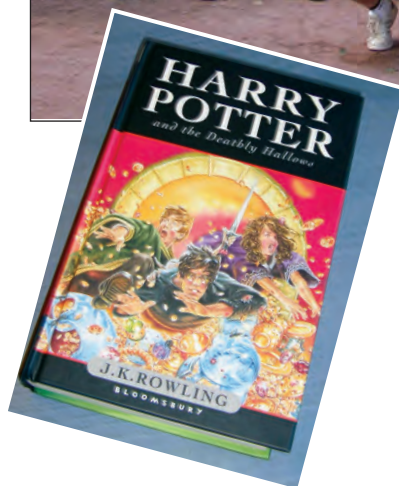
Some of our pilgrims queued at midnight to get their copy just a few hours before heading off on the pilgrimage.

Readers tried very hard not to reveal who does and does not die in the book.

Harry Potter and his friends get to the magical world of Hogwarts through the mysterious railway platform 9 and 3/4.

For many of the 4,500 young pilgrims from across the world there that week, the life and prayer at Taizé was their special way into something far more wonderful than anything J. K. Rowling could possibly imagine.

It is the deepest mystery of all, the joyful life and love of God and of his family, rooted in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ."



## Rescue at Big One

*Young people attempt to rescue a Teddy Bear in peril as part of their activities at the Big One event. See page 5 for the full story and other youth service activities.*

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# NEWS FROM BISHOP MICHAEL

## Another busy summer

Autumn is here yet again, and another academic year gets under way. It has been a busy summer since the last edition.

Priests and deacons gathered at Walsingham on 4<sup>th</sup> July for our annual Clergy Jubilees Mass. Fr Kieran Vaughan from Buckden was celebrating 50 years since his ordination (but was not well enough to be with us); Fr James Walsh, Cathedral Dean, and Fr Noel Wynn, Director of the National Shrine at Walsingham, each celebrated 40 years of priesthood.

As you will see elsewhere in this paper, over 40 couples celebrated more than 2,000 years of married life at the Cathedral on 7<sup>th</sup> July. You are invited to join us next year on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 11.00 a.m.

24 of us travelled on the diocesan young adults pilgrimage to Taizé at the end of July. And then there was the pilgrimage to Lourdes: more on these next time.

### Learning Together 2007/2008

Another summer event was the presentation of diocesan ‘Learning Together’ certificates at the Cathedral on 14<sup>th</sup> July. 42 people qualified for Level 1, and 31 for Level 2.

Brief details of the 2007/2008 ‘Learning Together’ programme are here on this page. I hope there is plenty to interest you. Put the dates in your diary now. Your parish priest should be duplicating and distributing details of the autumn study days in the next few weeks. Full details will appear over the next few months.

The study days are not just for people who want to get the Diocesan Certificate. They are open to everyone. Pick and choose what you want to come to – and bring others with you.

The sessions are free, but donations towards the cost of speakers, venues and refreshments will be very welcome at the end of each module. Everyone is welcome. Although people can just turn up on the day, we would much prefer everyone to register for each module so that we can arrange enough seating and drinks. Some are Teaching Modules (T), others are Practical Modules (P).

Some of you may wish to gain different levels of our Diocesan Certificate. To gain each level of the certificate, all you need to do is attend at least two Teaching Modules and at least one Practical Module in a total of four Modules. There is no written work or assessment involved: all you have to do is to attend and participate. Advice on further reading will be given. All modules are on Saturdays, with registration and coffee at 10.30 and finishing at 3.00. Please bring your own packed lunch – and perhaps a cushion!

These diocesan study days are a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow Catholics from across the diocese, and to grow together in our understanding of our faith. Please come along this year – and encourage others to join you.

Wishing you every blessing,

+ Michael

## ‘Learning Together’ Programme 2007/2008

### AUTUMN 2007

#### Teaching modules

- **Introducing St Matthew's Gospel**  
(13<sup>th</sup> October 2007 at St Laurence's Catholic Church, Milton Road, Cambridge)  
Dr Adrian Graffy will lead a day focussing on the Gospel for Lectionary Cycle A used in 2008.
- **Ethical Problems for Catholics in an aggressively secular society**  
(3<sup>rd</sup> November 2007 at St George's Catholic Church, Sprowston Road, Norwich)  
Charles Wookey, Assistant General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference, who works closely with Archbishop Peter on ethical issues, leads this day on a vital issue for Catholics today.

#### Practical modules

- **The Chronicles of Narnia: doors into deeper life in Christ**  
(29<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at the Catholic Church, Upgate, Poringland)  
Bishop Michael will lead a day exploring some of the hidden depths of C.S.Lewis' seven Narnia books. Open to everyone, this might especially interest parents of primary aged children and primary school teachers, as well as anyone seeking to grow in their spiritual life.
- **Preparing for Confirmation**  
(24<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at the Parish Centre, Catholic Church, Exeter Road, Newmarket)  
Bishop Michael will lead a day on Confirmation for Parish Confirmation Catechists, parents of young people being confirmed in the coming year, and anyone else interested.

### SPRING 2008

#### Teaching modules

- **The Mystery of Marriage**  
(18<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at St Mary's Catholic Church, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich)  
Bishop Michael will lead a day on the deepest meaning of the Sacrament of Marriage. Everyone is welcome, couples getting married in 2008 are especially welcome.
- **Exploring the Prophets**  
(9<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at the Catholic Church hall, Norwich Road, Wymondham)  
Maurice Lynch will explore the Old Testament prophets, especially Hosea, Jeremiah and Isaiah.

#### Practical modules

- **Spiritual Journey: Can the Church do more to help us in our relationship with God?**  
(8<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at St Laurence's Catholic Church, Milton Road, Cambridge)  
A day exploring deepening our life of prayer, led by Sister Diane Reynolds.
- **Music and the Liturgy**  
(23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008 at the Parish Centre, Catholic Church, Exeter Road, Newmarket)  
Mr Stephen Dean, Diocesan Music Adviser and composer of church music, leads a day on the place of music in the liturgy.

### SUMMER 2008

#### Teaching modules

- **Catholics and Buddhists in Cambodia**  
(26<sup>th</sup> April 2008 at the Catholic Church, Upgate, Poringland)  
Bishop Michael will explore the history of the Catholic presence in Cambodia, introduce Cambodian Buddhism, and see how Catholics and Buddhists work together there.
- **Where do the words of the Mass come from?**  
(24<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at the Catholic Church hall, Norwich Road, Wymondham)  
Deacon John Morrill, Professor of British and Irish History at Cambridge University, will lead a day looking at the development of the Mass.

#### Practical modules

- **Evangelisation: How to share our faith story with others**  
(12<sup>th</sup> April.2008 at St Mary's Catholic Church, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich)  
Clare Ward, from the Catholic Agency for Supporting Evangelisation, leads a day to help us better to share our faith stories with others, and proclaim the Gospel to our world.
- **Fair Trade**  
(10<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at a school in Bury St Edmunds)  
Bernard Shaw and the Diocesan Justice & Peace Commission lead a day on Fair Trade.

You can register for any of the Autumn sessions by emailing your name, address, and the module you wish to attend to: [learning.together@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:learning.together@yahoo.co.uk) or by writing with the same information to: **Diocesan Learning Together Programme, Parish Office, 14 Exeter Road, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 8LT.**

# THE BISHOP TEACHES

## HEARING THE LORD, RECEIVING THE LORD

### Hearing & Bearing God's Word

Our diocesan theme for this year has been 'Thus says the Lord – hearing and bearing the Word of God'. There have been pastoral letters, prayer cards, training days for readers, and much more besides.

The hope is that by now we all have a deeper appreciation of God's presence for us in the Scriptures. They are God's own word to us. Reading the Bible – on our own and in groups, and above all at Mass – is central to our Catholic life.

Gathering together simply to listen to the Scriptures, to reflect on them, to pray from them, is something of rich meaning and value.

As Catholics we should not always feel that we need to receive Holy Communion at a service in order for it to be worth coming to (for example when there is no weekday Mass). Celebrating the Church's Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer together, for example, would be a good way to gather together as Catholics when there is no weekday Mass nearby.

The Bible is so central to Catholic worship, witness and spirituality that Pope Benedict has decided that the next Synod of Bishops in Rome will focus on the Word of God.

### TWO QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Now that our year focusing on the Word of God is nearly over, I would like to ask two very basic, practical questions – and to make a plea to our parish readers!

#### (1) Do we really need Missals?

I realise that religious publishers will be horrified by this, but should we really be spending Mass with our heads buried in missals, Mass books and missalettes? Of course, there are some people still learning English who may find such books helpful, as well as some people with hearing difficulties.

But we come together to Mass to hear the Word of God spoken to us, not to read it. If the priest and readers are good at their ministry, speaking clearly and distinctly, and if the church's sound system is adequate, there should be no need for reading any books, etc, during Mass.

Imagine going to the theatre, and spending the whole time looking at the script rather than the stage? Or watching TV with the subtitles always there even though we understand the English dialogue? Or the priest having to provide you with a copy of his sermon so that you can read it while he preaches?

If the sound system is not good enough, make a fuss! If work needs doing to a church building, there are few things more important than making sure the liturgy can be heard without people having to strain their ears. And if the readers do not use the microphones etc properly, gently point it out to your priest.

So I invite you to take a risk – and leave your missals at home. Look at the readers as they read and the priest as he celebrates.

And readers – the challenge is to read in such a way that the congregation do not need anything else other than your spoken words.

### *Celebrating the Mass*

(Catholic Bishops of England & Wales, 2005)

Regarding the provision of service leaflets, sheets (or indeed books) for the congregation:

'The texts of readings and presidential prayers should not usually be included in these leaflets. These are texts proclaimed that they might be heard and prayed in common. Being invited to follow them in printed texts runs the risk of removing from the congregation their proper role of active listening and responding, and replacing it with one of attending or following the liturgy.' (n. 126)

#### (2) Is there enough silence at Mass?

God speaks to us in silence as well as in words. One reason why some people prefer the 'old Mass' is that there was more opportunity for quiet reflection. All too often, Mass today can be a continual flow of words from the opening hymn to the final dismissal. There is plenty of opportunity for prayerful silence at Mass, allowing the voice of the Holy Spirit to be heard in our hearts.

There can be brief pauses during the penitential rite, after the opening prayer, during the General Intercessions (Bidding Prayers). A time of silent reflection is particularly appropriate after the Scripture readings and the homily: all too often such a pause is seen by people as an unnecessary delay rather than an opportunity to allow God to speak to our innermost selves.

A time of quiet after Communion is also strongly encouraged, and ideally before Mass begins once the congregation has gathered.

### *Celebrating the Mass*

'Liturgical silence is not merely an absence of words, a pause, or an interlude. It is stillness, a quieting of spirits, a making of time and leisure to hear, assimilate, and respond. Any haste that hinders reflectiveness should be avoided. The dialogue between God and the community of faith requires intervals of silence, suited to the assembly, so that all can take to heart the word of God and respond to it in prayer.' (n. 92)

### AND A PLEA TO PARISH READERS!

'*The Responsorial Psalm: the Response is...*'

Can I implore readers not to say this at the beginning of the Responsorial Psalm. It is even worse when (especially in some school or children's Masses) the reader says 'Response' each time people should respond.

After the first Scripture reading, there could fruitfully be a brief time of quiet. The reader then simply reads the response, and everyone repeats it, led by the reader if necessary.

### 2008 Theme: Sacrament of Love

Having focused on the Scriptures in 2007, our diocesan theme from Advent 2007 until autumn 2008 will be the special presence of the Risen Christ in Holy Communion. There will be pastoral letters and prayer cards, leading up to *Corpus Christi* 2008. There will be more details in the November edition. This will be an opportunity to explore Pope Benedict's letter *Sacramentum Caritas*, on the Eucharist as the Sacrament of God's love, as well as

revisiting our own Bishops' Conference document *One Bread, One Body*, ten years old next year.

### *Motu Proprio* on the 1962 Mass

In July, Pope Benedict issued his letter extending permission to use the Missal of Pope John XXIII for the celebration of Mass. It was not reported very accurately, and even our own Bishops' Conference press statement was not as precise as it might have been.

Firstly, the Holy Father re-affirmed the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council, and that Mass according to the Missal of Pope Paul VI (Mass as we have celebrated it for nearly 40 years) remains the 'ordinary' form for celebrating Mass. For the vast majority of Catholics, there will be no change.

Some 'traditionalists' deny our modern Mass is valid; this is totally unacceptable - it is surely heretical to deny the validity of the Mass approved and celebrated by recent Popes. Pope Benedict makes it clear that priests adhering to the 'old rite' cannot, as a matter of principle, exclude celebrating according to the new books. There are some Catholics, however, who accept the teaching of the Second Vatican Council, but who have continued to adhere strongly to the so-called 'Tridentine Mass' and other rites, as revised by Pope John XXIII in 1962.

The Holy Father's letter says that 'in parishes where there is a stable group of faithful who adhere to the earlier liturgical tradition, the pastor should willingly accept their requests to celebrate the Mass according to the rite of the Roman Missal published in 1962'. Such a stably existing 'group' (*coetus* in Latin) is more than just a few people who prefer the old rite. 'To adhere to' is more than 'to prefer'. The letter is designed primarily for groups who have continually (*stabilter* or *continenter*) remained faithful to the previous rite. The document does not say how many people might constitute such a 'stable group', or how often and when such a Mass might be celebrated. Nor does it require priests to learn to previous rite. Each parish priest will have to use his pastoral judgement.

I will be discussing the matter further with my fellow bishops, and with our parish priests, but it seems to me that the next step might perhaps be for those parishes where there is such a 'stable group' to have a monthly weekday Mass, in addition to rather than replacing the usual Mass, celebrated by a priest from our diocese who normally celebrates using our modern Missal but has been trained to use the 1962 Missal. The parish priest can then review the situation after a reasonable time.

Liturgical documents from Rome stress that it is inappropriate to hold group Masses on Sundays, since the community should come together in unity. I presume that people who adhere to the previous rite would come to our present 'ordinary' rite of Mass when the 'extraordinary' one is unavailable, and receive Holy Communion, just as someone who adheres to the Missal of Paul VI would go to a 'Tridentine Mass' and receive Communion if the 'ordinary' rite was unavailable. As the Holy Father makes clear, any arrangements should avoid discord and favour the unity of the Church. The Eucharist is the Sacrament of Love!

+ Michael



# DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS



The head teachers visited the Pope's private gardens in Castel Gandolfo (left). They are also pictured above with Mgr John Radano of the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity and Communion (right) after Mass at St Mary Major's church.

## Head teachers talk unity

**H**ead teachers from across the diocese attended a conference in Rome and discussed with representatives of the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity the welcome their schools give to non-Catholic and non-Christian children.

The meeting created the opportunity to hear from both sides the work that is being done toward closer dialogue in this field of unity, Fr David Jennings said.

Fr David from all Souls, Peterborough, said: "By special permission of his Holiness Pope Benedict XVI the head teachers paid a visit to the Pope's private gardens in Castel Gandolfo."

"The conference and pilgrimage were wonderful opportunities for the head teachers to meet together, share good practice and spend some time reflecting on the role of Christian unity within education."

Paul Rossi, from St Benedict's Upper School, Bury St Edmunds, said: "The mix

of worship, discussion with Vatican officials, site-seeing and time to talk and relax with fellow heads was perfect.

"The only negative was having a visit cancelled because of Tony Blair's visit; some people have no sense of order of precedence! Thank you and well done Fr David and Julie O'Connor."

Neil Cully, acting head teacher, Notre Dame High School, Norwich, said: Spiritually, culturally and socially it was a great trip: the magnificence of St Peter's Basilica and Square, the Sistine Chapel, the pasta, the wine and the companionship.

"Father David and Julie were superb hosts. Going with a group of fellow Catholics helped to intensify the feelings I had that we were at the centre of the universal church."

Maria Kemble, from St Edmund's Primary School, Bury St Edmunds, said: Celebrating Mass in the Irish Chapel next to the tomb of St Peter at 7.30 in the morning was a very moving occasion.

"As we walked through St Peter's the sun streamed through the stained glass

window of the Holy Spirit and it was inspiring to hear Mass being said in so many languages in the small side chapels.

"It was a great time to recharge batteries and catch up with the other head teachers especially as we face many challenges in the not too distant future."

Teresa Selvey, head teacher, St Louis Catholic Primary School, Newmarket, said: "I had never been to Rome before so it was particularly exciting to be part of the Catholic head teachers' Pilgrimage. I wasn't quite prepared for how overwhelmingly spiritual it would feel."

"Our Masses together were particularly special. It was also lovely to spend time with colleagues and to meet new ones. I feel very privileged to be part of such a great group of head teachers."

Joe McCrossan, head teacher, St Alban's Catholic Primary School Cambridge, said: "I thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience meeting new people, celebrating Mass, seeing the sights and feeling part of a family of people who have the same common goal in life."



## End of an era for St John's

St John's First School made the feast day of St John the Baptist extra special this year because in September they will become an infant school as education in Norfolk is restructured.

At the end of July the school said goodbye to 120 Year 2 and Year 3 children and their families.

The feast day started with Mass at the Cathedral when the children thought about and prayed for their families – at school, at home and at church.

Father David Ward reminded them how they should try and be prophets for Jesus, just like St. John the Baptist.

They filled the church with singing and signing. During Mass a new banner was blessed.

Three years ago the children first designed the pictures for each bible story scene and much work has gone on since then to bring it all together. It now hangs in pride of place in the school hall.

After Mass, the school came together again in the hall and the school cooks and dinner ladies prepared a picnic lunch.

While they were eating, the grown-ups blew up 250 blue balloons which were later released from the school playground carrying messages of love and thanks for all the happy memories of being together at St. John's First School.

## St Laurence's building work blessed

Bishop Michael visited St. Laurence Catholic Primary School in Cambridge to bless the new building work at the school. Two rooms have been created, one for groups of children to work with a teaching assistant, and one for the assistant head teachers or other staff to use.

A new entrance / reception area has also been built which is welcoming and also provides increased security to the school. Bishop Michael together with parents and governors joined the children's assembly and then he blessed the building work. He is picture right officially opening the

new area at the school. He was then presented with a cheque for £200 (picture below left) for his work in Battambang by the members of the school's council who have recently organised fund-raising activities to support a number of charities.





## Contacting the youth service

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

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



*Bishop Michael presents trophy to winners from OLEM*

# Great 'Big One' for all

**T**he Big One, our main youth event of the year, was an opportunity for young people from all over the diocese to come together for an afternoon of faith, fun and food.

Teams of young people came to represent parish, deanery or school and there was also a team made up of people going to World Youth Day.

Lunch was provided as people arrived, and some took the opportunity of some 'practice' on the bouncy castle assault course.

The main part of the afternoon was taken up with the games, culminating in a giant tug of war, followed by Mass.

At the end of Mass, Bishop Michael presented shields for the teams that came second and third.

The winning team, from Our Lady and English Martyrs Church in Cambridge, received a cup. After Mass there was a barbecue and music from 'The Last Minute Band' bringing to an end a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Thanks to everyone who helped organise and run *The Big One 2007* especially Mick Truman and friends who led the music at Mass, the Millyard family and friends, and members of the Youth Council and Youth Commission.



*The band providing the music*



*Welcome BBQ break to restore energy*



*The bouncy castle was a real draw for all*



*Much effort in water game*



*Everyone puts in effort at the popular tug-of-war.*



*Last minute instructions as Hamish MacQueen addresses the troops on what to attack.*

## List of games

**Drainpipe** - Fill a leaky drainpipe by team members stopping the leaks with their fingers whilst the pipe is filled with water.

**Stepping stones** - a geometric challenge where the team has to cross a notional river using stepping stones and planks of wood.

**Croquet** - Each team member completes one hoop in a game of croquet, the winning team completes the course with the lowest score.

**Centipede** - The team stands with each foot on a plank of wood with strings attached to the planks. The team has to co-ordinate their steps and walk round a course against the clock. More able teams have one member facing the wrong way.

**Minefield** - a game of communication where each

team member takes a step across a matrix "minefield". After each step they inform their team who are hiding and cannot see the minefield which square is mined & which are safe for the next team member to have a go. Eventually a safe path is identified to lead the team across.

**Rescue Sir Ted** - Sir Ted is floating on a barrel in a pond full of acid. The pond is some 20 metres diameter. You only have some rope and your ingenuity to rescue him.

**I am at school, get me out of here** - Get out of school across a river using barrels and logs.

**Blindfold** - One team member is blindfolded in turn and using verbal instructions from a sighted team member has to locate and retrieve nominated coloured balls & place them in a container

**Bouncy Castle Assault Course** - Race across the bouncy castle one at a time against the clock.



## Help us to grow again

We call our main youth event of the year 'The Big One' because we really want it to grow into a..... you guessed it, a big event.

This year we doubled in numbers from last year - from around 50 to around 100.

Could your parish enter a team for next year and double it in size again?



## Hobble with bishop in rain

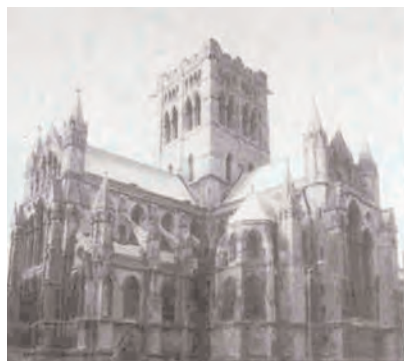
In past years, Hobble with the Bishop has been a pleasant 6 mile sponsored walk on a summers day in Thetford Forest.

This year it rained ..... hard! After the first mile, each step was a squelch! But this didn't deter the group from completing it and raising much needed funds for young people in the Holy Land and Cambodia.

After the walk, we had Mass together in Brandon Church followed by an indoor 'barbecue'.

Thanks to Fr. Ivan and parishioners of Brandon for their kind hospitality.





# CATHEDRAL FOCUS

## NEWS FROM OUR MOTHER CHURCH

# New altar blessed at popular Family Day

**F**amilies from all over the diocese attended a special Mass at St John's on Saturday August 4 when Bishop Michael consecrated the new High Altar, presented to the Cathedral by the Knights of St Columba

The Knights were also there in great numbers. It was a moving ceremony and a very spiritual occasion.

In his homily, Bishop Michael stressed that the most important feature in any church was the altar - the centre and focal point, around which everything else is focussed.

Naomi Perowne said: "Then, in a Cathedral bathed in sunlight, the fine new altar, with its pillars of Frosterley marble, was anointed with Oil of Chrism.

"Smoke from an incense burner rose gently up to the tower gallery, symbolic of the sacrificial role of the altar in any church. "Afterwards, people enjoyed a picnic in the garden, in beautiful weather and tours of the Cathedral and trips up the tower.

"It was great to see all those from the diocese who made the journey to the Cathedral, and we hope to make this Family Day an annual event."



*Incense rising as a symbol of the sacrificial role of the altar.*



*Visitors to the Cathedral garden party earlier in the summer.*

# Lively Swingles in concert



The Swingle Singers, who presented a lively concert at the Cathedral on Friday 20 July, pictured with Fr James during a break in rehearsals.

The concert, attended by some 400 people, was a thrilling mix of intricate scoring for eight voices of works of JS

Bach and other composers, interspersed with some fine organ playing by Dominic de Cogan.

Especially enjoyable was the group's arrangements of *Dido's Lament* by Purcell, with a funky vocal bass percussion and Debussy's *La*

*Cathédrale Engloutie* (roughly translated as *The Engulfed Cathedral*) so appropriate after the persistent heavy rains in July and the intermittent cascades into the North Transept of a few days before the concert from the roof above the Walsingham Chapel!



Guest of Honour, The Rt Hon Ann Widdecombe MP, pictured above, entertained all those who attended a spectacular dinner held at Oxburgh Hall in Norfolk on the feast of SS Peter and Paul.

Her after-dinner speech was a light-hearted yet also serious perspective on faith in politics.

Oxburgh Hall has been the home of the staunchly Catholic Bedingfield family since the 15<sup>th</sup> Century.

Over 200 guests were welcomed to champagne reception on the private lawns and a consort of early music provided by Margaret Westlake and friends set the tone for an enjoyable and relaxed evening.

A charity auction included such varied trophies as organic pork, antique glass, a case of vintage port, vouchers for lunches, dinners, designer sunglasses and a beauty session together with a copy of *A Great Gothic Fane* published in 1913 about St John's.

"The food and wine were good, the weather was fine, and the evening ended perfectly with an almost full moon reflecting in the still waters of the moat.

"The event raised just under £3,500 towards the Narthex fund," said Naomi Perowne.

## Fr James' marks 40 years

Father James Walsh, Cathedral Dean, celebrated his 40th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood at the 11am Mass at the Cathedral on Sunday 22 July.

After a reception in the community hall and Cathedral garden, followed by a buffet lunch, the parish presented Fr James with a pen and ink drawing of the Cathedral among other gifts, including a substantial cheque.

Originally from Liverpool, James Walsh was ordained as a Benedictine of Quarr Abbey on the Isle of Wight in 1967.

A keen musician and composer of liturgical music, years spent at Solesmes (mother-house of the French Benedictines) nurtured his love of plainsong and of French organ music.

Following a period of parish work in Suffolk, he was incardinated into the Diocese of East Anglia and later appointed Dean of the Cathedral in 2001.

Fr James remains an ardent Francophile, enjoying regular visits to France, both business and pleasure, especially to Lourdes. Many also know him as a connoisseur of antique glass and porcelain and someone who knows a thing or two about wine!

## Help us to build Narthex

Some of you will have seen the leaflets about fundraising for the Cathedral campaign in your parish churches.

People from all over the diocese have bought pammments, stones, pieces of lead and other items for the new Narthex, bringing in over £12,000.

For those who have not yet seen a copy of the leaflet and who would like to be involved, you can find a copy on the cathedral web site ([www.stjohnncathedral.co.uk](http://www.stjohnncathedral.co.uk))



To get in touch with the editor Patrick Byrne the details are listed below. Our Diocesan Family, The White House, 21 Ugate, Poringland, Norfolk NR14 7SH. Tel/Fax: 01603 627409 and email: [ptjbyrne@patrickbyrne.go-plus.net](mailto:ptjbyrne@patrickbyrne.go-plus.net)





Report by Anita Dowsing

# Celebrating married life and family

**On a day when a record number of weddings were due to take place because of the special date (07/07/07) couples gathered at St. John’s Cathedral in Norwich to celebrate over 2000 combined years of married life.**

Couples pictured above came from all over East Anglia to take part in a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael Evans,

in thanksgiving for marriage and family life. More than 50 couples also renewed their marriage commitment during the Mass.

Husbands and wives were asked to stand, holding each other’s hands, and to renew their marriage vows with the response ‘We do’. These are some of the words they responded to:

*On your wedding day, you gave your lives into one another’s hands, freely and without reservation.*

*Do you commit yourselves once more to lives of generosity and selflessness, manifesting the generous love of Christ who gave Himself*

*out of love for all people?*

*On your wedding day, you asked that God make your marriage fruitful.*

*Over the years your love for each other will have borne fruit, in families, in friends and in those you have inspired and encouraged.*

*Do you commit yourselves once more, to embracing every opportunity to share the many gifts you have been given in the service of God’s will of love for the world?*

The Bishop’s concluding words after the vows stressed the importance of the vocation to marriage:

*Let us turn to God our Father in thanksgiving for the great gift of married love and in prayer for those called to marriage.*

In his homily Bishop Michael picked up St. Matthew’s gospel theme of a light shining in the world, saying that marriage and family life can be just such a light and a source of great joy, despite the challenges all couples face in dealing with everyday life.

Prayers were also said for those facing difficulties in their marriage and those who had been widowed.

After the Mass the couples gathered for photos

on the lawn and for a light lunch, followed by wedding cake - what else !

The fact that so many couples came – of all ages and with many children – shows how important marriage is to many people, in spite of the difficulty of living Christian marriage now.

Comments heard as people left included: ‘Thank you for putting this on, and for the food!’ – ‘It’s been really good to be here’ and ‘See you again!’

The event was organised by the Diocesan Commission for Marriage and Family Life with assistance from the Cathedral Parish.

## 100 years service by religious sisters at Felixstowe



The Religious of Jesus and Mary are celebrating the centenary of their arrival in Felixstowe and the opening of the Convent School in 1907.

To mark the occasion a f lower festival on the theme of ‘Celebration and Thanksgiving’ was opened by the town’s Mayor, Joan Sennington at St Felix Church.

Bishop Michael also celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving and paid tribute to the work of the community over the last 100 years and their continuing commitment to the parish.

Mark Jones from the parish said: "Accompanying the floral arrangements was a display of historic documents from the convent, including photos and other memorabilia from the past 100 years, along with information on the important charity work carried out by the Sisters throughout the world.

"All who came to the flower festival were invited to attend these exhibitions,

especially those who were pupils at the school."

The celebrations also paid tribute to the many former pupils who had built up reputations for themselves in a wide range of activities.

Mark said: "One pupil from the 1920’s, Barbara Mary Ward, received international renown as an economist and writer and for her involvement with developments in the Third World.

"After studying economics at the University of Oxford, she became a writer and editor at The Economist (from 1939).

"She married Robert Jackson in 1950 and was an influential adviser to the Vatican, the UN, and the World Bank, while writing numerous articles and books on the worldwide threat from poverty among less-developed countries.

"She advocated the transfer of wealth from rich to poor countries and stressed

the importance of conservation and the need for liberal economic and political policies toward developing nations.

"She was made a Dame of the British Empire in 1974 and created a life peer in 1976 as Baroness Jackson of Lodsworth. "Other former pupils are Kate Greenaway - a well-known children’s book illustrator and Helen Oxenbury who has illustrated books by Lewis Carroll, the poet Edward Lear as well as her own Tom and Pippo series.

"The comedian, writer and actor, Griff Rhys-Jones and his film crew spent a day filming at the Convent in Orwell Road, helping trace back some of the inspiration behind one of Sir John Betjeman’s poems; "Felixstowe, or The Last of Her Order".

The poem, together with the convent and the town of Felixstowe was featured in the television programme he made for BBC television called Betjeman and Me.

"The TV series aired by BBC 2 in August 2006, was a retrospective of Betjeman’s life, loves and poetry and how his work affected celebrities such as the TV chef Rick Stein, architectural historian, conservationist and broadcaster Dan Cruickshank and Griff Rhys-Jones. "

When the first Catholic Church since the Reformation opened in Felixstowe in 1899, the Parish priest Fr William Cooper felt the need of having religious sisters to help him build up the faith of the young by providing them with a good Catholic education.

The Bishop of the Diocese at that time, Bishop Arthur Riddell, recommended him to invite the Religious of Jesus and Mary who had established a convent in Ipswich in 1860.

The Sisters opened a school in Felixstowe in April 1907 and have worked in th e parish ever since.



*A flower festival at Our Lady of the Annunciation church in Poringland on the theme of “Communication” has raised more than £3,000 for parish development. Phase II of a building project for meeting rooms and other amenities is under discussion.*

## Older people in focus

Many parishes are discussing the recent Diocesan Council of Laity where the theme was “Honouring Old Age” - a call to focus on older people.

Examples of good practice for parishes were established and first among these was to discover the spiritual and physical needs of older people.

Although much discussion is about the housebound it is also recognised that the contribution to parish life of many older people is very significant.

Many parishes depend on their commitment, contribution of time and work as visitors or extraordinary ministers of Holy

Communion, readers and servers. Parishes with special clubs for older people understand the benefits these bring and there are some with strong relationships with youth groups promoting a stronger sense of community. Many people are also helping to keep in touch older people who are housebound, in residential homes or are hospital patients. In parts of the region like North Norfolk many older people have set up home after retirement and this calls for special concern. The council also discussed bereavement and care for carers who sometime find themselves isolated and need support.



Helen Oxenbury



Barbara Mary Ward



*A flower festival at the Felixstowe church was a major part of the celebration marking 100 years of commitment by the Daughters of Jesus and Mary to the local community.*



### Fr Martin Hardy in Peru



*Young people at the March for Peace*

## March for peace

Peace in our world is something we’re all good at praying for. Whether we would take to the streets for peace is probably another matter.

Here in the parish of the Risen Lord in Ate Vitarte we recently hired five buses for the deanery March for Peace, a sign that people know that peace requires action, standing up to be counted.

That 3,500 people turned out from a relatively small area to march for peace says much about the recent history of these people.

Twenty years ago many districts were controlled by the terrorist group Sendero Luminoso, and people were divided and lived in fear.

On one side were the terrorists, determined to overthrow corrupt and unjust government at any cost; on the other was a political and social system that left millions trapped in poverty.

The March for Peace grew out of a determination to restore human dignity and promote the common good, and was the initiative of the local parishes.

With so much poverty and so much injustice it is easy to see how some resort to violence of one kind or another.

The decision to be a person of peace is a radical one which cannot shy away from questions of injustice but at the same time refuses the violence of division and revenge. People here know it is central to their faith in Christ to witness to peace with their presence.

It was great seeing all nine communities which make up the parish coming together for this statement of faith. All nine are at very different stages of development, but all share a common journey.

The oldest having been established just thirty years now boast water, drainage, electricity and asphalt roads, whilst the most recent still await all amenities and most people having staked their claim to land live simply in houses made of wicker panels.

Progress is slow but sure, and one of the great works happening at the moment is the provision of drainage and water, a source of celebration for many and a change which will have a huge impact on health.

The decision to be people of peace at every level has been crucial in the building up of these young communities, especially in the years that have followed Peru’s terrorist period; perhaps this is a decision that in so many ways needs to spread out from our prayers and into our own streets and lives.



*The annual garden party at St George’s in Norwich raised £2,000 for new organs for the parish church and for the Chapel of Our Lady in Thorpe. A favourite spot for all was the children’s activity corner with face painting, biscuit decoration, Bash the Rat and a game where everyone was a winner run by the group above. Donations have boosted the organ fund by £3,000.*



# BUILDING BRIDGES in the Holy Land and Cambodia

## Now’s the time to visit!

Have you ever thought about organising a pilgrimage from your parish to the Holy Land?

Maybe the reports about the situation in the region, from the newspapers and television seem to make the suggestion seem ill-advised. Much as was the case during the height of the troubles in Ireland, only bad news makes it to the screen or into print. The vast majority of the Holy Land is safe for visitors, as safe as anywhere else in our world today.

Perhaps the other factor to consider is that our Christian brothers and sisters, many of whom work in the pilgrimage and tourism industry, rely on visiting pilgrims for their daily bread!



At prayer in Palestine

Many companies will offer a ready-made package for groups to visit the “Holy Places” and the tour they provide will visit places like Galilee, Nazareth, Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Such programmes are wonderful as they really bring alive the pages of the gospel and give a revitalizing boost to our faith.

How unforgettable it is to stand in the synagogue at Capernaum and listen to the words Jesus spoke in that very spot; how close to the Lord one feels, sitting in silence on a boat in the middle of the Sea of Galilee. All this does indeed reinforce the fact that the Holy Land is referred to as “the fifth Gospel” since the Word of God comes alive here as in no other place.

How much better, though, to visit not only the “Holy Places”, but also the “Holy People” – those Christians who have lived out their faith since Jesus visited their town. How wonderful to be inspired by the faith lived often in great hardship and intimidation, and then return to our parishes encouraged by the prayers and witness of our brothers and sisters in Christ.



Christian symbols on a house in Bir Zeit

The Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem has asked for Catholics from all around the world to visit his Diocese, as it is truly the mother Diocese of the whole Church. Many from our Diocese who have already visited have said how the experience truly changed their lives.

Our twinning is not just something done from a distance, but calls and invites us to step out of our own comfort zone to experience a sharing in the joys and sufferings of our fellow Christians. Pilgrimages show, in a real and tangible way, that we are united in faith and in our desire for justice and peace for all God’s people.

If you would like details of how to organise your own parish pilgrimage, please contact Fr Paul Maddison who will be please to offer any advice and help you need:

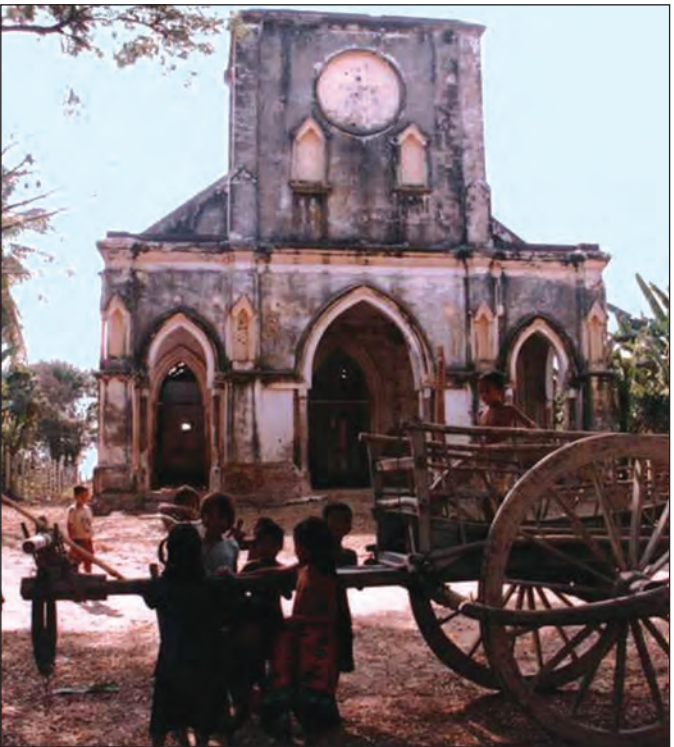
01480 462192 or [frpaul@sacredheart-stives.org](mailto:frpaul@sacredheart-stives.org)

## Water at the well

Our diocese took on an extra project in Palestine this year. The people of the town of Jenin on the West Bank need more wells, so we sent just under £2500 to provide a ‘Water Collection Well’. The cost includes labour, three tons of steel and a great deal of concrete! Last year we furnished the new parish hall in Jenin, used among other things for the daily kindergarten.

## Roofing the church at Ta Om

When the Khmer Rouge took over Cambodia in 1975, all church buildings – including the cathedral in Phnom Penh - were destroyed – with one exception. The remote church at Ta Om was used by the Khmer Rouge as a barracks and a shooting range. When I first saw it in 2004, the walls were intact but there was no roof. Our diocese has given £4000 to pay to re-roof the building and do some other repairs.



Fr Heri, the parish priest, writes to thank us: ‘Concerning the repair of the church in Ta Om, I would like to inform you that the repair is now finished. The roof is repaired.

The inside wall of the main church is repaired. The broken tiles are repaired. Simple windows and doors made of wood and tin have been fixed in their places.

We are making wooden doors for the three main entrances of the church. Hopefully they will finish them soon. We have been doing some cleaning around the church.

Now, some programmes for children are done in the church. These programmes include Classes for Pre School, extra classes for bigger children and rice soup for children.’



Inside the church at Ta Om – before the repairs

## CAN YOU HELP?

Our two main diocesan ‘Building Bridges’ projects this year are helping to re-roof the church at Zababdeh in Palestine, and supporting the small and very poor Catholic community at Nikum.

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

First name.....

Surname.....

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

Address.....

.....

.....

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

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

NIKUM (Cambodia) .....

ZABABDEH (Palestine) .....

**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, ‘Building Bridges’, 21 Ugate,  
Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7SH

Registered charity no. 278742



# BISHOP MICHAEL'S ENGAGEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

SEPTEMBER			OCTOBER		
1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup>	Diocesan Youth Council Retreat at Poringland	15 <sup>th</sup> /16 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Visitation to OLEM, Cambridge	27 <sup>th</sup>	Talk at St James Church, Tunbridge Wells, at 7.30pm
5 <sup>th</sup>	Christian-Muslim Forum	18 <sup>th</sup>	Cambridge Ecumenical Council planning meeting at 2pm	29 <sup>th</sup>	Archbishop Romero Trust in London
6 <sup>th</sup>	Diocesan Schools Service Commission at Poringland	20 <sup>th</sup>	Diocesan Finance Board at Poringland		Diocesan Certificate Day on 'The Chronicles of Narnia'
7 <sup>th</sup>	Induction of new head teacher at St Mary's School, Cambridge	22 <sup>nd</sup>	King's Lynn Catenian Circle Diocesan Meeting of Parish Catechists at Poringland, 11.00-3.00		
8 <sup>th</sup>	Knights of St Columba Mass in Great Yarmouth at noon	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Diocesan Youth Council at Poringland, 3.00-7.00	6 <sup>th</sup>	Diocesan Commission for Dialogue and Unity at Poringland at 11am
9 <sup>th</sup>	Dowry Pilgrimage to Walsingham	24 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary Mass at Quidenham at 7pm	7 <sup>th</sup>	Mass at University of East Anglia Chaplaincy at 6pm
11 <sup>th</sup>	Confirmations at Wisbech	25 <sup>th</sup>	Department of Dialogue & Unity in London	8 <sup>th</sup> /9 <sup>th</sup>	Westminster Province Bishops overnight meeting in Northampton
12 <sup>th</sup>	Diocesan College of Consultors at Poringland	26 <sup>th</sup>	Diocesan Prison Chaplaincy Meeting at Poringland	9 <sup>th</sup> /10 <sup>th</sup>	Anglican & Catholic Diocesan Ecumenical Representatives meeting at Aylesford
13 <sup>th</sup>	Mass at St Martha's School, King's Lynn (50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary)			11 <sup>th</sup>	Council of Priests at Poringland at 11am
14 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting with diocesan R.E.			12 <sup>th</sup>	Diocesan Social Concern Commission Mass & AGM at Wymondham at 7pm
				13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup>	St Felix School, Haverhill (Fair Trade Day)
				15 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Visitation to Wisbech Confirmations 1 at St Philip Howard, Cambridge at 7pm
				16 <sup>th</sup>	Suffolk 'Greenest County' Conference at Trinity Park, Ipswich
				17 <sup>th</sup>	Shrine Council Mass and Meeting in Walsingham at noon
				18 <sup>th</sup>	Confirmations at Sawston
				19 <sup>th</sup>	Confirmations 2 at St Philip Howard, Cambridge at 7pm
				20 <sup>th</sup>	Diocesan Commissioning Day
				21 <sup>st</sup>	for Lay Ministers of Holy Communion
				22 <sup>nd</sup>	Friends of the Cathedral Mass & AGM at St John's Cathedral
				23 <sup>rd</sup>	Two Cathedrals Evensong and Talk at Norwich Cathedral at 3.30pm
				24 <sup>th</sup>	Bishops' Conference Standing Committee meeting at Westminster
				25 <sup>th</sup>	Diocesan Vocations Team meeting at 3pm
				26 <sup>th</sup> -2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Mass & lunch for Retired Priests at Poringland at noon
					Oriental Orthodox/Catholic meeting in Stevenage
					Away at Methodist/Catholic International Commission

## Certificate awards marked



Over 50 people gathered with friends and family at the Cathedral on Saturday 14 July to be presented with their Diocesan 'Learning Together' Certificates at the end of Mass.

This year, 42 new people have qualified for Level 1 of the Certificate (attending 4 diocesan study days) and another 31 qualified for Level 2 (8 study days).

The 2006/2007 programme included training days for parish readers, as well as study days on St Luke's Gospel, Catholic/Methodist dialogue, prayer in a parish context, Euthanasia (with Archbishop Peter), 'Live Simply', Children's Liturgy, 'Mary - hearer and bearer of God's Word', 'Why have Christians persecuted one another?' and Islam.

Next year's programme should be just as varied and interested. Everyone is welcome.

## Growing link

The Ipswich Council of the Knights of St Columba visited and spent an evening with the Ipswich Circle of the Catenians. Bishop Michael has written to the Catenians to say how pleased he was to see this development and expressed his hope it would go well. It is the first step in the two associations coming closer together in their work.

Clare Priory parish raised just over £7,000 at this year's annual ball for their twin parish of Babadogo, a poor suburb of Nairobi in Kenya.

Great Yarmouth branch of the Knights of St Columba are to attend a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael at St Mary's Church on Saturday September 8 followed by a Summer Ball at the Ocean Rooms. Tickets are available from their website - [www.ksc534.co.uk](http://www.ksc534.co.uk).



The diocesan team for coordinating and supporting charismatic prayer groups which is celebrating its 40th anniversary year, is holding an event at Bowthorpe near Norwich on Saturday



Parishioners of St Peter and All Souls mark the end of the Catechetical Year with a special Mass of Thanksgiving followed by a BBQ. The event also officially launched the Parish's Fund raising

for a Care Home in Bangalore run by the Claretian Fathers who care for women and children affected by HIV or Aids.

Three visitors to the parish of St Thomas of Canterbury in Wymondham are pictured, left, enjoying a tower visit at St John's. They are Fr Ignacio Bokosi and husband and wife, Patrick and Rebecca Moyo from the parish of St Charles Lwanga in Zomba, the former capital of Malawi. Wymondham Catholic community have enjoyed a link with their parish for about four years. Zomba is a city in the south of Malawi with a population of about 100,000 people and St Charles Lwanga has some 16,000 parishioners served by two priests

October 13 when the speaker will be Veronica Williams of Mothers Prayers. More information from Pat Welling on 01493 667551 or Frank Hibbert on 01284 705241.

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