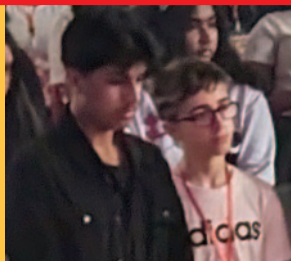




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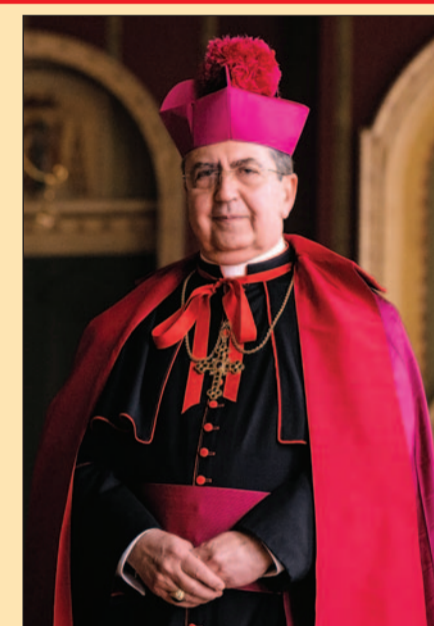


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The Diocese of East Anglia Walsingham Pilgrimage. Pictures by Joshua Clovis. For a full picture gallery visit: [www.flickr.com/photos/diocesofeastanglia/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/diocesofeastanglia/)



## Great Britain Papal Nuncio set to visit Diocese of East Anglia

■ After just over 12 months in the role, the Papal Nuncio to Great Britain, His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía will be paying a three-day visit to the Diocese of East Anglia in mid June and all are invited to come and meet him.

It will be his first official visit to the Diocese, having previously visited the Catholic National Shrine in Walsingham.

The purpose of the visit is to find out more about the diocese and its people and visit several locations across East Anglia.

It will include a meeting with diocesan clergy in Newmarket Parish on Wednesday June 12, followed by a private reception at the White House in Poringland for local dignitaries.

On Thursday June 13, at 10am there will be a public Mass at St John's Cathedral in Norwich, to which everyone is welcome, followed by private visits to Carmel, Quidenham and the Anglican Shrine in Walsingham.

On Friday June 14, the Nuncio will visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in King's Lynn followed by a visit to Peterborough Cathedral and the Shrine of Katherine of Aragon.

*Pictured above is Papal Nuncio to Great Britain, His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía. Picture by Mazur/CBCEW.*

# 1100 diocesan pilgrims gather at Walsingham

**The Diocese of East Anglia held its annual pilgrimage to the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady, Walsingham, attended by around 1100, on Monday May 6. Joshua Clovis reports.**

■ The pilgrimage, on Bank Holiday Monday, was led by Bishop Peter Collins, Bishop of East Anglia, and accompanied by Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes, former Bishop of the Diocese.

It began at noon at the Friday Market Place, Walsingham, in front of the Church of the Annunciation. Pilgrims were led in the 'Regina Caeli', followed by Bishop Peter crowning the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham. The pilgrims then embarked on a procession down the Holy Mile, a privilege to this diocese, praying

the Rosary en route to the Shrine.

At the Shrine, pilgrims participated in the Service of Reconciliation and had the opportunity for confessions in the Chapel of Reconciliation and around the Shrine grounds, with the Blessed Sacrament exposed for veneration.

The Pontifical Mass, held at 3pm, was celebrated by Bishop Peter, accompanied by Bishop Emeritus Alan, Fr Robert Billing, Rector of the Shrine and other clergy.

In his homily, Bishop Peter reflected on the profound faith of Our Lady: "When Mary gave her yes to God's invitation to become mother, one can envisage her saying her affirmative response in the quietest of voices. And yet it was a true affirmation of the spirit that she gave to the invitation – definitive, complete.

"In this, she, the Mother of the Church, teaches every disciple of the Lord to follow the same path to ponder. That is our first duty, to ponder the wonders of the

Lord, then, by listening, to grow in faith day by day, building the momentum of faith throughout our lives. It is a great responsibility, but it is also a great joy."

Then, prompting us to reflect on our own lives, he went on to say: "There are times, though, when we will need a quieter approach and we must learn the quiet response. For life is full of joy and sorrow, challenge and struggle. A time, then, to sing out and a time for quiet though determined affirmation. Let Mary be our example in this. Let us ponder, let us listen. And thus let us grow in faith."

In closing, speaking about the role of the young in the Church, he said, "Earlier, we welcomed our young people who are preparing for their Confirmation. It will be my honour and my joy to anoint them with the sacred Chrism. They have given great witness over these past days to the faith that they possessed, and they have shown great enthusiasm for what awaits them."





## First Bishop Ordinary is appointed

■ His Holiness, Pope Francis, has appointed Rev David Waller as the next Ordinary and the first Bishop Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. His appointment follows the Holy Father's acceptance of the resignation submitted by Mgr Keith Newton.

On hearing the news, Mgr Newton said: "Bishop-elect Waller has long experience in pastoral ministry both in the Church of England and in the Catholic Church, and he is presently Parish Priest of Christ the King, Chingford in the Diocese of Brentwood. I know he will use his pastoral gifts as he guides the Ordinariate into the next chapter of its life.

Bishop-elect David Waller (pictured above) said: "It is both humbling and a great honour to have been chosen by Pope Francis. I have been a member of the Ordinariate since its inception in 2011. The past 13 years have been a time of grace and blessing as small and vulnerable communities have grown in confidence, rejoicing to be a full yet distinct part of the Catholic Church."

**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 10.

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## Dublin Girls Choir welcomed to cathedral



■ The St John's Cathedral Choir welcomed the Girls Choir of St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Dublin, and their director, Blánaid Murphy, to sing at Mass and Vespers in Norwich on Sunday, April 28.

St Mary's Pro-Cathedral is the seat of the Archbishop of Dublin and is home to the largest Catholic cathedral choir foundation in Ireland, consisting of the Palestrina Choir of boys and men founded in 1903 and the Cathedral Girls' Choir, founded more recently in 2009. The Girls Choir's recording of music by female com-

posers Vox Femina was released to great acclaim in 2019 and a second instalment is due later this year.

The choir, most of whom had never been to Norwich before, spent the week-end in the city, having sung at Evensong in Norwich Anglican Cathedral the day before coming to St John's.

The St John's Cathedral Choir will also host the Bradford and Huddersfield Catholic Youth Choirs from the Diocese of Leeds later this term. These choirs will sing at the 11am Mass celebrated by Bishop Peter on

the final Sunday of term, July 14, after which the Cathedral Choir will go on a well-deserved summer break.

■ St John's Cathedral Choir is auditioning boys and girls from Year 3 upwards to join from September. Prospective members are welcome to try out the choir for a couple of weeks this term to see if they are interested. If you are based in the Norwich area and would like to arrange an informal audition, please contact the director of music, David Grealy, at [music@sjbcathedral.org.uk](mailto:music@sjbcathedral.org.uk)

# Seminarian receives Ministry of Acolyte

**Diocese of East Anglia seminarian Matthew Allen received the Ministry of Acolyte, along with classmates at the Pontifical College Beda in Rome, on Friday March 22. Here he explains what it means to him.**

■ The Ministry of Acolyte is a significant milestone on the journey towards the sacred priesthood. It is the last stage of our priestly formation before ordination to the diaconate and presbyterate (priesthood).

So, what is an Acolyte? The word "Acolyte" derives from a Greek term, akolouthos, which means "follower". As an Acolyte, it is our responsibility to assist priests and deacons in carrying out their ministry at the Mass, and as special ministers to give Holy Communion to the faithful at the Mass and to the sick.

At the rite of institution for Acolytes, the candidate receives from the bishop (for us at the Beda, our Father Rector) either the chalice of wine or a vessel containing the bread for consecration at the celebration of the Eucharist.

I am now in my third year of formation



Matthew Allen receiving the Ministry of Acolyte at the Pontifical College Beda in Rome.

and, with the busyness of our lectures, essays, and exams, that time seems to have passed by so quickly and joyfully. When I was writing my formal request to become an Acolyte to our Bishop Peter, I realised the next letter I will write (God willing, of course) will be for ordination to the diaconate.

Receiving the Ministry of Acolyte could be just another box to tick on a journey of

discernment towards the priesthood, however, it is so much more. It is not just preparation for the priesthood, but a ministry of service to God and His Church. During the Mass, to help prepare and assist the priest, but also to help others to see the love that the Lord has for each one of us in the Eucharist, the "source and summit" of our faith (ccc. 1324).



Pictured, from the left, are Anthony Reilly, Bishop Peter Collins and Peter Ho.



## King Charles thanks Shrine for prayers

■ King Charles III has written to Fr Robert Billing, the Rector of the Catholic National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady, at Walsingham, thanking him for the promise of prayers for himself and Catherine, Princess of Wales, each of whom is battling cancer.

The Rector's heartfelt letters, on behalf of all at the Shrine, were met with gracious responses from the royal household. King Charles III, in his response, expressed heartfelt gratitude for the "incredibly thoughtful message" sent by Fr Billing. His letter highlighted the uplift he felt from the Shrine's prayers, describing it as "wonderfully generous" of the Rector to extend such kindness and spiritual support during his treatment.

Similarly, Catherine, Princess of Wales, through her private secretary, thanked Fr Billing for his thoughtful words and the assurance of prayers from the Shrine. The letter noted that the Princess was touched by the gesture and felt supported by the communal prayers from such a revered spiritual site during her period of recovery.

Fr Billing commented that: "This written exchange of messages demonstrates the powerful role of faith in offering comfort and hope in times of personal crisis. Our Shrine of Our Lady, at Walsingham, offers a beacon of light and hope not only for the pilgrims coming to us, but also for those in public service, like the King and the Princess. It also reflects the deeply ingrained tradition of the monarchy engaging with our Shrine for spiritual solace and support."

# East Anglia duo admitted as Holy Order candidates

**On the feast of the Ascension of the Lord, May 9, Oscott College was adorned with the presence of many guests and priests who gathered to partake in the Solemn Mass of the Ascension and witness the Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders for seminarians Anthony Reilly and Peter Ho.**

■ Leading the congregation was Bishop Peter Collins, who served as the principal celebrant of the Mass. Bishop Peter conferred Candidacy to Holy Orders upon the two seminarians from East Anglia, alongside their peers from the Archdiocese of Birmingham and the Diocese of Brentwood.

The Rite for Admission to Candidacy marks a pivotal step in the journey of each seminarian towards the priesthood.

For Anthony and Peter, both currently in their fourth year out of six at Oscott College, this rite symbolises their public declaration of intent to receive the sacrament of Holy Orders, first as deacons and later as priests. It also signifies the

Church's acceptance of this heartfelt desire and formally acknowledges the seminarian's progression on the path to priesthood.

In his moving homily, Bishop Peter reflected on his own seminary experiences, placing special emphasis on the chapel in Valladolid, Spain, where he began his own journey towards priesthood. He urged the seminarians to hold dear the memories forged at Oscott College, knowing that this institution will always hold a cherished place in their hearts.

Drawing parallels between the 40 days of post-resurrection instruction given to the Apostles and the seminarians' four-year journey of formation, Bishop Peter reminded them of the virtue of patience and anticipation. Just as the Apostles awaited the dawn of Pentecost, the seminarians are encouraged to await the fulfilment of their vocations with steadfast faith and unwavering commitment.

During the Rite of Admission, the bishop addressed the candidates, affirming, "The Church receives your resolves with joy. May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfilment. Let us pray that the new candidates, from this day forth, persevere in their vocation and cling to Christ, the High Priest."

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## SVP pilgrimage to Walsingham

■ Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes will be celebrating Mass at the annual SVP Pilgrimage for the Sick at the National Catholic Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady in Walsingham on Sunday July 7.

Pilgrims are welcome to bring a picnic to the shrine and Mass will begin at 1.30pm, followed by anointing of the sick at 3pm and Benediction at 4pm.

Joan Wall, President of the East Anglia Central Council of the SVP, has invited not just SVP members but also all priests who can make it and all parishioners, especially those who are supporting someone who is sick and can bring them for this once-in-a-year opportunity to receive prayer at the National Shrine at Walsingham.

People with limited mobility or in wheelchairs, can be dropped close to the shrine before going on to park. For details contact SVP Membership Support Officer Eldred Willey on [andreww@svp.org.uk](mailto:andreww@svp.org.uk).

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# Jesus is always close to you

**When the trials of life feel like they have you rushing without control down a river of despair, cling to the presence and**

**purposefulness of God. Just know you are not alone; you are not abandoned says Fr Alvan Ibeh in his latest Voice of Hope column.**



■ As I was trying to figure out a topic for this edition, I came across a video of the popular Australian Bishop Mar Mari Emmanuel on YouTube. While I was reading through the comments, I saw a comment that attracted my attention and immediately gave me the insight I needed to write this month's article. Here is the person's comment:

"After a serious motorcycle accident three weeks ago, with severe injuries, I believed Jesus had abandoned me. Then I saw video footage of the accident and am ashamed of my assumption. Jesus was very close to me during the accident and made sure that I survived".

I could remember there was a time I felt the same way this person felt. There was a time after I was also involved in a serious accident, that I felt God had abandoned me to my fate. I asked God a lot of questions but didn't get any immediate answer and so I concluded that He is no longer there.

But when I reflect on what I could remember that happened that day and what I was told that happened, but I didn't see I, like this our brother, also feel ashamed of my assumption. The fact is that with our human eyes, we do not see everything as it happens. We only judge by what we see but one thing is certain, God's see the bigger picture. He sees beyond what we can see. The story was that all those who witnessed the accident concluded that I was not going to survive. Even when I was rushed to the hospital, a lot of people were certain that I wouldn't make it. Also like our brother said, "Jesus was very close to me during the accident and made sure that I survived."

Sometimes, we may be tempted to con-

clude from our circumstances that God has abandoned us or that He is displeased with us. But what if whatever we are passing through were intended to reveal something else? What if God means to show us the preciousness of his Love, while strengthening our faith?

Remember the story of Joseph in the book of Genesis. Even in the pit, He didn't feel abandoned, because he knew God was with Him. Later in the story we read these words: "The Lord was with Joseph (Genesis 39:2). Do you believe that even in our own pits, God can never abandon us? Do you know that He is always close to you? Do you believe in the promises of God to us in His word? Here are some of them:

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:8).

"Keep your lives free from love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

When the trials of life feel like they have you rushing without control down a river of despair, cling to the presence and purposefulness of God. Just know you are not alone; you are not abandoned. God is not only changing you through this, but He is also with you through this. God bless you.

**Following an energetic and encouraging retreat day led by Derrick Williams aimed at adults in March, St John Fisher in Cambourne church then hosted a children and youth enrichment day the following Saturday, reports Mel Ward.**



## Enriching day for young Catholics in Cambourne

■ Inviting a Religious Order just slightly younger than our own Catholic community here in the 'new' development of Cambourne worked well!

Kate, Valentina and Sister Catherine joined us from the Congregation of Our Lady of Walsingham, for adoration with Fr Colin from Blackfriars and led our youngsters of all ages in prayer and reflection, song and art.

Seeds of Change is a new initiative that presents the opportunity to grow closer to Christ in our everyday lives through worship, discussion and creative activities led by Michelle Robertson, Joe Caprani, Dorothee Petit and Anne Bino and supported by our wider church family. It is open to all those in year 3 and above, with older youth from year 11 able to lead and learn how to support others.

The Seeds of Change theme for the year is "How do we know God? How does God reveal himself to us?" Based on this theme, the sisters bought prayer-focus activities which helped to engage and inform about different ways of entering into prayer and of helping us to be open to God who is always with us.

A relaxing and reflective time followed by a short talk about how Sr Catherine herself became aware of God's presence and love in her life and how prayer is the foundation and source of this relationship. The spirituality of the "Yes" of the Annunciation is key! We too, like Mary, can give our best to God.

Valentina reminded us that, if you want to listen to God, you have to open your heart.

Then we celebrated Mass, the source

and summit of our faith, together as a whole community with our young people leading in the Liturgy of the Word, music and in other ways.

We were all encouraged to give our best to God so that we can receive the fullness of life and joy; to journey towards God together and towards wholeness. We journey not just as individuals, families and communities, but as a church born in unity with Christ so that, dying to life and self, we may rise with him.

We invite you to find out more and join Seeds of Change on a Thursday in Cambourne Church during term-time from 4:30 to 6pm followed by Mass. Contact Michelle and Joe at [info@seeds-of-change.org.uk](mailto:info@seeds-of-change.org.uk). Our next two Children and Youth Enrichment Days are on July 13 and November 16.

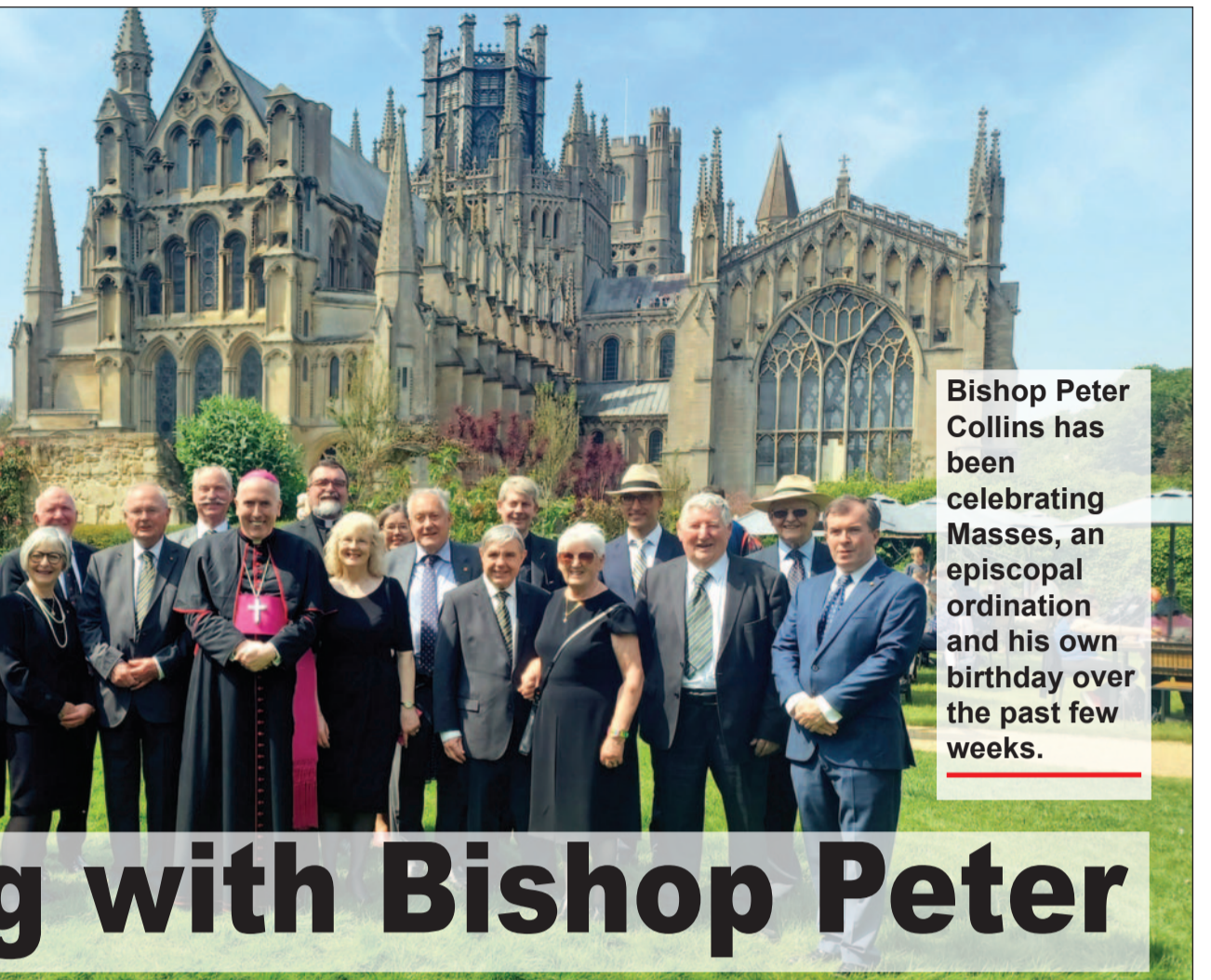


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■ On Saturday May 11, Dames and Knights of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem gathered at the historic Cathedral Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, Ely, Cambs for the annual Mass of the Eastern Section of the Lieutenancy of England and Wales. The celebrant was Bishop Peter Collins, KC\*HS, who is pictured with participants at the Mass. Members of the Equestrian Order, a charitable organisation, provide financial and humanitarian aid to Christians in the Holy Land.



Bishop Peter Collins has been celebrating Masses, an episcopal ordination and his own birthday over the past few weeks.

# Celebrating with Bishop Peter



■ Bishop Peter Collins recently visited the Royal English College in Valladolid, Spain, to help celebrate his upcoming 40th anniversary of priestly ordination. Bishop Peter was a seminarian at Valladolid from 1978-84, and was appointed vice-rector in '89, a post he held for five years. He is pictured, above, with Fr John Flynn, current Rector of the seminary.

■ Bishop Peter Collins celebrated his 66th birthday on May 13 and officially reaching his State Pension age. He was joined by members of the diocesan Curia and Ignite Youth Team to mark the occasion with a home-made cake at the White House in Poringland.

■ Bishop Bosco MacDonald was ordained the tenth Bishop of Clifton at Clifton Cathedral on Wednesday May 8 and Bishop Peter Collins was one of two co-consecrating bishops. A packed Cathedral welcomed the new bishop, along with his family and almost all the Clifton diocesan priests and deacons, and bishops from England and Wales. Archbishop Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham and Metropolitan Principal was the Consecrating Bishop, with Bishop Declan Lang and Bishop Peter, as Co-consecrating Bishops. Also present were His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, His Eminence Cardinal Arthur Roche, Prefect of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia, Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain. Pictured above is Bishop Peter Collins (right) at the ordination of Bishop Bosco MacDonald. Picture by Mazur/CBCEW.



## Bishop Peter's engagements

- **Jun 1, Sat:** Bishop to celebrate Mass for the Marriage and Family Life Celebration at the Cathedral at 11:30
- **Jun 2, Sun:** Corpus Christi: Bishop to Celebrate Solemn Pontifical Mass with Eucharistic Procession and Celebrations for those newly received into the Church at the Cathedral at 11:00
- **Jun 3, Mon:** Bishop to Confirmation Mass at Clare Priory
- **Jun 5, Wed:** Bishop to visit Notre Dame Prep School, Norwich at 09:30
- **Jun 6, Thurs:** Bishop to Confirmation Mass at St Joseph's, St Neots
- **Jun 8, Sat:** Bishop to attend Bishop's Council for Laity at 11:00 to be held in Newmarket
- **Jun 9, Sun:** Bishop to visit Leiston parish and then Bishop to Confirmation Mass in Aldeburgh at 10:30
- **Jun 10, Mon:** Bishop to visit St Mark's Catholic Primary School, Ipswich
- **Jun 10, Mon:** Bishop to Confirmation Mass at St Mary's, Ipswich
- **Jun 11, Tues:** Bishop to visit St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Ipswich, 13:30
- **Jun 11, Tues:** Bishop to Confirmation Mass at St Mark's including Candidates from St Mary Magdalen, Ipswich
- **Jun 12, Wed: Papal Nuncio visit:** 11:00 to 14:00 meeting with clergy in Newmarket Parish. 18:45 Reception at White House, Poringland
- **Jun 13, Thu: Papal Nuncio visit:** 10:00 Mass at St John's Cathedral, Norwich; 16:00 visit to Carmel, Quidenham; 18:00 visit to Anglican Shrine in Walsingham
- **Jun 14, Fri: Papal Nuncio visit:** 9:30 visit to Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in King's Lynn; 11:30 visit to Peterborough Cathedral and Shrine of Katherine of Aragon
- **Jun 15, Sat:** Bishop to celebrate Mass for three parishes in Peterborough at Peterborough Cathedral
- **Jun 15, Sat:** Bishop to Host World Youth Day Reunion Retreat, overnight at the White House
- **Jun 16, Sun:** Bishop to walk with Youth 13 miles in preparation for the pilgrimage to Santiago, Spain
- **Jun 18, Tues:** Confirmation Mass at St Luke's, Peterborough
- **Jun 19, Wed:** Bishop to attend The Charles Plater Trust Annual Mass and Awards Ceremony at St Mary's College, Oscott
- **Jun 20, Thurs:** Bishop, as ecumenical canon, to attend College of Canons Morning of Theological Reflection, Ely
- **Jun 20, Thurs:** Bishop to celebrate Confirmation Mass at Our Lady Immaculate and St Etheldreda
- **Jun 21 & 22, Fri & Sat:** Bishop to attend Knights of the Holy Sepulchre Investitures in London
- **Jun 23, Sun:** Bishop to say Mass at Our Lady of Seven Dolours, Stowmarket at 10:15
- **Jun 24, Mon:** Bishop to Celebrate Solemn Pontifical Mass at 11:00 for The Solemnity of the Birth of St John the Baptist (Patronal Feast) at the Cathedral
- **Jun 27, Thurs:** Bishop to Confirmation Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Lowestoft

# Festival ignites faith in

The Ignite Youth Festival in Bury St Edmunds. Pictures by Joshua Clovis and Fr Peter Wagnanski. For a full picture gallery visit: [www.flickr.com/photos/dioceeseofeastanglia/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/dioceeseofeastanglia/)



**This year's Ignite Festival took place from May 4 to May 6 at St Benedict's High School, Bury St Edmunds, gathering around 250 young people from around the Diocese, one of the largest attendances ever. Joshua Clovis reports.**

■ This was the first time the festival had been hosted in Bury St Edmunds, with previous festivals being held in Swaffham for the past few years.

The festival began on Saturday with the Welcome Session which included some music from the Sibyl Collective, a group of musicians in the diocese, and a welcome by Hamish MacQueen, Director of Diocesan Youth Service.

This was followed by some comedy by Andy Kind, a preacher and award-winning comedian. Andy said: "I'm here at Ignite for the first time in a decade. But, delighted to be here and looking forward to meeting and speaking to the young people and doing a few jokes."



After the Welcome Session, attendees had dinner and some group time, followed by a Reconciliation Service led by Fr Luke Goymour, with a talk from Ignite Team member Adam Dodd.

Several priests, including Bishop Peter Collins came to hear confessions. Bishop Peter commented: "A number of our priests are with me here, and it's always a privilege to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, especially with young people, who perhaps find it an obstacle in the world they inhabit and the age that they are, it's a particular challenge for them."

"It's a delight to see them responding to the promptings

of grace and seeing them opening their hearts to Christ is a wonder and a glory to behold. To facilitate that through one's priesthood is always a great privilege and a great joy." The evening ended with a short talk and night prayer led by Sr Catherine Williams from the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham.

On Sunday, the first presentation was by professional mime artist Steve Murray, who spoke very movingly about self-worth. Then, the festival was honoured to welcome Inna, a young lady who had fled Ukraine when she woke up to hear bombs falling. Now, living in London, Inna spoke about how her faith had helped

her through the darkest of times.

Holy Mass was celebrated by Bishop Peter, followed by Q&A with the Bishop and workshops and activities all afternoon. The evening talk was given by Alex from the Ignite Team, who spoke very powerfully about his life. Brought up Catholic, Alex had turned to a life of crime. It caught up with him when he was stabbed and couldn't walk for several months, which led him to start reflecting on his life. His mum booked him a place on World Youth Day, which he reluctantly went to, where during that pilgrimage he went to confession and recommitted his life to Christ.



# young people



Alex then challenged everyone present to recommit their lives to Christ, and to do that every day. They were given the opportunity to do so as Fr Luke walked around with the Blessed Sacrament, praying for people individually. Many young people found this moment incredibly powerful.

One of the young people attending said: "Coming here really changed my life... When I came here I didn't have that much faith in God, but now the two days here has given me faith and hope."

After a celebration disco on the Sunday evening, the festival concluded, with attendees departing the next morning. The feedback for this year's festival has been amazing, with many of the young attendees saying it has brought them closer to God.

Bishop Peter spoke about the importance of events like Ignite: "It's so good to be able to accompany these young people in their faith. We all play a part in accompanying one another in that great journey of faith, and the deepening of that faith. The danger of feeling isolated in our faith is real. That's why these festivals for our young people are so important."

# Cathedral team to the rescue after fire

Staff and volunteers from St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich ran to the rescue, armed with fire extinguishers, when a blaze broke out on a nearby roundabout on May 9.

Charley Purves, Cathedral Manager, who was among those involved, said: "On being made aware of the incident, our staff and volunteers put their fire warden training into practice to assist the police and fire service and ran over with fire extinguishers from the Cathedral campus."

"The team assisted the police officer attending the fire, as the flames took hold and leapt up the tree. Whilst waiting for the fire and rescue service, four fire extinguishers were used by the team to stop the spread of the fire and put the flames out. The fire and rescue service then ensured there was no further risk to the public."

"It was a shocking sight to see the flames rising up, but the team worked so well and so quickly, it luckily turned out to be a minor incident," said Charley.

The team are now assisting the police with their enquiries and replacing the used fire extinguishers.



Charley Purves.



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# Safeguarding messages heard

Trustees and senior Diocese of East Anglia clergy have received governance and safeguarding training from the CEO of the Catholic Safeguarding Agency (CSSA) and the MD of safeguarding trainers SAFEcic. Keith Morris reports.

■ The day event was held at the White House conference centre at Poringland and participants heard from Steve Ashley, who was appointed as CEO of the CSSA in February 2023. He gave an overview of the national landscape.

“In the last year we have set up and conducted safeguarding audits of the 22 Catholic dioceses in England and Wales, which will be complete by June. We will then concentrate on the 280+ Catholic religious life groups,” said Steve.

“We found the standard of safeguarding in the dioceses at a higher level than I was anticipating and only one diocese failed to achieve the required standard. We will be publishing a report by the end of this year, which will paint a positive picture.

“Although coming under the auspices of CBCEW, CSSA is an independent organisation whose aim is to help raise standards of safeguarding in the Catholic



Church,” said Steve, who has 20 years’ experience of board leadership and 30 years’ experience of Police service.

The Diocese of East Anglia was the first to achieve a standard of Comprehensive Assurance (the second highest rating) in its pilot audit by CSSA last year and has now been joined on that level by the Diocese of Northampton, said Steve, who took questions on the future direction of the CSSA and the role of survivors of abuse in its work.

The event also heard from Rosie Carter, MD of SAFEcic, a qualified teacher, with

vast experience in safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults in a multi-agency environment.

SAFEcic is a national organisation which specialises in all aspects of safeguarding and is based in Suffolk. Rosie spoke about the legislation, guidance and regulatory requirements for safeguarding competence and effective governance.

“There are an astonishing 68,357 registered sex offenders living in England and Wales, according to the Ministry of Justice,” said Rosie. “The Independent Inquiry into Sexual Abuse in 2022 was

overwhelmed by the number of people coming forward with evidence of abuse. “You don’t need to be paranoid,” she told her audience, “but you do need to be vigilant.”

“IICSA concluded that good child protection policies and practices include: embedding child-centred values; making child protection everyone’s responsibility; creating strong governance and clear individual accountability; providing a visible role model of listening to children and involving them; creating a ‘speak-up’ culture; gathering good data and making best use of it, and learning from institutional failure.”

The training day was organised by Diocese of East Anglia safeguarding co-ordinator Mick Thurley and safeguarding administrator Rebecca Bretherton.

Rebecca Bretherton, Safeguarding Administrator said: “After our recent training for clergy and Parish Safeguarding Representatives, it was good to sit down with the diocesan trustees and senior managers to discuss their governance role and responsibilities for Safeguarding. All the training events we have had in the last few months have really shown us that everyone, regardless of their role, has a part to play in creating a safe environment in our parishes and the wider Catholic community.”

[catholicsafeguarding.org.uk](http://catholicsafeguarding.org.uk)  
[www.safecic.co.uk](http://www.safecic.co.uk)



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## EDUCATION MATTERS

# Appeal on school faith cap

**The decision by the Education Secretary, Gillian Keegan, to lift the faith-based admissions cap on new free schools in England has been welcomed by the Diocese of East Anglia schools team, which is urging people to give their support to the move through a government consultation which closes on June 20.**

■ The decision paves the way for Catholic free schools to open, having previously been excluded under the 50% cap or 'rule' which could have forced schools to turn away some Catholic pupils.

The Government has opened a consultation on two proposed changes to the admission arrangements of new faith schools. Firstly to lift the 50% cap on faith-based admissions to new faith schools and, secondly, to allow new special schools to have a faith designation.

Helen Bates, Assistant Director of Schools for the Diocese of East Anglia, said: "We welcome this consultation. The Diocese covers some of the fastest growing areas in England, particularly in Cambridgeshire and around Peterborough. In 2019, the Diocese made the only successful submission to the Government's new voluntary-aided school programme which it ran only once. This resulted in the opening of St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School in Peterborough in 2022.

"Since 2019, whilst there has been a national reduction in the overall number of primary-aged pupils, some areas within the Diocese are still seeing pressure on places particularly in the older primary age groups, and most of our secondary schools are over-subscribed. Significant house building in some parts of the Diocese has increased demand for school places but the Diocese has not been able to open new Catholic schools to serve these housing developments because of the 50% cap.

"Catholic schools promote the formation of the whole child and are well placed to meet the diverse needs of all children, including

## School is part of peacemaker project



**Pictured are Lorraine Prince (left), Alistair Day, Archbishop Justin Welby and Fr Pat Cleary.**

■ St Bede's Inter-Church School in Cambridge has been asked to be part of the second pilot stage of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Reconciliation Ministry – Difference programme for young people, to help nurture and encourage a generation of peacemakers.

To celebrate the expansion of the course to church youth groups, Justin Welby hosted more than 400 guests in the gardens of Lambeth Palace on Wednesday May 8, attended by young people, church leaders, pastors and educators for an evening of celebration and activities.

Guests included Lorraine Prince (Head of Networks, Church of England Education) a Catholic parishioner at St Mary's in Thetford and an organiser of the event, Alistair Day (head of St Bede's Inter-Church School, Cambridge) and Fr Pat Cleary (St Mary's, Thetford).

Archbishop Welby said: "In response to living in a world which is divided, hurting and conflicted, we long for our faith to make a difference, but it can be hard to know where to start. As Christians, we are called to commit to reconciliation and, through our actions and words, show that a new and better way is possible."

Difference for Young People is a resource for churches, schools and youth groups to develop skills in peacebuilding for young people in their relationships with others, and to navigate difficult situations.

Alistair Day, Head at St Bede's, a joint Anglican and Catholic school, said, "The Difference project will provide a clear framework for staff in school to guide students through difficulties in their relationships with each other. The project focuses on the development of valuing others (Be Curious), showing an interest and listening to different perspectives (Be Present) and resolving how to move forward respectfully (Reimagine). As a Christian community, we are delighted to have a resource based upon the teachings and behaviours of Jesus, which can be interpreted for our present context."

Fr Pat said: "I was very impressed with what Archbishop Welby said in his address particularly about the importance of respecting people with whom we may disagree."

those with special educational needs and disabilities. (SEND). The 2024 CES Census shows that the level of SEND in Diocese of East Anglia schools is above the national average for England and all of our local authorities have all published plans to expand their SEND provision as demand increases year-on-year.

"However, current policy means it is not possible for an existing or new special school

to have a faith designation. Not only does this mean that the Diocese cannot open Catholic special schools, but it also means that existing special schools in our area cannot benefit from the support of our two Diocesan Trusts, and our Trusts cannot utilise the significant SEND expertise within these special schools," said Helen.

"The Government's consultation is open for seven weeks, closing on June 20. These pro-

posals will only be accepted by the Government if they see a high level of support through the consultation process.

"The Diocese would encourage everyone within the Catholic community to respond positively to this consultation before the deadline."

The consultation can be found at [consult.education.gov.uk/faith-schools-policy-team/faith-school-designation-reforms/](https://consult.education.gov.uk/faith-schools-policy-team/faith-school-designation-reforms/)

# Norwich school receives glowing Ofsted report

■ Notre Dame High School (NDHS) in Norwich has received glowing praise from Ofsted, being rated as "good" under a new more rigorous inspection framework.

Statistically the most in-demand school in the city, with 30% more applications than places – the school however, is no longer rated as "outstanding" – a status it had held for more than a decade.

In its first inspection since converting into an academy in August 2012, the school has been rated as 'good' overall, the second highest rating available.

The inspection report is almost exclusively positive and inspectors said: "Pupils genuinely enjoy attending NDHS. Older and younger pupils alike speak positively about

their experience of school. Pupils benefit significantly from the care and kindness shown by adults, and other pupils. Pupils celebrate their cultural diversity and their individuality.

"Attending NDHS means pupils are expected and encouraged to work hard in all aspects of their school life. As a result, they achieve well both academically and more widely. Pupils grow into being independent, considerate and confident individuals.

"Pupils behave well. They are typically polite and respectful towards one another. Social times are happy. Equally, lessons are calm and purposeful," said the report.

"There is a culture of pupil engagement in the school. Pupils are actively encouraged to participate in the significant variety of clubs

and activities. The ethos of wider personal development of pupils is exceptional. The school's provision to develop pupils' character goes well beyond what might be expected."

Inspectors go on to say: "Pupils are proud to describe the contributions they make to charitable causes. Older pupils also contribute significantly to this whole-school priority.

"Leaders at all levels have a strong vision of what they want pupils at NDHS to achieve as individuals and as part of a wider community. Leaders have worked hard to engage the local community successfully and positively. Parents, carers, staff and pupils are overwhelmingly positive about the school."

Headteacher, Tom Pinnington, said: "Parents and members of the community can

read this report and see that young people flourish at Notre Dame, educationally and more widely, and that they enjoy their time here. This is what we experience in school every day. I am incredibly proud that many of the strengths of the school have been recognised in the report. I am especially pleased that the emphasis that the school places on values, ethos and character development have been highlighted."

Inspectors visited the school over two days in February, publishing their findings in May.

The school was being judged under a different framework to when it previously earned outstanding status in 2011.

You can read the summary report at: [www.ndhs.org.uk/results-inspections](https://www.ndhs.org.uk/results-inspections)



# Dominican brothers and sisters

## The Order of Preachers (OP)

■ The Order of Preachers (OP) was founded in the early thirteenth century by St Dominic Guzmán (1170-1221) as he sought to preach the fullness of the Catholic faith to people in the south of France, many of whom had been drawn away from the Church through ignorance of her teaching.

The friars of the Order were to be a community of brothers who would witness to the Gospel by their way of life together and by their preaching, informed in turn by the assiduous study of theology. This pattern of life, nourished especially by the community's liturgical prayer, remains the core of Dominican spirituality and mission to this day.

The Order expanded rapidly after its confirmation by Pope Honorius III in 1216, and in 1221, St Dominic and the General Chapter of the Order sent friars to England. From their first foundation in Oxford the friars spread quickly, with 18 houses opening in the new English province in the first 20 years, including the priory in Cambridge, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, which was founded either in or shortly before 1238.

Cambridge was already a growing centre of study and learning, and the university gained recognition from the



**In his series about the Religious Congregations living and working in the Diocese of East Anglia, Fr Karol Porczak MS, Vicar for the Religious, introduces two more communities – both Dominican – the Order of Preachers and the English Congregation of St Catherine of Siena.**

**Pictured above are (from left to right): Fr Robert (Prior), Fr Euan, Fr Albert, Fr Colin, Fr Bob, Br Dominik (novice), Fr Gregory. Not pictured: Fr Paul and Br Daniel.**

in the early 1230s. The original Dominican priory was on the site of Emmanuel College, and it had its own school of theology integrated into the life of the mediaeval University and the wider Order.

After the Reformation, some of the brothers fled abroad, and so English Dom-

inican life continued overseas awaiting happier days. They returned to England in the eighteenth century, but it would not be until 1938 that Dominican life returned to Cambridge when the recently widowed Enrichetta Bullough offered them St Michael's, the house which she and her recently deceased husband Edward had built as a family home. Their son became Fr Sebastian Bullough, one of

the first friars in the refounded community.

In 1955 the friars bought the neighbouring house, and the two houses were connected by a new wing in 1962. For much of its more recent history, the priory, known like many Dominican houses in England as Blackfriars, has been the home to writers and academics teaching in the university.

The main work of the community today is to house the novitiate of the English Province, welcoming and training young men in their first year as friars and helping them to learn about life in the Order with a view to making a decision about whether to profess vows. Many of the friars are involved in wider apostolates in the University of Cambridge and local parishes, and priests make themselves available for spiritual direction and the Sacrament of Confession, a ministry which has seen a notable and welcome expansion since the Covid-19

pandemic.

There are now nine community members of Blackfriars in Cambridge: Fr Robert Verrill OP (Prior), Fr Euan Marley OP, Fr Albert Robertson OP, Fr Colin Carr OP, Fr Bob Eccles OP, Br Dominik (novice), Fr Gregory Pearson OP, Fr Paul White OP and Br Daniel Benedict Rowlands OP.

## English Congregation of St Catherine of Siena (OP)

■ The English Congregation of St Catherine of Siena (OP) is part of the worldwide Order of Preachers, founded by St Dominic Guzmán in southwest France in the early 13th century. The first community of Dominicans was a convent of enclosed nuns, followed shortly by the men who accompanied St Dominic on his preaching missions and became the first friars of the Order of Preachers.

Apostolic Sisters, whose life of prayer sustains them in their pastoral, educational and healing ministries, are a later development in the life of the Church, and in particular, many Dominican congregations were founded in the 19th century. Each congregation is autonomous, but in 1929 five such groups of women amalgamated to form the present-day English Congregation.

There are currently seven sisters assigned to the Convent of St Catherine in Cambridge, which came into being in 2002: Sr Ann Catherine Swailes OP (Prioress), Sr Angela Mary Leydon OP, Sr Mary Pauline Bürling OP, Sr Tamsin Mary Geach OP, Sr Mary Magdalene Eitenmiller OP, Sr Philomena Benedict le Gall OP and Sr Rose Rolling OP.

Preaching is the essence of the Dom-



**Pictured above (from left to right) are: Sr Mary Pauline, Sr Anne Catherine (Prioress), Sr Mary Magdalene, Sr Rose, Sr Angela Mary and Sr Tamsin Mary.**

inican vocation, and, in its common prayer and mission, every Dominican community aspires to be a kind of living homily, witnessing to the gospel in the

way its members relate to each other and to the world. In fact, the earliest Dominican community was known as the Holy Preaching, a name that the sisters

in Cambridge have adopted for a series of monthly talks on the Christian life.

The community organises Days of Recollection for women during Lent and Advent and offers hospitality for retreats in a small self-catering hermitage. The Dominican Brothers' community and Dominican Sisters' community in Cambridge work closely alongside each other, with their novices sharing a study programme, where they are taught by both friars and sisters. They also pray together at daily Mass and often have joint celebrations on Dominican feast days.

The sisters are involved in First Holy Communion and Confirmation catechesis, lead retreats and provide spiritual accompaniment, teach in universities, seminaries and online. One sister is a member of the Cambridge University Catholic chaplaincy team (where one of her colleagues is a Dominican friar); another is completing a doctorate in theology; another studying canon law; and a fourth is training in psychotherapy. The sisters undertake all these missions on behalf of the whole community, seeking to pass on the fruits of their contemplation to others.



## Spotlight on the saints: A Miracle Story from St Anthony of Padua

Best known as a faithful intercessor for lost items, St Anthony of Padua was a miracle-worker and a great preacher and his feast day is this month on June 13, says Marriage & Family Life Co-ordinator, **Antonia Braithwaite**, in her Faith in the Home column.

■ St Anthony used a mule to prove the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. A rich merchant named Bononillo refused to believe that Jesus was truly present in the Eucharist and would mock those who believed this. St Anthony tried to convince this wealthy man but discovered that he was as stubborn as a mule. So one day the Saint challenged Bononillo; "Would you believe in the truth of the Blessed Sacrament if your mule adored the Body of Christ in the Eucharist?"

Bononillo agreed; the mule was to be brought to the town square three days later where St Anthony stood holding the Eucharist in a monstrance, and near him was heaped a pile of hay for the donkey to eat. To ensure that he would win, Bononillo also decide to starve the mule until the day arrived.

Would the starved mule even notice the Eucharist, or would he go straight for the hay?

St Anthony himself had also fasted for three days before the meeting and the entire town was gathered to watch what would happen.

Defying all odds, the famished mule turned his head away from the hay and walked over to St Anthony and, to everyone's astonishment, he bent his front legs and knelt in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

Bononillo saw this miracle, and he also threw himself to his knees before the Eucharist and amended his ways.

This miracle was a gift from God in response to St Anthony's prayers, as a way of affirming the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and strengthening our faith.

St Anthony encourages us not to doubt the words of Jesus who said "This is my body which is given for you" (Luke 22:19). Receive His words in faith, for since He is the truth, He cannot lie.



Pictured are the Cafod Big Lent Walk participants from Bungay Parish, including Chirpy the chicken.

# CAFOD teams Big Lent Walk

■ During Lent, individuals, parishes and schools across East Anglia took part in the Big Lent Walk to support CAFOD. Jane Crone from CAFOD in East Anglia shares some stories from the Diocese.

CAFOD teamed up with our Caritas sister agency SCIAF in Scotland in a joint fundraising Big Lent Walk. Money raised will be used to fight poverty globally in countries such as Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan. Supporters signed up to walk as individuals, parishes, or schools.

Seven schools in the East Anglia Diocese signed up for this year's

Big Lent Walk. Pupils from St Francis of Assisi Primary School in Norwich had a surprise when they went on their walk as they were joined by a Chirpy Chicken, one of CAFOD's World Gifts. The chicken was spotted again in Bungay during the parish fundraising walk and soup lunch on 17 March.

CAFOD school volunteer Christie Minj signed up as an individual, walking 200km in 31 days. Christie visits Catholic schools to deliver assemblies and workshops. She said, "Taking part in the walk has been a challenge, but it's an opportunity to do something practical to support CAFOD's work".



## 'Find out more' invitation made to Catholic teachers

■ An invitation has been extended to practising Catholic teachers in East Anglia, who do not currently work in a Catholic school, but who might like to, to hear more about the opportunities available.

Director of Schools' Service, Andy Stone, said: "Did you know that the Diocese of East Anglia, along with its two Multi-Academy Trusts, has responsibility for 28 schools across the Diocese? Our schools cover primary and secondary phases, state school and independent sector.

"Perhaps as a qualified teacher, you've always been interested in teaching in a Catholic school, but the opportunity has not arisen. If you are interested in following your vocation to teach in a Catholic school you are warmly invited to an initial information giving meeting, to be held on Zoom, on Monday June 10 at 6.30pm. You will have an opportunity to hear from the Diocesan Schools Service and the CEOs of our two Catholic Multi-Academy Trusts. We look forward to seeing you."

To receive a meeting invitation, please contact the Schools' Service Administrator, Jane Delph, at [ssc@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:ssc@rcdea.org.uk)



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## Live – in Community Worker

Opportunities in the Ipswich Community  
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# Picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese

■ On May 1, Fr Andrew Eburne started a two-day walking pilgrimage of 36 miles from his parish of Our Lady of the Annunciation, Poringland, to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham to raise money for the parish.

“As we are Our Lady’s parish, we always try to do something special in Our Lady’s month of May,” explained Fr Andrew. Fr Andrew was sponsored for each mile walked in order to raise money for the parish.

“I’ve had some wonderfully generous sponsors,” said Fr Andrew, “but most of important of all, I have lots of prayer intentions which I am taking from the parish to Our Lady’s Shrine.” Pictured are parishioners of Our Lady of the Annunciation giving Fr Andrew a send-off at the start of his pilgrimage.



■ As part of the legacy of developments marking 90 years since the Restoration of the National Catholic Shrine of Our Lady, the Icon of the Mother of God of Walsingham has been restored to a high-profile place in the Chapel of Reconciliation.

The Catholic National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady, in Walsingham, has recently returned to a prominent place in the Chapel of Reconciliation the enthroned Icon of the Mother of God of Walsingham. The Rector of the Shrine recently oversaw the move, mindful that the Icon had been in a high-profile position since the 1980s until shortly before the pandemic, when it was moved elsewhere in the Chapel. Now, the Icon is enthroned upon a newly-made stand, so as to give the Icon a renewed sense of honour and dignity.

Meanwhile, the one statue of Our Lady of Walsingham is to be found in the ancient and much-loved Slipper Chapel.

Each day, at the close of afternoon Benediction, the celebrant moves over to the Icon, where it becomes the focus of prayer for all whilst the Prayer for England is recited and the Marian Anthem proper to the liturgical season is sung.

■ A young priest from Hong Kong of Sino-Filipino origin, Fr Vince To, IVE (Institute of the Incarnate Word) came to Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston, as a guest of Canon John Minh to run a three-day retreat. **Pauline Leung reports.**

I wasn’t brought up in a Catholic family and have never gone to study in a Catholic school. I was baptised only a few years before my husband and I came to settle in the UK with three young children in 1997 when Hong Kong was handed over to China by the UK Government under the 1984 Joint Declaration.

I must admit I know very little about catechism, and when the opportunity to join a retreat in my own mother tongue, Cantonese, here in England arose, I was very excited.

Fr Vince is fluent in English, Cantonese, Tagalog and Italian, and he mingled and immersed himself with ease amongst the Cantonese community in East Anglia.

During the retreat from April 4 – 6, I had the opportunity of getting to know the principles of St Ignatius of Loyola spiritual exercises and meeting new Cantonese-speaking fellow Catholics. I got to understand the importance of carrying out daily examination of our consciences, in respect of the Ten Commandments, Seven Deadly Sins and the Precepts of the Church. It was important to appreciate the graces we receive from going to confession, regularly.

I feel spiritually renewed but of course there are still many areas in my life that I need to keep working on. I came away with a renewed desire to live the best Christian



life that I can.

I look forward to attending another Cantonese retreat in OLOL when the opportunity arises. With the number of Cantonese-speaking Catholics in the area increasing significantly, I hope such an event may present itself regularly.

The three days went by like a flash, and the event culmi-

nated in a sung Cantonese vigil Mass of the Divine Mercy Sunday. The Victimae Paschali Laudes was beautifully sung in Cantonese and we all marvelled at the Lord’s Mercy of dying for our sins and rising in glory.

**Pictured above are retreat participants with Fr Vince To, IVE.**