



**Papal blessing  
for Julian of  
Norwich  
celebrations  
– page 3**



**Fun, facts and  
faith at Ignite  
Festival  
– page 6**



**Parishes  
celebrate  
coronation of  
King Charles  
– page 8**



The Diocese of East Anglia pilgrimage to Walsingham. See more pictures at:  
[www.flickr.com/photos/dioceseofeastanglia/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/dioceseofeastanglia/)



King Charles and Queen Camilla.  
Picture by Chris Jackson.

# 1,000 pilgrims go to Walsingham

**Up to 1,000 pilgrims from across the Diocese of East Anglia joined Bishop Peter Collins for his first diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham, on a largely sunny Bank Holiday Monday on May 1. Keith Morris reports.**

■ The pilgrimage began with the crowning with flowers of the Statue of Our Lady of Walsingham in the Friday Market outside the Parish church of Our Lady of the Annunciation.

Bishop Peter declared: "My dear brothers and sisters, we have come together in joy to crown with reverence the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham. This devotion teaches us the truth of the

Gospel message that those who excel in love and service are the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven."

A Rosary procession to the Basilica and Catholic National Shrine along the Holy Mile followed, returning to the original diocesan pilgrimage tradition. The Diocese of East Anglia is believed to be the only diocese which is allowed to walk along the Holy Mile in this way.

The pilgrims were joined by a record 140 young people from the Ignite Festival who had, earlier in the morning, walked the five miles from Waterden church near South Creake.

The procession was led by the Parish of King's Lynn and banners were on display from St Peter Gorleston, St Dominic Downham Market, St Mark Ipswich, St Mary and Holy Family Ipswich, St Philip Howard, Cambridge, St Michael Huntingdon, St Peter and All Souls Peterborough, St Pancras Ipswich, the

Peterborough Walsingham Association, Norwich Franciscans and Radio Maria.

On arrival at the Chapel of Reconciliation, pilgrims were offered the opportunity for a Service of Reconciliation and individual confessions. Lunch followed in the sunny Basilica grounds.

At 3pm, Bishop Peter led a procession of around 40 priests and deacons into the Chapel of Reconciliation for a Pontifical Mass, on the Feast of St Joseph the Worker.

In his homily, he said: "We hear from the letter to the Colossians: 'whatever your work is, put your heart into it as if it were for the Lord and not for men, knowing that the Lord will repay you by making you his heirs. It is Christ the Lord that you are serving.'"

"Today we are invited to contemplate the work we must undertake in crafting the shape of our lives.

■ Continued on page two.

## Bishop recalls meeting future King Charles

■ Bishop Peter Collins recalled his encounters with the future King Charles III during a homily at a Mass for the intentions of the King at St John's Cathedral in Norwich on the eve of his coronation.

"I was in the top year of primary school when the then Prince of Wales celebrated his ceremonial investiture at Caernarfon Castle. I did not envisage back then that I would one day, as a bishop, accompany a cardinal to Buckingham Palace to deliver a loyal address on behalf of the Catholic Church to the one who had been invested as Prince of Wales and who was about to be crowned as King," said Bishop Peter.

"I had the privilege of meeting His Majesty when he was Prince of Wales on a number of occasions. I visited him at his then official residence in Carmarthenshire. I had the honour of escorting him when he visited the cathedral campus in Cardiff during the centenary celebrations of the Archdiocese. On that occasion I guided him around a display of precious items from the cathedral treasury. Having himself read history and archaeology at Trinity College, Cambridge, he was engaged and engaging.

"As we prepare for tomorrow's solemn celebration we are aware of the decades-long apprenticeship that His Majesty has undertaken in preparation for his accession and coronation," said Bishop Peter.

"Early in tomorrow's ceremonial the tone will be set when a chorister of the Chapel Royal will address the King with the reminder that we are all children of God, children of the King of Kings. His Majesty will respond by employing the words of Christ himself, proclaiming that he has come to serve, not to be served."



## news in brief

### Offer to write your will for free

■ Catholic Legacy Week is from May 28 to June 3 and to mark it the Diocese of East Anglia has extended its free will writing offer.

Stewardship and Fundraising Coordinator, Sandra Portas, said: "We have been really pleased with the response to the Diocese Free Will Writing service announced earlier this year. Thank you to those of you who have contacted us to take advantage of this free service."



"We still have some slots available, so if anyone would like to make use of the free will writing service, where you can choose to have a single or mirror will written by a solicitor local to you." Please contact [finance@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:finance@rcdea.org.uk)

### Ecumenical festival

■ Ely's St Etheldreda SVP conference joined other churches and Christians Together in Ely at an ecumenical FUEL festival held on Ely's Cathedral Green on April 22. SVP Conference members presented information about the SVP and St Etheldreda's RC church in Ely, and activities for children.

Joan Wall, President East Anglia Central Council, said: "It was great meeting and chatting with old friends and making new friends with offers of help and co-working. There were stalls from the churches and Christian organisations in Ely; music, food stalls, plant stalls, information and lots of activities for children. There were representatives from the Christian Motorcyclists Association and Christian Weightlifters culminating in the battle of the vicars for the weightlifting championship. The sun shone and there was a wonderful atmosphere of Faith, Unity, Enlightenment and Love."

**Catholic East Anglia**

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

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Articles and photographs for the next edition are very welcome and should be sent to the editor, ideally via email, by Monday June 5.

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## Service honours forces' veterans

■ Some fifty representatives of the armed forces were present as Bishop Peter Collins led a service for veterans at St John's Cathedral.

Deacon Patrick Limacher had organised the service on Sunday April 23 in partnership with Outside the Wire, a programme run by the Norwich-based Matthew Project charity for former members of the armed forces. Around 200 veterans and their families were present said Dcn Patrick.

Outside the Wire supports those who are struggling with poor mental health or with drug and alcohol addiction after leaving the armed forces. It offers one-to-one meetings and regular drop-in sessions at The Matthew Project's premises in Oak Street, Norwich.

A bagpiper welcomed visitors as they gathered at the Cathedral, and there was a parade of standards at the west door for the entrance of General the Lord Dannatt, former head of the British Army.

Lord Dannatt read a passage from the Book of Isaiah about beating swords into ploughshares before Liz Wiggins, Chair of the Matthew Project, gave an overview of Outside the Wire and explained why its services were so needed.

In the homily which followed, Bishop



Peter commended a "willingness to sacrifice for the sake of others, to sacrifice for the sake of the vulnerable, to sacrifice in defence of the realm".

He alluded to the fact that a test alert would go off on mobile phones at 3pm and spoke of the need for society to remain alert and vigilant.

Then he turned to work of agencies like Outside the Wire, saying that "our society and culture needs to value and support those men and women who are prepared to step forward to the line, the line that

marks the frontier... the distinction between the courage of preparedness and the delusions of culpable ignorance."

Members of the armed forces led a series of prayers, and as candles were lit from the pascal candle the flame was passed around the cathedral. Finally, wreaths were laid for those have lost their lives in the service of their country and after the last post a two-minute silence was observed.

See gallery at: [flic.kr/s/aHBqjAAZRD](http://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAAZRD)

# 1,000 Walsingham pilgrims

■ Continued from page one.

"Drawing our inspiration and strength from God who is the creator, we are duty bound to embrace the great responsibility of this creative work.

"We are called to master the tools that are entrusted to us so as to craft our lives creatively and appropriately. With the help of others we must learn to employ great discernment as we strive to nurture our own capacities, to develop our own personal expertise.

"Some elements that will exert an influence on our development will be positive, others will be negative. Discerning the difference takes time and energy," said Bishop Peter.

"We must embrace the wisdom of the master and submit to the promptings of the Holy Spirit if we are to craft a worthy life, if we are to find fulfilment.

"God the creator calls us to partake in the work of creation, he appoints us as stewards who are duty bound to be creative. We are meant to explore – but not to merely exploit," said the bishop. "We are called to be productive – but not to be wasteful. Our gift for crafting must be more than creative, it must become redemptive."

The Diocese of East Anglia pilgrimage to Walsingham. See more pictures at: [www.flickr.com/photos/dioceseeofeastanglia/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/dioceseeofeastanglia/)





## Tributes paid to popular, funny and bright student

■ Tributes have been paid to Salvador Modke “a popular, funny, bright young man” who was loved by his peers and teachers at St Benedict’s Catholic High School in Bury St Edmunds, following his death in a car accident in Thetford on May 14.

Salvador, aged 15, a Year 11 student at St Benedict’s, was a keen musician and sportsman and was about to sit his GCSE exams this week, said Headteacher Imogen Senior.

“The whole St Benedict’s school community is stunned and shocked by the sudden loss of our wonderful student Salvador. He was a loved and cherished

member of this community and the whole school is reeling from his loss. Salvador was a popular, funny, bright young man who was loved by his peers and teachers.

“He took part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award with the school, had represented the school at rugby and basketball and was engaged with many aspects of school life. One of his great interests was music production and he was keen to pursue this further as a career. The GCSE exams that he had been expected to sit from this week were part of this journey. We are heartbroken by his loss and continue to keep him, his family and his friends in our

prayers.”

Bishop Peter Collins also paid tribute, saying: “Let us pray for the grieving members of Salvador’s family as they contend with their devastating loss. We extend our prayerful embrace to the community at St Benedict’s. As one family within our diocesan communion, let us stand together in the solidarity of faith, hope and love.

“May Salvador rest in peace and rise in glory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

“I ask all parishes, together with our network of schools, to pray for Salvador and his family over the coming weeks.”

# Julian of Norwich event given a Papal blessing

**Pope Francis has sent a message of blessing to all participating in the events marking the 650th anniversary of the Revelations of Mother Julian of Norwich, the medieval mystic and anchoress.**

■ Bishop Peter Collins and Anglican Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, were delighted to receive a message from Pope Francis recently. It was read to the congregation at a special anniversary service in Norwich Anglican Cathedral on Sunday May 14.

In his message, Pope Francis speaks about Mother Julian’s “profound significance” and how her words can bring consolation and strength to “all who face the pressing challenges of war, injustice, ecological disaster or spiritual poverty”.

Echoing words used at the Coronation of King Charles III, the Pope expresses his hope that through a greater appreciation of her life Christians will “follow ever more faithfully and joyfully the example of Jesus, the one who came ‘not to be served but to serve’”.

Bishop Graham and Bishop Peter, in an ecumenical gesture of their friendship and partnership in the Gospel, said in a joint statement: “We are very grateful to Pope Francis for his blessing and his generous message about the significance of Mother Julian’s writing, not only for this fine city of Norwich, but in its contemporary relevance for all people. As we mark the 650th anniversary of her Revelations, and enjoy a series of events and pilgrimages based around her Shrine in Norwich, we are delighted that Catholics, Anglicans and Christians of other denominations, will be coming together to pray and be inspired by Julian’s life and witness to God in Jesus.”

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby said: “I am delighted to send my greetings for the celebrations of the 650th anniversary of Mother Julian’s revelations. I am sure she never foresaw the extraordinary influence and inspiration she would provide for generations of Christians, and especially for women. I’m glad that her shrine is honoured and maintained today, and pray that it will continue to flourish. I wish all of you well for the celebrations.”



Pope Francis and, inset, Julian of Norwich.

## Papal message

■ I was pleased to be informed that over the course of this year, pilgrims from across the world are gathering in the Catholic and Anglican cathedrals of Norwich to mark the 650th anniversary of the “Shewings” of Mother Julian of Norwich, and I send the assurance of my spiritual closeness to those taking part in the various ecumenical celebrations.

The profound significance of this English mystic for the Christian tradition speaks to us from across the centuries and is increasingly being acknowledged and celebrated. Indeed, her maternal influence, humble anonymity, and profound theological insights stand as timely reminders that faith in God’s loving providence and holiness of life expressed in generous service to our brothers and sisters in need, are timeless truths underpinning not only the life of Christian discipleship but the very fabric of a just and fraternal society.

Of particular note is Julian’s generosity in welcoming those who sought spiritual counsel and encouragement. This willingness to sacrifice self-convenience for the

sake of others is especially needed in responding to the endemic problems of isolation and loneliness felt by so many in the more materially affluent nations of the world. In this regard, it is my hope that through a greater appreciation of the life of Mother Julian, Christians today will be encouraged to follow ever more faithfully and joyfully the example of Jesus, the one who came “not to be served but to serve” (Mt 20:28).

How vital, too, for today’s world, is the message of God’s mercy and compassion revealed to Mother Julian. In her Revelations of Divine Love, we learn that she was taught through God’s grace that, despite the presence of evil in our midst, “all manner of thing shall be well” (Chapter 32). In this regard, I pray that all who face the pressing challenges of war, injustice, ecological disaster or spiritual poverty, may be consoled and strengthened by these enduring words of wisdom.

To all those participating in the commemorative events, I willingly impart my Blessing, as a pledge of Almighty God’s tender mercy and compassionate love for all his children.

**Pope Francis, Rome, 8 May 2023**

## news in brief

### Equestrian Order Norwich investiture

■ The English Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem will be celebrating a Vigil Service and an Investiture Mass at St John’s Cathedral in Norwich in mid-June when both Bishop Peter Collins and Bishop Philip Moger will be promoted.

The Vigil Service is on Friday June 16 at 7pm and the Investiture Mass on Saturday June 17 at 9.30am. This is a special honour for St John’s as the Service/Mass are usually held at St George’s Cathedral, Southwark - the Priory Church.

The principal celebrant will be Archbishop John Wilson KC\*HS.

Bishop Peter Collins and Bishop Philip Moger will be receiving promotions from Knight Commander (KCHS) to Knight Commander with Star (KC\*HS).

Weekend organiser, Sally Pearson DC\*HS, said: “The Vigil Service and Investiture Mass is open for anyone to attend. The need for solidarity with the ‘living stones’ who maintain the Catholic faith in the Holy Land is stronger than ever, so it is an opportunity for people to express their support. We are delighted that senior members of the international governing body of the Order are travelling to be with us.”

Daniel Justin KHS, Director of Music, Diocese of East Anglia, will be conducting the music at the Vigil and Investiture.

On Sunday June 18, the Order will be at the National Catholic Shrine in Walsingham for the 12 noon Mass, procession into the village and Benediction in the Abbey grounds at 4pm.

The Order of the Holy Sepulchre was established under the protection of the Holy See as a body in support of the Church across the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. It is a world-wide organisation of 30,000 knights and dames, priests and bishops. It operates a registered charity.

There are eight sections in England and Wales and the Diocese of East Anglia is in the Eastern Section. The Eastern President is John Prestage KC\*HS at: [easternpresident@eohsj.org.uk](mailto:easternpresident@eohsj.org.uk)

More details at [eohsj.org.uk](http://eohsj.org.uk) or from [sally.d.pearson@gmail.com](mailto:sally.d.pearson@gmail.com)

### SVP parish invite

■ The SVP East Anglia Central Council has invited all parishes across the Diocese of East Anglia to join its National Pilgrimage for the Sick which is taking place in Walsingham on Sunday July 2 with Bishop Peter Collins officiating. Mass is at 1.30pm, followed by the Sacrament of the sick, finishing with Benediction. Jackie Roberts from SVP said: “Due to the medical conditions and reduced mobility of most of the congregation, we do not include the walk down from the village to the Shrine. Especially welcome would be any retired priests in the diocese to assist with the anointing of the sick, indeed any priest with a free afternoon. We had a successful pilgrimage last year and are looking forward to welcoming more people this year.”

More details from Jackie Roberts [jm.roberts@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:jm.roberts@mypostoffice.co.uk)



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# How to trust God's plans for you

How can  
you learn  
to trust  
God's  
plans for  
you, asks  
Fr Alvan  
Ibeh in his  
latest  
Voice of  
Hope  
series.



■ "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Imagine someone coming to you to say they have got plans for you. Naturally, the next thing will be for you to ask what sort of plan it is. We will only have peace of mind once such a plan is revealed. We would want to know whether it is a good plan or a bad one, and until that certainty is established, we will find it challenging to trust whatever plan the person has for us, especially if it is someone not known to us. In other words, we can never trust the person's plan for us until we see it.

But God, in Jeremiah 29:11, promises us that He has plans for us. His plans manifest in different situations we find ourselves in, even though He never reveals what precisely

those plans may be. Still, he assures us that they are perfect plans - they are plans to prosper us and not to harm us. But do we need God to reveal what His plans are for us in every situation of our lives for us to believe that He has plans for us? Or do we need to believe in His promises and trust that no matter the situation, we find ourselves, He has plans for us.

One thing is sure, "if God should show us the whole journey, we would never even take the first step". When I decided to become a priest, if God had sat me down and revealed what He was planning for me, I think I would have changed my mind and thought of something else. Had it been God that told me that part of His plan for me to become a priest was to be involved in an accident that would almost claim my life and then subject me to years of excruciating pain, psychological trauma and so on, I would have stood up and said to Him, "Dear God, I know you have good plans for me, but if I must pass through all these just to be a priest, I better say No to the call to priesthood and then have my peace of mind."

One thing is clear, dear friends; God may not reveal His plans to us; he does not need to give us any explanation as to why certain things are happening in our lives (He owes us no explanation); if not, we will not see any reason to trust in and wait on Him. All He wants is for us to trust wholeheartedly in His plans. God is saying, "All you need to do is trust my plan and timing". Proverbs 3:5 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not

rely on your own insight. In all you do acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path". We have to trust in His plan and timing, knowing fully well that there has never been anyone who trusted in His plans that He failed - I, for one, am a living testimony to that.

Today, I look back to those years when I questioned God's plans for me when I was wondering if God had plans for me and what they were, and I give Him all the glory and praise. This is because I have now come to understand why it was necessary that I should have passed through those rough times to be where I am today. I now see that in all my pains, there was a plan, and I have always learnt to accept God's plans for me to be far and above better than mine. I have come to believe beyond every reasonable doubt that no matter what is happening around me, it is for a reason, and God has a plan. Remember, when we are down to nothing, God is up to something.

Is it not a wonderful thing to know that God has a plan for our lives? That He has our entire life mapped out for us in advance? God did not just create us and put us here on earth and then remove himself from our lives. No, He is involved in every detail of our lives. There is no assurance that trusting in God's plans for us will be easy. We will face challenges for sure, but the good news is that through those challenges, we will see the goodness of God and learn more about His character. May the grace to trust in His plans and timing continue to abound in our lives, amen.

# Bishop's Cambodia support

Bishop Peter Collins has met with the Cambodia twinning groups across five parishes in the Diocese of East Anglia and expressed his hope that links will be fostered and strengthened into the future. Fr Philip Shryane reports.

■ On May 2, Bishop Peter had a meeting with representatives from the parishes that are twinned with parish communities in Cambodia. There are five main twinning links with our twinned communities in the Apostolic Prefecture of Battambang. Representatives from most of the parishes met with the Bishop to speak about their twinning links and experiences of visiting Cambodia and the friendships they have made and sustained over the years.

The parishes of Costessey, North Walsham, St Mary's Ipswich, Ely and Bury St Edmunds all have active links with communities in Cambodia.

Those at the meeting spoke about their links, the help they have given, the friend-



Bishop Peter with the Cambodia group at Poringland.

ships they have and the visits they have made to Cambodia. Bishop Peter was very pleased to listen to these personal stories and expressed his view that these links should be fostered and strengthened in the future.

He spoke about the coming 50th Anniversary celebrations of the founding of our Diocese in 2026 and his hope that Mgr Kike and other members of the Church in

Cambodia would be invited to join our Golden Jubilee events.

Bishop Peter hopes that others in the Diocese will learn about the links with Cambodia and that other parishes may wish to make a formal twinning link with a community there to extend our friendship with them and our outreach from the Diocese to a young Church in Southeast Asia.





Angela Stone after receiving her Benemerenti Medal from Bishop Peter Collins at St John's Cathedral.

# Papal honour for outstanding lady

**The outstanding charitable service of a Norwich parishioner has been recognised by Pope Francis who has awarded Angela Stone a Benemerenti Medal.**

■ The medal was presented to Angela by Bishop Peter Collins during morning Mass at St John's Cathedral on Sunday May 7, the day after King Charles III was crowned, himself promising "not to be served but to serve" and encouraging more people to volunteer in their local communities.

In his homily, Bishop Peter referred to the King's coronation pledge and said: "Today we celebrate the great service rendered by a parishioner of this cathedral parish. Today we honour a woman who has provided an outstanding example of charitable service."

"In her professional life as a nurse, her mind and heart recognised and addressed the needs of the sick and vulnerable. She has extended her hands to offer a loving embrace to those who were abandoned, she has spoken with strength and compassion for those who had no voice."

"She has been an advocate for justice within and beyond the boundaries of the parish and the diocese. The Lord will recognise her fingerprints upon projects across the locality and across the globe," said Bishop Peter.

"However, you will hear no trumpeting of her work from her own lips, indeed, she covers her tracks with deliberate care."

"She suffered the untimely loss of her beloved husband and courageously embraced the parental responsibility of nurturing her three fine teenage sons towards their own maturity."

"Angela's family life and her professional life have been built by faith, hope and charity. Beyond the duties and responsibilities of home and work, she has expended herself in volunteering to address the needs of so many."

"She has attended to the needs of the outcasts, to those whose home is the street pavement, to those whose home is a prison cell, to those who through necessity are seeking refuge in our midst. She has attended to those isolated in their own homes, to those struggling to make ends meet."

"She has been an outstanding teacher of the faith by word and example because she has set herself close to the Lord," said Bishop Peter.

"Angela, it is my privilege on behalf of the cathedral parish and on behalf of the entire diocese, to inform you that His Holiness Pope Francis has bestowed upon you the recognition of a Benemerenti Medal."

"The Holy Father bestows this honour in recognition of your humility, your courage, your generosity. May God's graceful blessing continue to inspire and sustain you in the days ahead."

## Walsingham Shrine plan to boost engagement

■ The National Catholic Shrine at Walsingham is undertaking a renewed programme of engagement across England and Wales.

Speaking on behalf of the Walsingham Trust, Bishop Peter Collins said: "I am delighted to announce that drawing on his previous experience as CEO of the National Shrine, Zyg Rakowicz has agreed to lead this programme."

"He will focus on the critical work of mission to work with dioceses across England and Wales to communicate the joy of Walsingham and encourage pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady."

"Trustees have appointed an interim CEO, who will provide leadership and drive renewal forward over the coming months as, God willing, we seek to appoint a new Rector later in the year," said Bishop Peter.

"Paul Hewitt comes with huge leadership experience, most recently as CEO of the London Borough of Harrow. Both Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes and I, on behalf of the Trustees, are delighted to welcome him to Walsingham and to East Anglia."

Pictured left are Zyg Rakowicz, Shrine Promotion Co-ordinator, left, with interim Walsingham CEO, Paul Hewitt.



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## Bishop Peter's engagements

■ **May 30 Tues:** Diocesan Children's Pilgrimage to Walsingham – 10.45am village for walk, 12 noon at the National Catholic Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

■ **June 1, Thur:** Celebration of Priesthood – 11am Mass, 12 noon, Poringland

■ **June 3, Sat:** Family Life Mass – 11.30am, St John's Cathedral

■ **June 4, Sun:** Confirmation Mass – 11.15am, Our Lady of Lourdes & St John Fisher, Sawston; 5pm, Cambourne Mass

■ **June 5, Mon:** Confirmation Mass – 6pm, Costessey

■ **June 9 Fri:** St Felix Primary School, Haverhill, 50th Anniversary 10.30am Mass

■ **June 9 and 10 Fri/Sat:** Youth Evangelisation conference – Speaker, David Wells

■ **June 11, Sun:** Corpus Christi Mass – 11am, St John's Cathedral

■ **June 11, Sun:** King's Lynn Deanery Corpus Christi Procession – 3pm, Oxborough Hall.

■ **June 12, Mon:** Confirmation Mass – 7pm, Newmarket

■ **June 13, Tues:** Confirmation Mass – 7pm, Sacred Heart, Peterborough

■ **June 14, Wed:** Confirmation Mass – 6.30pm, St Luke's, Peterborough

■ **June 16, Fri:** Investiture Ceremonies, Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem – 7pm, St John's Cathedral

■ **June 17, Sat:** Investiture Ceremonies, Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem – 9.30am, St John's Cathedral

■ **June 18, Sun:** Walsingham Pilgrimage, Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem – 12 noon, Mass at Walsingham National Shrine. 4pm procession into the village and Benediction in the Abbey grounds.

■ **June 19, Mon:** Confirmation Mass – 7pm, St Michael the Archangel, Huntingdon

■ **June 20, Tues:** Visit to Montana Care Home, Bury St Edmunds – 11am Mass

■ **June 20, Tues:** Confirmation Mass – 6.30pm, St Edmunds, Bury St Edmunds

■ **June 22, Thur:** Confirmation Mass – 7pm, Our Lady & St Joseph, Sheringham

■ **June 23, Fri:** Celebration Mass of 1350 years since founding of monastery – 7pm, St Etheldreda, Ely

■ **June 24, Sat:** Chaldean Pilgrimage to Walsingham – with His Beatitude, Cardinal Louis Sako – 12 noon Mass in Slipper Chapel and 3pm Evening Prayer in the Basilica

■ **June 25, Sun:** Festal Evensong and Procession – 4pm, Ely Cathedral

■ **June 26, Mon:** Requiem Mass for Archbishop Peter Smith – 11.30am, St John's Cathedral, with the Solemnity of the Dedication of the Cathedral

■ **June 26, Mon:** Confirmation Mass – 6pm, Sacred Heart, Dereham

■ **June 27, Tues:** Confirmation Mass – 7pm, Our Lady & St Thomas of Canterbury, Wymondham

■ **July 1, Sat:** St Peter & All Souls Peterborough, Gala Dinner – 7pm, Holiday Inn West Thorpe Wood, Peterborough

■ **July 2, Sun:** SVP Pilgrimage to Walsingham – Led by Bishop Peter. 1.30pm, Mass followed by anointing of the sick, 4pm Benediction

■ **July 3, Mon:** Confirmation Mass – 7pm, Sudbury with Hadleigh

Future dates at: [www.rcdea.org.uk/bishop-peter-collins/bishops-diary/](http://www.rcdea.org.uk/bishop-peter-collins/bishops-diary/)

# Fun, facts and fai

## Over 200 young people took part in this year's Ignite Youth Festival at the Sacred Heart Primary School in Swaffham – the largest attendance for ten years.

■ Acclaimed musician Matt Dean, supported by Fr Peter Wygnanski (Priest Administrator of Sheringham Parish), Sophie Periera (Ignite Team member) and Benjy Travasso (one of the young people going to World Youth Day), kicked off the festival with a time of praise and worship music. Then Louisa Poole and Elliott Cannon from the Ignite Team, acting as MCs, introduced professional comic magician Tom Elliott. He produced a lively display, entertaining participants with strange decks of cards, a disappearing ring and a balloon-swallowing session. He also shared his testimony of how he came to faith after reading 'The Purpose-driven Life' by Rick Warren.

Football and basketball on the playground provided a break before supper, and then the young people came back to hear Pippa Baker from the One Hope Project give a talk, based on her own story of moving from a successful career in advertising to the life of an itinerant Catholic evangelist living by faith. She spoke movingly of how, just the night before, she had led a lapsed Catholic from Ireland back towards faith as she prayed for him in a crowded Sheffield bar.

This was followed by a time of Adoration and Confession introduced by Fr Luke Goymour (Chaplain to the Youth Service). Ciaran Losasso, Ignite Team Leader, led an examination of conscience and most of the teenagers responded by joining the queues for confession with the seven attending priests.

Participants then regathered in the school hall to watch a performance by Christian mime artist Steve Murray, who interspersed the session with short reflections and by sharing his testimony of how he had come to faith through the human warmth which he had discovered in a Baptist church.

After a night's camping, the morning started with the YFC band, who provided music throughout the day. Sr Theresa from the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham (COLW) explored the theme of 'Rise Up' before a series of workshops. These included: playing contemporary Christian music, modern calligraphy, sumo suit wrestling, clay-moulding, painting with God and rosary making. Fr Luke led a model plane making session and Sisters from COLW led a "taste and see that the Lord is good" session about the discerning your vocation, involving a candy floss machine.

In the afternoon, Bishop Peter Collins led an atmospheric Mass inside a tent in the school gymnasium. Speaking on Vocations Sunday, he said: "Our Catholic vocation begins at baptism but then we must spend our lives exploring, discerning our pathway into discipleship."

"There will be a few moments when

Pictures by Eldred Willey and Keith Morris. To see full picture gallery visit: [flickr.com/photos/dioceseofeastanglia](http://flickr.com/photos/dioceseofeastanglia)



God's grace clearly prompts us to take a particular pathway. We are charged with the great responsibility of recognising the voice of the shepherd. Attuning spiritually to the voice of the good shepherd takes time, a task that will span an entire lifetime.

"Then there comes the question of obedience – the moment of decisive decision. Do not follow the promptings of those voices that directly contradict the Saviour. We will want for nothing only if we learn to recognise the voice and visage of the good shepherd," said Bishop Peter.

Afterwards Bishop Peter opened himself up for a Q&A session from the young people (see panel right) followed by a barbecue.

In the session on Sunday evening, Sophie Periera from the Ignite Team shared how she had been at the Ignite Festival five years ago and during Adoration became more aware of God's unconditional love for her while going through a difficult time. She played and sang Reckless Love – the song she had heard five years before.

Fr Luke then gave a talk inviting people to re-commit themselves to Christ before exposing the Blessed Sacrament. Fr Gladson Dabre (from Clare Priory) then went round to each person in the room bringing the Blessed Sacrament to them so they were face-to-face with Jesus, and then praying for them.

The festival concluded with a celebration disco.

The following morning, a record 140 young people from the Ignite Festival walked the five miles from Waterden church near South Creak to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham.

The festival was supported by an enthusiastic team of volunteers, including Evangelisation Lead Rebecca Bretherton and Helena Judd from Radio Maria.

"I'd like to thank all the volunteers who worked so hard to put the festival on. It is hard work but when you hear young people say things like they didn't really believe in God before the festival but now they do, it's definitely all worthwhile!," said Hamish MacQueen Director of Diocesan Youth Service.



# th at festival



## Bishop Peter factfile

Bishop Peter faced an open Q&A session with young people at the Ignite Festival, during which he revealed:

- **Favourite food:** I love cheese and onion sandwiches.
- **Favourite sport:** I like playing rugby and golf and supporting the Welsh rugby union team.
- **Favourite films:** I like comedy and all sci-fi films.
- **Favourite hobby:** Reading is my number one activity. I have a large collection of books including 45 Bibles.
- **Career choice:** In my teens I thought about becoming an economist and a teacher of theology. Then I persuaded my Archbishop to send me to seminary.
- **Call to priesthood:** From the age of five I used to play at Mass at home on the mantelpiece and my friend Ann was my altar server. It was the beginning of my journey to priesthood and a sequence of decisions not just one. I have now been ordained as a priest for 39 years.
- **Becoming Bishop:** One day last October I received a call from the Apostolic Nuncio to go to Wimbledon – I was either in trouble or going to be asked to become a bishop – I did not know which. I was asked if I would accept the nomination as Bishop of East Anglia – and I said yes. It is a duty to serve the diocese and I need your prayers.



Stella and Gerald Fox after the Maundy Service in York Cathedral. Gerald is holding the red and white leather purses containing his Maundy Money and Stella is wearing her Etheldreda Medal.

## Gerald honoured by King for a lifetime of service

**Gerald Fox, from St Etheldreda's Parish, Ely, was one of 74 men to receive the Royal Maundy Money from King Charles III at an historic service in York Minster on Maundy Thursday.**

■ Gerald was honoured for a lifetime of service at the altar and for many years of volunteering in the Church and in the local community at the first Maundy service of the King's reign.

Gerald was accompanied to York on April 6 by his wife, Stella, who last October had received the Etheldreda Medal from the Bishop of Ely, awarded to people living in the area covered by the Anglican Diocese of Ely for outstanding community service.

Parish Priest, Fr David Finegan, said: "Gerald and Stella have devoted many years to fundraising for CAFOD and helping to

develop Ely Parish's strong links with its twin community in Prek Toal, Cambodia. They volunteer weekly with the Ely Food Bank and during the Covid-19 pandemic, for many months gave unstinting service with vaccination programmes in the city of Ely."

During the service, which is held annually at a cathedral or abbey in the UK, 74 men and 74 women – signifying the King's age – are given Royal Maundy Money in a centuries-old tradition. The name "Maundy" and the ceremony itself derive from an instruction, or mandatum, of Jesus at the Last Supper that his followers should love one another. This symbolic act of giving a gift of money in small purses is a ceremonial living out of that Christian care.

At the service, the monarch hands each recipient two small leather string purses. A red purse contains ordinary coins, while a white one contains silver Maundy coins, amounting to the same number of pence as the years of the sovereign's age.



# Parishes celebrate coronation



Parish coronation celebrations in Huntingdon left, Poringland above, and Felixstowe, right.



**The coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla was marked across the Diocese of East Anglia with a royal teddy bear cake in Felixstowe, a Mass and shared lunch in Huntingdon and a crowning of Mary in Poringland.**

■ Children of Our Lady of the Annunciation, Poringland, enjoyed the traditional Crowning of Our Lady, Queen of the May, during the Coronation weekend. In his homily, Fr Andrew Eburne reminded parishioners that King Charles' ancestor, Richard II had, in Westminster Abbey, offered the kingdom of England to Mary as her Dowry, and that she remained our Queen to this very day. The congregation sang the Liturgy of the Coronation of Mary and the Hail Holy Queen, and then the children crowned Our Lady and waved Marian flags specially made for the occasion. After Mass the whole parish enjoyed a coronation breakfast together.

■ A royal teddy bear cake was the star attraction at a Felixstowe event to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. The lemon sponge cake, baked by St Felix

parishioner Edwina Hughes, was made specially for an 'international lunch' that also marked the ethnic diversity of the east coast parish. Dishes with links to Romania, India, the Philippines and Poland were among other food offerings brought along to share in the church hall.

Canon John Barnes said: "I was not even aware it was a cake when I first saw it. Edwina is very skilful. It was a lovely occasion."

■ St Michael the Archangel parish in Huntingdon met for Mass to mark the coronation on Monday May 8. About 40 people attended the coronation Mass. Prayers were offered for the King as he takes up his new role of service to our nation and the national anthem was sung. After Mass many of the parishioners stayed to share an international lunch together including a barbecue.

Fr Philip Shryane said: "We enjoyed English, Vietnamese, Indian and Filipino food brought by parishioners, including a home-made coronation quiche. A toast was made to wish the new King success and long life, the food was blessed, and all enjoyed the international spread."

"The weather remained kind to us and some were able to enjoy their food in the garden and others in the Good Shepherd Room. This was the end of a lovely coronation weekend which had been enjoyed by our parishioners."



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## YOUTH MATTERS



Ignite Team member,  
Elliott Cannon.

# Elliott's year of opportunities

**Elliott Cannon from Birmingham says a year with the Ignite Youth Mission Team has given him opportunities that he never imagined and there is now the chance to apply for the team for the next academic year.**

■ Going into the year I was unsure what to expect really. I knew the basics – I had read the job description – but as far as the dynamic, the community life, the charisma; I was clueless.

I think I only truly grasped what the year would entail after the first month. As I learned and practised the basics of youth ministry and slowly integrated into community life.

Sprinkled throughout were a wealth of different opportunities: visiting London, venerating relics and spending the first few days with religious brothers and sisters.

Prayer is also a pillar in our life on the Ignite Team. The regular prayer schedule consecrates our daily life to God and is the salt that provides our evangelisation with the flavour of personal devotion rooted in a living relationship with Jesus. I also never expected

to grow so much in self-knowledge.

Community life is a real blessing as it allows you to see clearly the areas of virtue which you never knew you needed to grow in – allowing you to identify where you need to improve. Community life is so beautiful as you grow close to those you live with in a very unique way. It's a very intense setting as you live, work and pray together; uniting you and them in God and expressing the fullness of true Christian friendship.

The formation the Ignite Team will give you cannot be found anywhere else and the distinctly Catholic nature is irreplaceable – the whole year has given me opportunities that I never imagined.

The Ignite Youth Mission Team is now accepting applications to join full-time in September 2023 or January 2024. Young adults are invited to spend an academic year, or part-year, inspiring others with the Gospel in parishes, schools and at events with young people around the Diocese of East Anglia while nurturing their own faith and living alongside their fellow team members.

Full-time team members are provided with their accommodation and food plus £200 a month and engage in a varied

pattern of work with children and young people of all ages. More information and the application form can be found at [www.rcdea.org.uk/youth](http://www.rcdea.org.uk/youth). Those interested are encouraged to contact Ciaran on [igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk) for more information or if they have any queries.

## Mini Vinnies are out in force from school

■ The Mini Vinnies, from St Mary and St Peter Catholic Primary in Gorleston, have been out in force this year helping their community writes Leonor, Erin and Elliot.

During the summer term, we raised money for our local hospital by creating a silver and gold coin trail around the school. We proudly raised over £80 for the children's ward!

At the beginning of the autumn term, we invited Yarmouth and Magdalen Foodbank to talk to all pupils. We discovered the vital role foodbanks play in our community. Therefore, we decided to start a permanent foodbank in our school to help raise food for those in need.

In October, we joined other Mini Vinnies at St John's Cathedral in Norwich to learn about St Bernadette. We had a brilliant day making new friends and creating bracelets. We then shared our learning with the whole school in an assembly.

Later in the year, we visited two elderly care homes. We gave handmade cards to the residents

and performed many Christmas songs including Jingle Bells and Away in a Manger. It was lovely to see the residents enjoying themselves and singing along. They even asked us for an encore!

Our next care home visit involved playing bingo at Lydia-Eva Court. We had a great time meeting the elderly residents and have been invited back later in the year to do some gardening.

During Lent, we created the 14 Stations of the Cross and presented an assembly to teach the whole school about each stage. Then we held weekly prayer sessions and invited other pupils to join us in reflecting on each station.

Finally, it was party time! We invited members from North Norwich SVP to visit us for a tea party to celebrate St Vincent's birthday. We loved meeting Mrs Short and Mrs Clarke and finding out about all their activities.

We have now turned our attention to the spiritual garden within the school grounds and hope to improve the space for all pupils.



Gorleston Mini Vinnies enjoying a game at a care home.



The Ignite Team 2022-2023

## If you are aged 18 – 35 then why not join the Ignite Team ?

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 Diocesan Youth Office, Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia, 21 Upgate, Poringland, Norwich NR14 7SH. Tel. 01508 486236



## news in brief

### New Dawn conference set for Walsingham

■ The New Dawn in the Church Catholic Charismatic Family Pilgrimage Conference will take place at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in late July.

This year the conference will take place from Monday July 31 to Friday August 4 and offers a programme of liturgy, sacraments, prayer, praise, worship, teaching, workshops, age-appropriate ministries (creche, children and youth), fellowship, and community.

Featured will be several renowned speakers, over 20 workshops, and various exhibitors including Radio Maria England, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, Genesis Mission, March for Life UK, Rachel's Vineyard, SPUC, Cenacolo, Youth 2000 and Mary's Meals.

Liaison Bishop for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Bishop David Oakley of Northampton Diocese will be joining the event for the entire week. In addition to children and youth ministries, there will also be 'Celebrating World Youth Day' which takes place in Lisbon during the same week as New Dawn.

Full conference details at [www.new-dawn.org.uk/new-dawn-2023/](http://www.new-dawn.org.uk/new-dawn-2023/)

# Bishop joins justice service

**Bishop Peter Collins joined a service at St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds for His Majesty's Courts of Justice.**

■ The service, on Sunday March 26, marked the end of the year in office of Suffolk's High Sheriff. That position has been held by Jamie Lowther-Pinkerton.

The service was attended by representatives of the legal and criminal justice system, to pray for and give thanks for all involved in the legal system in the county. The event took place within the traditional Cathedral service of Choral Evensong at 3.30pm.

The speaker was Major General James Cowan CBE DSO, the CEO of The HALO Trust which, for more than 30 years, has been clearing landmines and other hazards of war, in order to help countries recover after conflict.

The office of High Sheriff stretches back more than a thousand years, as the figurehead of the county's legal system. It has traditionally provided support for the administration of justice in the county, but the modern role extends into a close relationship with the fast-growing voluntary sector in Suffolk.

The High Sheriff of Suffolk said: "We

owe a great debt of gratitude to the judiciary, the police, the probation and prison services and all others in our county who are committed to the upholding of law and order, the foundation stone of society. I would also like to pay tribute to thousands of ordinary people across Suffolk who spend the greater part of their waking lives helping others – whether as part of formed charities, in wider public service, as volunteers, or as lone actors who take it upon themselves to care and look out for others. It is this self-effacing majority that glues our society together and whose goodness percolates throughout our great county and defines us as Suffolk people."

Canon Philip Banks said: "One of the hallmarks of our British way of life is that the rule of law, to ensure justice for all, is maintained by a judiciary independent of government. We live in challenging times, and this principle is more important than ever. At the annual service for HM Courts of Justice we pray for and affirm all involved in the criminal justice system and give thanks for their expertise and commitment to fairness and protection for all citizens."

Pictured above, centre, are Bishop Peter Collins, Jamie Lowther-Pinkerton, former High Sheriff of Suffolk and Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Martin Seeley.



## Mary braves blizzards on 100km walk

■ A parishioner from St Edmund's Bungay and Harleston recently made a walking pilgrimage from her home in Suffolk to Walsingham.

The journey, of about 100km, involved battling blizzards as she went, as part of CAFOD's Big Lent Walk initiative to raise funds for the charity.

Mary Kirk, 75, a veteran long-distance walking pilgrim, says she most definitely chose the wrong week for her pilgrimage as every day except the last was dogged by heavy sleet or snow. She says she could not take photos of what would be a gloriously beautiful route as her phone would have been deluged every time she got it out.

Mary used local rights of way in Suffolk in order to join the Boudicca Way in south Norfolk as far as Norwich. She then picked up the Walsingham Way for a further three days to the shrine. The weather became steadily worse, culminating in a four-hour white-out blizzard on the penultimate day.

Mary says, "Pilgrimage is very definitely a metaphor for life. You take the rough with the smooth. The way-marking, as in life, was patchy – plenty of signage when you don't need it, but when a path forks – no guidance at all."

Mary had previously done an epic walk to Rome which we reported here: [www.rcdea.org.uk/suffolk-pilgrim](http://www.rcdea.org.uk/suffolk-pilgrim)

She has so far raised £740 for CAFOD and you can sponsor her Big Lent Walk at [cafod.enthouse.com/pf/mary-kirk](http://cafod.enthouse.com/pf/mary-kirk)

Pictured right is Mary Kirk.



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Our Circles meet monthly and arrange activities both for members and their families, including meals together, barbecues, picnics, theatre visits, music and sporting events.

Golf societies throughout the Association join together in a National Golf Championship week every year and the Catenian Caravan and Camping Fellowship have a popular range of special events

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To find your local Circle please contact our provincial membership Officer Paul Thompson on [p\\_s.thompson@hotmail.com](mailto:p_s.thompson@hotmail.com)

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Judith James with some of her icons at her final exhibition in London in November 2022.

# Creating icons as an aid to prayer

**Iconographer and Aylsham parishioner Judith James is set to hold an exhibition of her work in St Peter's Church in Corpusty, in North Norfolk, this summer. Keith Morris reports.**

■ Judith has just completed a three-year study course with the Prince's Trust under the mentoring of leading UK iconographer Aidan Hart. She had, with her fellow 11 other students, an end-of-course exhibition in London which was featured in a recent Songs of Praise broadcast in February.

Now she is arranging her own local exhibition in Corpusty, showing some of that work together with new pieces.

St Peter's Corpusty is a 14th century church, restored by the Norfolk Churches Trust over the last 15 years and saved from dilapidation.

Judith, a parishioner from St John of the Cross, Aylsham, part of North Walsham Sacred Heart Parish, was born in Norwich and educated at Cardiff and Sheffield. She had a successful career as a nurse whilst bringing up a family of five children. When she retired at the age of 55, she concentrated on pursuing her creative passion, gaining a fine art degree at Newcastle University in 2007.

After some years painting, she was particularly inspired whilst living in Italy and began producing religious work on terracotta tiles. This led on to studies in both England and Italy in icon painting techniques of various styles working under prominent Russian, American, Italian and English teachers.

After several years and single artist exhibitions in Norfolk and Tuscany, she was accepted on to the Prince's Trust Icon Painting Certificate three-year course beginning in October 2019. Judith says she

benefitted greatly from this course, improving her skills and finish quality in board making, gilding, drawing and painting in egg tempera in the Byzantine icon style under iconographer Aidan Hart.

The work, originally displayed in the Prince's Foundation Chapel at the former Chelsea Barracks was done during that course. It was featured in the February 2023 broadcast of Songs of Praise.

[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0f07bxg](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0f07bxg)

The programme also featured a discussion with Irina Bradley, another top iconographer of the Russian style with whom Judith has also studied.

Judith said: "As Irina said in the video, painting icons is a spiritual activity. The iconographer always prays a particular prayer before starting work. Ideally the whole time is spent in a prayerful atmosphere. The icons themselves are an aid to prayer, used either in churches or for private prayer.

"Although mainly associated with the Orthodox Church, they are increasingly found in churches of other denominations - notably in Westminster Abbey. I also made a St John of the Cross icon for my own church in Aylsham

"On a personal level, discovering iconography has been one of the most uplifting and fulfilling experiences of my life. It has felt like coming home to my true vocation. Painting icons has made me feel closer to God on a daily basis and made me a much calmer person in general."

Judith's Exhibition of Icons will take place in St Peter's Church, Corpusty from June 23 to July 1. There is a preview evening on Friday June 23 at 6.30pm and all are welcome.

There is an Evensong Service on Saturday June 24. The exhibition is open every day from 10am to 4pm, except Saturday June 24 (11-5pm) and Sunday June 25 (11-4pm).

More details from: [www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk](http://www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk)

## Suffolk coastal walk for earthquake victims

■ Moved by the suffering from the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, a group of men from Bury St Edmunds organised a 20-mile sponsored walk along the Suffolk coastline.

The powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck on the morning of February 6 near Turkey's border with northern Syria. This was yet another tragedy for the people of Syria who have suffered from 12 years of war. Some 15.3 million people across Syria, 70 per cent of Syria's population, needed humanitarian assistance.

Speaking about the walk on Sunday March 12, Chris Turner, from St Edmund's parish said: "We felt called to help in some way after the devastating earthquake in Turkey. You can feel so helpless watching disasters like this play out on TV and this was our way of responding. We were a mixed group of people from teachers to doctors. I will be planning another walk for the summer for CAFOD. I have really enjoyed working with CAFOD to raise almost £1,300."

Tyler Axton added: "After the fierce weather of the previous days, I was a little apprehensive about the walk. Thankfully the sun seemed to know what we had planned and gave us a glorious start in Southwold. I couldn't have asked for nicer company and conversation along the way. How lucky we are to enjoy pleasant countryside without any fear of danger, a stark



contrast to the situation in Turkey and Syria."

CAFOD's local partners have been responding to the crisis by rebuilding and repairing schools and houses, supporting income generating activities to help people restart their businesses, providing emergency food, water and shelter and providing cash assistance for people.

Additionally, they've created child friendly spaces and psychosocial support to help people deal with the trauma of war.

Jane Crone from CAFOD in East Anglia thanked the group for their fundraising. [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)

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# Picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese

■ The Cantonese speaking Catholic community from a number of parishes in the East Anglia Diocese and adjacent towns and cities marked one year of celebrating Mass and other devotions in Cantonese, at Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston (pictured right) on April 15, reports Dominic Chung.

We celebrated a sung Easter Octave Mass, followed by an Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. At the Parish Hall after-

wards, we shared in the joy of those who had been baptised or received into the Church recently: three adults and three children under 10. And, we celebrated a baby's first birthday.

Our beloved Canon Hoan Minh Nguyen (康铭恩神父) has been celebrating a Cantonese Mass, monthly since April 7, 2022. His pastoral generosity is encouraging us to engage more deeply in our home par-

ishes whilst promoting the wonderful Cantonese Mass liturgy and sacred music.

Highlights of the year include Canon Hoan celebrating a Mass on the Feast of The Martyrs of China at Our Lady of the Assumption and the English Martyrs Cambridge (OLEM) on July 9; Deacon Gianluca Savini proclaimed the Beatitudes in Cantonese, for the first time.

Also, the Apostolic Nuncio to Malta, His

Excellency Archbishop Savio Hon SDB visiting us in Cambridge and celebrating a special Lunar New Year Pontifical Mass at OLEM on January 29 this year.

In the past 12 months, we were privileged to have also received pastoral visits from Fr Lawrence Lee, The Chancellor of Hong Kong Catholic Diocese and Fr Francis Ching of Toronto, Canada. They both celebrated two Masses apiece.

■ Our Lady & the English Martyrs, Cambridge, welcomed 40 boys from the Saint Michael's Catholic Choir School, Toronto, Canada on April 27. The entire choir school of some 200 boys were on tour to the UK, where they performed, among other places, at Westminster, Coventry and Ely cathedrals. The boys, who were joined by a large congregation, including parents and staff, sang the regular lunch-time Mass. Pictured above with the boys is choir director, Maria Conkey, Organist Philip Fillion, from the Cathedral Basilica in Toronto, and Rector of OLEM, Monsignor Eugene Harkness, who celebrated the Mass.



■ A first Mass for four years has been held in an historic medieval chapel in St Ives. Parish priest Fr Thomas Walton and parishioners from Sacred Heart Church, St Ives celebrated Mass at the Bridge Chapel of St Ledger on Monday May 1 for the first time since 2019, due to the Covid pandemic.

It was the first Mass celebrated in the Grade I listed chapel for the 2023 season. Mass is held there each Monday from the first May Bank holiday to the late August Bank holiday. Ellen Kemp said: "St Ives parish has been celebrating Mass at the Chapel of St. Ledger for nearly 40 years and parishioners were thrilled to return."



■ Cambridge Catholics hosted their first revival day with prayer, worship and a walk of witness and public rosary on Saturday March 25.

Organiser Jason Moore said: "The day started at St Laurence church with lively prayer and worship for our world and country. Every area of our world was prayed for. The school system, our law and justice, healthcare, the environment and many other areas.

"After this we all made our way to Christ's Pieces park for a public rosary. Soul Food prayer group and Blackfriars men's group joined this. This powerful witness was broadcast live on Radio Maria.

"The day concluded with a shared meal and fellowship. God has been working in Cambridge and this day was a great example of that," said Jason. "The word has spread and there is a lot of talk about Norwich being the place for the next revival day. Praise God."

Pictured below are participants outside St Laurence's church in Cambridge. Picture by Jason Moore.



■ Former St John's Cathedral chorister, Ms Keiko Tachibana, may be the first Japanese lady to have completed the Walsingham Way pilgrimage walk from Norwich to Walsingham using part of the recently defined route from London to Walsingham, reports Michael Hughes.

In 2011, Keiko came to Norwich to study English at one of the city's language schools. Within four days of her arrival she had found, and been accepted as a choir member at the Cathedral Church of St John the Baptist. At the end of her course she decided to visit France with the intention of walking one of the many pilgrim paths to Compestella known as Caminos.



In March she returned to Norwich having completed her eighth Compostella Camino. In between times she has also completed similar treks in Japan including the trail of Sacred sites known as Kumano Kodo or Camino de Kumano. Brought up on a Bud-

dhist environment Keiko regards these walks of up to 800 kilometres as a kind of personal oasis of peace.

On her return to Japan she hopes to find ways of making Walsingham better known to Japan's 400,000-strong Catholic population and the Christian community in general. Sadly only 1% of Japan's 126 million people are Christians.