

May  
2022

# Catholic East Anglia

FREE



Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

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Bishop Alan Hopes with the sacred oils at the Chrism Mass in Norwich on April 12.

## 600 attend East Anglia Chrism Mass

**Around 600 clergy and laity joined the annual Chrism Mass at St John's Cathedral, Norwich, on April 12 to hear Bishop Alan Hopes say that it "expresses our communion with each other as the Church in East Anglia, with Pope Francis and with the Catholic Church throughout the world." Keith Morris reports.**

■ The annual Mass at which the sacred oil of catechumens, the oil of the sick and the oil of Chrism were blessed and distributed, was the largest diocesan gathering in the Cathedral since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic with around 600 people in attendance.

Scores of priests, religious and deacons

joined a congregation drawn from right across the diocese on Tuesday, April 12.

In his homily, Bishop Alan said: "As the Church, we are journeying through this life together, making our way towards the Kingdom of Heaven and the vision of God that awaits us there. On this journey each of us is called to play our part, drawing on the gifts and graces of our own unique vocation. It is important that everyone is able to participate, to be heard and to contribute to the life and mission of the Church. For that is what our communion in the Church and our participation in her life must lead to – mission.

"The Holy Oils become powerful signs of the Lord's presence among us. They, and the Sacraments in which they are used, speak of this vocation. They fill us with the strength to carry it out."

Addressing the gathered priests and deacons, Bishop Alan said: "I want to thank all of you for living out your vocation so generously and for your loving

care of God's people in the church in East Anglia. I am very aware that the challenges and frustrations of the past year have made your ministry difficult. I also know just how weary many of you are feeling with all that is being demanded of us by the church and by the world.

"Thank you for responding to everything with such patience. We have to learn again and again to place our trust and hope in God in whom lies our real strength.

"Communion, Participation, Mission – the key words of the Synodal Journey that Pope Francis has called us to embark on, as a Church, as a Diocese, as a parish, the key elements of the life of the Church.

"May the Holy Spirit, who will infuse the Holy Oils today with his presence and strength, take us forward in our life and mission to live and proclaim Christ and his Gospel more faithfully."

■ More pictures on centre pages.



The smaller-scale Walsingham Pilgrimage last year.

## Diocesan pilgrimage is set for full return

**A full-scale Diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham will be taking place again this spring after a three-year gap caused by the Covid pandemic.**

■ This year's pilgrimage is set for Tuesday May 31 and will begin at noon at the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, with a Mass held in and outside the Chapel of Our Lady of Reconciliation.

For the first time this year, the Children's Pilgrimage is being combined with the Diocesan Pilgrimage, enabling families to celebrate together. There will be a children's liturgy with Fr Pat Cleary for the first part of the Mass, with the children joining the main service at the offertory.

After the Mass and a picnic, pilgrims will walk along the Holy Mile to the village of Little Walsingham, with children taking the safer route along the disused railway and adults following the road. The groups will reconnect to process into the grounds of the mediaeval priory.

As in previous years, Bishop Alan Hopes will lead Benediction at the original site of the Holy House which contained the image of Our Lady, before it was destroyed at the time of the Reformation.

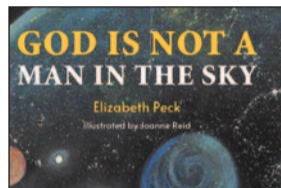
Last year there was a scaled-down pilgrimage, with most people being encouraged to follow the event online. In previous years the Diocesan pilgrimage has attracted up to 1000 people from across Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire and it is hoped that this year will see the event returning to its full strength.

All members of the diocese are invited to join the event as groups or as individuals and to bring banners representing their parishes. The pilgrimage is expected to finish around 4.30pm.

## Cambridge author takes a scientific look at God

■ Elizabeth Peck, a Catholic author in Cambridge, has recently published a children's catechetical book called 'God Is Not a Man in The Sky'.

The book is a narrative of the history of creation, which also serves as a catechism for children, and the accompanying 'Companion Guide' explains the theology in more depth for parents, teachers, and catechists. The author has herself served as a secondary-school teacher of Religious Education and a catechist.



The book tells the story of existence from both scientific and biblical perspectives through the Franciscan lens. Beginning 'before' God's creation of the universe, the narrative unfolds through the Big Bang, evolution, the development of humanity, and the covenant, culminating in redemption through Jesus Christ.

"The principal aim," writes the author, "is to give Catholic parents and catechists a tool that they can use in their teaching of young children, to prevent particular misconceptions from arising in the first place, and to help children grow up understanding why religious faith, why God, matters."

"Lizzy Peck has written the book we have all been waiting for," writes Fr Nicholas King SJ, Fellow in New Testament Studies, Campion Hall, Oxford. "Those of us who have to do with the education of the young have heard all too often from them that religion... has been disproved by 'science'. This is simply not the case." 'God Is Not A Man In The Sky' would also make a suitable Baptism or First Holy Communion gift. The book has been granted a Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur.

The book is priced £19.50, available at: [www.franciscanpublishing.com/books/childrens/god-is-not-a-man-in-the-sky/](http://www.franciscanpublishing.com/books/childrens/god-is-not-a-man-in-the-sky/)

**Catholic EastAnglia**

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, May 9.**

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## Stained glass recovers former glory

■ The Devlin-Plumber stained glass company has recently restored the window in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of St John's Cathedral.

"Stone-carvers, stone-masons, and window workers have been in chipping away, so the Cathedral felt very medieval," said Fr Simon Davies. "We rarely get to see these things up close. However, the restoration work has revealed a great amount of detail and colour."

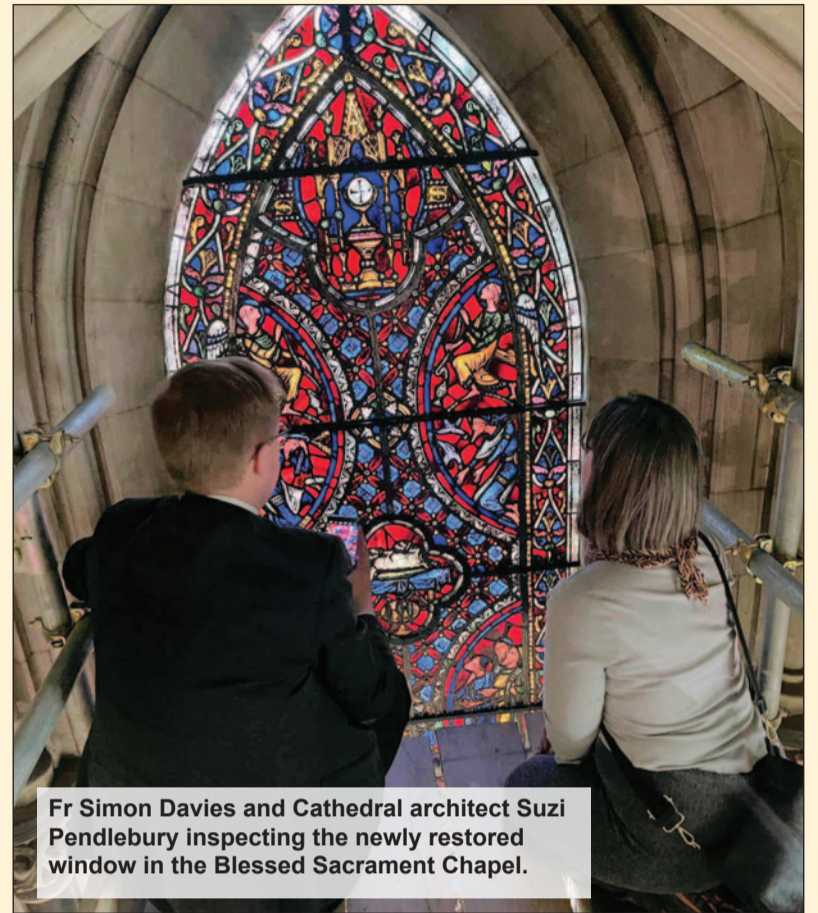
"Like all our windows, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel window shows a mixture of typic Old Testament scenes looking forward to Christ, his Church, and the Sacraments. We see God raining down manna from heaven; Joseph distributing wheat in the famine of Egypt; Elijah eating the cakes made by the widow and her son."

"The faces show great detail. We can see also the revealed shades of colour, especially the reds, blues and yellows. Each window is made of tiny pieces of glass, carefully cleaned and restored to their proper places. Some pieces were intentionally aged when created, to avoid them appearing gaudy."

"All the windows in the Cathedral Church are Hardman-Powell. We understand that we are one of the few churches in the country whose windows are entirely Hardman-Powell."

The windows – which are glass set into lead – are essentially sandwiched between two metal frames, both of which are set deep into the wall (one outside, one inside). The glass-lead panes are set between these two frames, and then tied on with metal wire."

The ongoing restoration work in the Cathedral is entirely sponsored by private persons and groups and there are three more windows which need work on them.



Fr Simon Davies and Cathedral architect Suzi Pendlebury inspecting the newly restored window in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

## Our Lady of Grace shrine in Ipswich is celebrated

**Worshippers marked the 20th anniversary of the restoration of the shrine to Our Lady of Grace in Ipswich with a thanksgiving service on March 26, reports Stephen Donaghy.**

■ The original shrine had its first recorded mention in 1152 and in its time was almost as important as Walsingham.

Princess Elizabeth, the daughter of Edward I, was married in its chapel in 1297. Between 1517 and 1522 the shrine was visited by Henry VIII, Catherine of Aragon, Sir Thomas More and Cardinal Wolsey, who was born in Ipswich. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and its statue sent to London in 1538 to be burnt. However, legend has it that the statue found its way to Nettuno, about 30 miles south of Rome.

Jean Johnson was involved in a meeting of Anglicans and Catholics in Ipswich in 1977 to discuss the possible restoration of the shrine that led to the setting up of the Guild of Our Lady of Grace.

In 2002 a replica statue, carved by Robert Mellamphy, was installed in the Anglican church of St Mary at the Elms, a short distance from the site of the original shrine.

Miss Johnson said: "It was a great joy to be present at the service. The widening ecumenical interest in our shrine was shown by participation of Methodist and Baptist/URC clergy as well as a good number of priests along with the Archdeacon of Ipswich and three Anglican



Clergy underneath the statue of Our Lady of Grace in Ipswich.

bishops. Our prayers remembered particularly those who worked to establish the shrine along with members of the guild, founded to pray for Christian unity and to re-establish the shrine. We prayed especially for peace in Ukraine and for those living under the shadow of the pandemic."

Clergy attending the service included the Rt Rev Martin Seeley, Anglican Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, the Rt Rev Canon Mgr Eugene Harkness, representing Bishop Alan Hopes and the Rt Rev Norman Banks, Bishop of Richborough who gave the address.

Other guests included Cllr Elizabeth Hughes, the Mayor of Ipswich, who read from Luke's Gospel about Mary's visit to Elizabeth; Silvano and Mario Casaldi, representing the sister shrine in Nettuno, and the family of the sculptor, Robert Mellamphy. There were also representatives from the Russian Orthodox church and the Cambridge Central Mosque.

Another Catholic who attended the service, Bernadette Wood, said: "It was a wonderful gathering to honour Our Lady of Grace, and remember the first 20 years of this wonderful shrine's new phase, giving praise to God."

# Read East Anglia response to Synod

■ A synthesis of the over 1000 responses to the Synodal Way Survey in the Diocese of East Anglia has been prepared and submitted to the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

In all, 1031 responses were received via the online returns, which was open to all comers to complete. This represents approximately 11% of those attending Mass within the Diocese of East Anglia.

In addition, 24 parishes, some 46% of parishes within the diocese, submitted 'whole parish' summaries following parish meetings.

Further reports were received from Caritas and other groups such as Justice and Peace Cambridge, and a number of



'hard-copy' individual responses were submitted by post.  
Young people did not respond in signifi-

cant numbers but have relatively recently met in a synodal form.

According to Deacon Huw Williams, who is part of the Synodal Pathway diocesan team: "The People of God are being encouraged to embed the Synodal Way in the local Church so that it will help the Church to grow and spread the Good News."

"It is hoped that Synodality is here to stay and that the initial methodology will act as a stepping stone, which can be improved upon, and will help us to grow, together, in Communion, Participation and Mission."

You can download the full report at: [www.rcdea.org.uk/synodal-pathway](http://www.rcdea.org.uk/synodal-pathway)

# First Cantonese Mass

**A first-ever Cantonese Mass has taken place in Sawston following the arrival of a number of Catholics in the area from Hong Kong. Dominic Chung reports.**

■ As many as 58 Cantonese-speaking Catholics and their friends, took part in a Mass celebrated by Canon John Minh at Our Lady of Lourdes Sawston (OLOL), on April 7. They came from all corners of the region and beyond. Though he does not speak or read the language, Canon John Minh celebrated entirely in Cantonese, which he learned in record time using phonetics.

Bishop Alan Hopes gave us his blessing and permission. The Auxiliary Bishop of Hong Kong, the Most Rev Bishop Joseph Ha OFM also sent his regards and encouragement in a video clip to all Hong Kong Catholics now living in the Greater Cambridge area. It was truly a momentous day for everyone who had all travelled far and wide to this Mass.

The first Catholic Apostolic Prefecture, under the control of the Macau Diocese, was established in Hong Kong in 1841. This was a precursor to the eventual Diocese, in 1946. Catholicism has been in Hong Kong for much longer, and in China, centuries earlier, since before the arrival of the Jesuit Priest, Servant of God Matteo Ricci, in August 1582. He landed in Macau, died in Beijing and is buried there.

Since the Vatican Council II, between 1966 and 1972, when Mass began to be celebrated in the vernacular rather than just in Latin, there was an explosion of local liturgical and musical developments. Refinement has continued to this day. Much of this rich, sacred tapestry was in Cantonese.

The Hong Kong Diocese is by right a suffragan diocese of the Guangzhou Catholic Archdiocese. However, the Hong



The Cantonese congregation is pictured outside OLOL in Sawston with Canon John Minh.

Kong Catholic Diocese is exempt from this suffragan relationship to the Guangzhou Archdiocese and the Bishop of Hong Kong answers directly to the Pope.

With increasing numbers of new parishioners from Hong Kong from January, Parish Priest of Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Cambridge (OLEM), Canon Eugene Harkness, acknowledged that "we should do something".

A welcome note in English and Chinese was published in the parish newsletter and website, encouraging the new settlers to introduce themselves and to register with the parish. Also to encourage a number of Cantonese-speaking parishioners to take part in reading at the 4.30pm Sunday Mass. With the help of Rosina Abudalai, Pastoral Assistant and Diane Redmond, coordinator of the rota for readers, three Cantonese speakers are now regularly part of the rota. There is also a Mandarin reader. This started in March; to pray a Cantonese Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent. And, to plan to celebrate a Cantonese Mass every four months on a Saturday afternoon. The only problem was finding a Cantonese-speaking priest in the UK.

One of the Cantonese Group saw Canon John Minh after a weekday Mass at OLOL and asked, half in jest, if he would

consider saying Mass in Cantonese. At first he said no but then said he would try to learn the Mass in Cantonese, using romanization phonetics.

Finding the Canon was an unplanned and unexpected move and we truly believe it is the Holy Spirit who has guided us to his door - he is a generous and spirited pastor. And so, we had our first-ever Cantonese Mass in Sawston.

We know that in the longer term, the Cantonese-speaking Catholics will be much more integrated into the life of their parishes. Their offspring will become fully immersed in their parishes. For the next few years, whilst the new migrants settle and adjust to life in this country, they deserve all our support and prayer. We plan to invite Canon John Minh to celebrate Mass on a Saturday once a month. He is now known to the Cantonese Mass Group affectionately as 康神父 (Fr Hoan).

How we help the new settlers to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation is next on the agenda. Maybe a Cantonese Rosary Group, subsequently a Cantonese pilgrimage to the Marian Shrine of Walsingham, or to the Knock Shrine in Ireland, and even much further afield - to Fatima, Portugal and Lourdes in France.

Future Cantonese Masses are planned for May 21 and July 9.

# Tributes paid as Jacinta leaves Caritas East Anglia

■ Bishop Alan Hopes has paid tribute to Jacinta Welch, the Caritas East Anglia Development Worker, after the funding for her position from outside sources came to an end. Diocesan Trustees, with regret, have decided that the Diocese cannot support the role going forward.

"I am grateful for all that Jacinta has been able to achieve during the past three years and I wish her well for the future," said Bishop Alan.

Caritas administrator, Dr David Livesey, said: "One of Jacinta's achievements was raising awareness, via articles for the diocesan newspaper, of the Catholic Social Teaching which underpins the work of Caritas. Particularly that it goes well beyond acts of charity to include an injunction to accompany the poor and marginalised and to empower them to voice their lived experiences."

"Accordingly, when Caritas East Anglia was launched on the World Day of the Poor, in November 2019, the homeless of Norwich were welcomed to the party. Also, unique to this diocese, were the two online synodal meetings which she organised and widely publicised via personal contacts, interviews on local radio stations - to invite all those who could not cross the threshold to join a parish event."

About these, Jacinta said: "These were particularly satisfying parts of my work. It gave me great joy to welcome participants to these events, which were appreciated by those who felt forgotten. There is so much more that can be done to welcome these people and walk with them."

Fr John Warrington, chair of Caritas East Anglia, said: "Another important thing that Jacinta did, and which the Commission will continue, was to identify the varied and diverse ways in which at the local level the work of Caritas is being undertaken throughout the diocese on the initiative of individuals. Some of those initiatives are now catalogued, as 150 Caritas News stories on the diocesan website, not so much to celebrate the achievements but more to encourage awareness of local needs and to demonstrate that launching small new parochial initiatives leads to important benefits in the lives of others."

Jacinta said: "As I move on from Caritas East Anglia, I can reflect on the many blessings that God has given me in this time. I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve within the diocese, to work closely with those serving us in ordained ministry. I'm sorry that the pandemic prevented me from travelling to meet more of you."

"I would like to thank all the good priests and lay faithful of our wonderful diocese, who have supported our work. I would also like to thank the Caritas Parish Contacts - those who have been a point of contact in parishes, sharing and passing on information and inspiration. You are a vital part of our work."



# Bishop dedicates new altar

**Cathedral mason Bruce Riley embedded relics of the saints as Bishop Alan Hopes dedicated an altar in the Chapel of the Most Precious Blood in St John's Cathedral.**

■ The event, on March 30, was attended by the Mayor of Norwich and his consort, priests from around the diocese and many representatives of the cathedral parish. During the ceremony Bishop Alan sprinkled the altar with Holy Water, anointed it with chrism oil and burned a large bowl of incense on it.

"Today's solemn dedication of the altar in the Chapel of the Precious Blood recalls us to the very roots of our holy faith and the great love that God has for us," said Bishop Alan in his homily.

"Jesus founds his Church," he continued. "Entering into a life of faith and a sacramental relationship with God, the Church came to understand that she had been chosen...to proclaim Jesus Christ to the whole world..."

"The words and the actions of the liturgy for the dedication of the altar speak powerfully of this relationship with God and each other and of the responsibilities that go with it."

"In this altar we will seal some relics of the martyrs: St Felix, the first Bishop of East Anglia; St Boniface, the English apostle to the Germanic peoples; St Felicity. They remind us that we too are called to be saints and to witness to our faith, as we seek to love God and our neighbour."



Pictured above is Bishop Alan dedicating the new altar in the Chapel of the Most Precious Blood in St John's Cathedral.

"The altar is a sacred place. It is a meeting place between God and His people. The anointing of the altar makes it the very symbol of Christ in our midst."

"As we offer Mass on the newly dedicated altar, we will commend to God's love and mercy the whole people of this Cathedral community...May God con-

tinue to inspire us all to serve and glorify Him in our words and deed and be a true witness of His love."

Bruce has been involved in both small and large scale works at the Cathedral over the decades, from refacing areas of Cathedral House and the Cathedral through to rebuilding the Columbarium

north retaining wall and endless carefully placed stone repairs inside and out.

Project architect, Suzi Pendlebury, paid tribute to Bruce, saying: "His whole working life is interwoven with the care and repair of the Cathedral along with other places of worship. He is wonderful and we will be a bit lost without him."



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## Who benefits from forgiveness

**In the latest in his Voice of Hope series Fr Alvan Ibeh looks at who benefits more from forgiveness.**



ing Him would not be easy and is not be something anyone would be forced into. So, if we have made up our minds to be his disciples, we must be ready to forgive unconditionally and with no limits; "Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother who sins against me?' Up to seven times? Jesus answered. I tell you, not just seven times, but seventy-seven times!" (Matt 18:21-22)

There is no doubt that it's easy to talk about forgiveness, but the problem lies in putting it into practice. It can be difficult sometimes as human beings we all are. Forgiveness is divine. That is the reason why at that point, when it becomes challenging to forgive, we must run to God, who is our divine helper and ask Him for the grace to forgive, especially that person who has done something that broke us into pieces.

Is there someone you find difficult to forgive even as you read this? Pause now, mention the person's name and say, "I forgive you by God's grace because God has forgiven me, and I want to have my peace back". How do you feel now? Relieved right? Now, apart from the fact that we must forgive because God forgives us, there are other reasons why we must forgive.

In reality, the person who forgives benefits more than the person who is forgiven. As long as we refuse to forgive, we make ourselves victims and captives and will continue to carry

a heavy burden.

Forgiveness allows us to relieve ourselves of this burden and free ourselves from captivity. Choosing to forgive is choosing to let go of the past. If we don't, we will be stuck in our past and can't move forward. Today, many people have wasted their lives in bitterness and resentment when they would have enjoyed their lives by simply letting go. Choosing not to forgive is making a conscious decision to hand over our happiness to the other person. Remember, as long as you have something against that person, you can never be happy whenever they are around. The person becomes a custodian of your happiness, but that moment you forgive, you take your joy back.

You may say, "you don't know how this person has broken my heart, and my heart bleeds whenever I see him/her". Yes, I understand, but yet you need to know the situation can only change if you can let go and forgive. Forgiveness leads to healing because holding onto resentment and not forgiving is sinful and can affect your physical wellness. So forgiveness brings us back to good health and helps us to grow.

We freely receive forgiveness from God; let us, therefore, freely give it to those who offend us. May the Lord bless us with the grace and strength to always forgive. Remain blessed in the Lord.

Contact Fr Alvan: [fralvanibe@yahoo.com](mailto:fralvanibe@yahoo.com)

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## Diocesan joins East plastics coalition

■ The Diocese of East Anglia has signed up as a full partner in the East of England Plastics Coalition, a group of civic and business organisations determined to remove plastic waste.

"Those living near Norwich might be interested in an upcoming plastics event being hosted at the UEA," writes Fr Paul Maddison. "The event is an

interactive exhibition called 'A Plastic Journey: Science, Society and Solutions', and is happening on Saturday May 21 between 12 noon and 7:30 pm."

The exhibition line-up includes a 'Drowning in Plastic' film, a talk and Q&A session with TV presenter Liz Bonnin, a craftivism workshop, as well

as a talk on microplastics, and exhibits on plastic reduction and reuse based on scientific research, artistic responses, and community initiatives. The event is free, with no booking required.

The coalition was founded by Anglian Water you can find out more about their work at: [www.anglianwater.co.uk](https://www.anglianwater.co.uk)

## Taster days to explore postgraduate study options

■ Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology (MBIT) in Cambridge is offering an online taster Day for those considering pursuing postgraduate study in Theology, Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy, Ethics, or Spirituality.

MBIT offers online or on-site, full or part-time MA and Research degrees in partnership with the Cambridge Theological Federation and accredited by Anglia Ruskin University. It is the Roman Catholic house of the Cambridge Theological Federation. Bursaries are available.

Find out more by attending an online Taster Day being held 2:30 to 5:00pm Saturday May 7. MBIT's Co Principal Dr Anna Abram and Director of Studies Dr Louise Nelstrop will be leading some sample sessions on the day.

All are welcome to come and experience what it would be like to study in Cambridge! Details of the Taster Day are shown below and at [www.theofed.cam.ac.uk/postgraduate/taster/](https://www.theofed.cam.ac.uk/postgraduate/taster/) and [www.mbit.cam.ac.uk](https://www.mbit.cam.ac.uk)

Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology also offers online short courses and study days on various topics of interest to those wishing to deepen their knowledge about the Catholic faith, the Bible, spirituality, and how to live a more fulfilling life.

Upcoming study days in May include "Prayer and Thanksgiving is St Paul's Epistle" on May 7, "Mary and the Drama of Being" on May 21 and "Living Well, Aging Well and Finishing Well" on May 25. All are welcome. Visit: [www.mbit.cam.ac.uk](https://www.mbit.cam.ac.uk)



Some of the Cookout Day serving team with Fr Adam Sowa.

## Food festival funding boost to church

**The International Cookout Day at St Peter and All Souls in Peterborough provided a substantial boost to its fundraising for essential repair work on the church.**

■ Bishop Alan Hopes and MP for Peterborough Paul Bristow joined the event on March 26 which took place in five tents in the church garden decorated with flags from many nations. Bishop Alan celebrated Mass and afterwards announced that the Diocese is to give £150,000 to begin the survey work.

Chefs and servers had gone through necessary food safety qualifications and health and safety briefings. Contributors provided face painting, candy floss, and lots of craft work. Kevin and Sandie Batkin, Shelina Guedes and Shelton added music, with some open mike singing from three girls.

The parish welcomed to the event Deacon James Hurst from Newmarket who is the Diocesan Vicar for Finance. Deacon James will be Project Manager for the repairs and will keep the parish updated on

the necessary steps to be taken. He confirmed that the expected cost of the project is likely to be £1.3 million. An anonymous donor within the diocese is offering matched funding each time the parish raises £100,000.

The Buy a Brick fundraiser was launched at the end of January, and the parish sold out of bricks by the first weekend in March.

This simple way to raise money brought in around £3000. The parish will be putting up another board to sell more bricks and people can buy a brick a week, a month or whenever they have a few pounds to spare.

The parish was holding a cheese and wine evening on April 22, a Philippine Community event at St Luke's Church on May 29 (proceeds to be shared with St Luke's) and a Dinner and Dance on July 2 at the Holiday Inn.

If you have other ideas for funding, please contact Charles Benjamin on [info@stpetersandallsouls.com](mailto:info@stpetersandallsouls.com). You can donate to the building fund through a Just-Giving page here:

[www.justgiving.com/campaign/Stand-Ing-Together-Achieving-Miracles](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/Stand-Ing-Together-Achieving-Miracles)

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Bishop Alan Hopes in Walsingham for the Act of Consecration and, below, the icon from Ukraine.



## Bishop Alan consecrates Russia and Ukraine at Walsingham shrine

**Following the appeal from Pope Francis, Bishop Alan Hopes joined fellow bishops worldwide in consecrating Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.**

■ “It was a glorious day at Our Lady’s Shrine in Walsingham,” writes Antonia Mofat, “as we joined the Holy Father, the bishops and the entire universal Church for the solemn Act of Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Deo Gratias! In faith we await the response from Heaven. For God knows His timing.”

Pope Francis situated this Act of Consecration in a Service of Penance. He stated: “It is fitting that we should invite peace with hearts renewed by God’s forgiveness... This Act of Consecration is meant to be a gesture of the universal Church, which in this dramatic moment lifts up to God, through his Mother and ours, the cry of pain of all those who suffer and implore an end to the violence, and to entrust the future of our human family to the Queen of Peace.”

Bishop Alan especially requested that the Slipper Chapel Statue of Our Lady of Walsingham be brought into the Basilica for this occasion. He read the letter in which Pope Francis invited all the bishops of the world to join him in collegial union for the Act of Consecration.

Clergy and people from the Catholic, Anglican and Orthodox parishes in Walsingham gathered on the piazza of the parish Church of the Annunciation for an initial service of penance and Rosary of Intercession. Fr Keith Tulloch read the papal letter of introduction before leading the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary - praying, kneeling in penitence for peace,

for peace in Ukraine and for the Conversion of Russia.

Fr Christopher Knight, the Orthodox parish priest, then led a penitential prayer for peace. Afterwards the congregation processed into the parish church.

Jane Nicholson of Fara (a Walsingham-based charity), who is recently back from the border between Ukraine and Romania, was visibly moved as she presented an Icon of Our Lady who Assuages Sorrow from the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

During the apparitions in Fatima in 1917 Mary said that God wished to establish devotion to her Immaculate Heart. She added that in time she would come to ask for the Consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart.

Every parish in the Diocese was also asked to make the Act of Consecration at the end of Mass or at some other devotion such as Stations of the Cross or the recitation of the Rosary on March 25.



## Chrism Mass

**Around 600 clergy and laity joined the annual Chrism Mass at St John’s Cathedral, Norwich, on April 12 to hear Bishop Alan Hopes say that it “expresses our communion with each other as the Church in East Anglia”. Pictures by Keith Morris.**





# togetherness



Mark Little MBE, addresses the modern slavery conference in Norwich.

## Stories of modern slavery are told

**Karen Anstiss from Caritas Bakhita House in London and Poringland Catholic parishioner Mark Little were among speakers at a recent conference on modern slavery held in Norwich Anglican Cathedral.**

■ The conference was organised by Norwich St Edmund Rotary Club, and Mark Little MBE, was among the main speakers. Mark is a parishioner at Our Lady of the Annunciation in Poringland. Caroline Evans, a former head-teacher from the Club, chaired the event.

The origins of Caritas Bakhita House lie in a visit by Karen Anstiss and three trafficked women to Pope Francis. Subsequently Cardinal Vincent Nichols asked the Metropolitan Police what he could do to respond to modern slavery. Caritas Bakhita House was born as a safe house for women who have been sexually exploited or endured modern slavery. Karen is its Service Manager.

She had previously spent 31 years as a police officer, serving in the riot squad, the Flying Squad and then the Sapphire unit, which deals with rape and abuse.

Karen shared the example of a woman from Bakhita House who had fled Albania to avoid an arranged marriage with an older man, travelling to Italy with a boyfriend who then betrayed her, selling her to traffickers for £3,000. By the time she escaped she had earned some £164,000 for her owners. She is now recovering at the safe house and doing a degree in accounting.

Twelve babies – all the products of rape and abuse, have now been born at Bakhita House. The women there engage in art, yoga, gardening, baking, dog walking, art, drama and swimming. They eat together every evening, with women taking turns to cook, using menus from their home country.

St Mary's University in Twickenham now has a research centre into modern slavery, and it ran a six-week summer school for female victims of trafficking, including those from Bakhita House.

Mark Little, who helped to initiate the Norwich conference, spoke of the current

situation around modern slavery and his own fundraising efforts to support people caught up in it. He pointed out that although slavery was officially abolished in Britain in 1833, it was still far from eradicated. Thousands of people, he said, are annually trafficked into the UK from countries such as China, Vietnam and Albania.

Mark cited the example of a 15-year-old girl from Lithuania who had come expecting to take up a job in a café and who was initially sold for £4,000 then traded eight times before she managed to escape. He urged participants to be more alert to such cases. "We need people who have their eyes open, who notice when things don't look right," he said. Mark is currently raising funds through the rotary club for a safe house in Kolkata in India.

The conference then heard from Ann Marie Jones, an American victim of modern slavery, and from Carol Metzker, who had come to support her. Carol described the effects of being deprived of freedom for 14 years: loss of identity, sense of belonging, prestige and social networks.

Ann Marie said that her descent into slavery stemmed back to being molested by her brother at the age of 13. Years after the event, she began taking drugs to deal with the emotional pain, became homeless and fell victim to a trafficker from New York. "Life was a living hell," she said. "I could see the light at the top of the hole, but I couldn't get up."

She recalled the low points: washing at a fire plug, becoming barefoot when her flip flops broke, sleeping in an abandoned house with rats, and scavenging food for the first time from a trash can.

Ann Marie is now recovering at a project called Dawn's Place. She has had her criminal record for prostitution expunged and has been able to gain custody of her two children, who were fathered by the trafficker. Her plea to the conference was: "Listen, open your eyes and don't just walk away or turn your head."

The modern slavery helpline Unseen is on 0800 0121 700.



## Suffolk pupils wellie walk to tackle food poverty

■ St Felix RC Primary School in Haverhill has taken part in CAFOD's Walk Against Hunger challenge, raising money to tackle global food poverty.

The school decided that the huge playing field is an ideal place for the children to do their wellie walking challenge, but unfortunately the ground is very muddy at this time of year. The solution was for the children to put on their wellies and take on the mud.

A total of 220 pupils and 15 staff were joined by parish priest Father John Warrington and St Mary's Anglican vicar Reverend Max Drinkwater to raise money for CAFOD, and its life-saving work fighting hunger and malnutrition.

Head Teacher Andi Dodds said: "We are very lucky to have such a large playing field here at St Felix, so it seemed a good idea to put on our wellies and show our support for CAFOD in a fun way."

Annabelle in Reception said: "We went 100 steps and I enjoyed it very much. It was so much fun that my brain went pop!"

Florence in Year three added: "We made 100 steps for a good reason – to raise money for CAFOD."

Jane Crone, CAFOD's Community Participation Coordinator for East Anglia, said: "St Felix's school always support CAFOD with generosity and creativity and the Wellie Walk was a wonderful way of getting the whole school community thinking about food poverty."

If you'd like to support the St Felix's fundraising visit their JustGiving page at: [walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-felix-walk-against-hunger-lent-2022](http://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-felix-walk-against-hunger-lent-2022)

"Throughout Lent parishes and schools are raising money so that CAFOD can continue its work helping communities gain better access to food in the long-term through initiatives such as training in farming methods, and savings and loans schemes which can help families and individuals to start small businesses," said Jane.

## Prayer of peace for Ukraine

■ The Ignite Youth Team have recorded a song, as a prayer for peace in Ukraine, set to traditional Irish melody Danny Boy, in time for St Patrick's Day.

As part of their Third Thursday online assembly for schools, the team, led by Director of Youth Service, Hamish MacQueen, recorded A Prayer for Peace In Ukraine, set to the traditional Irish tune Londonderry Air, which many people know as the song Danny Boy.

Hamish, who wrote the words, said: "I'm sure I'm not alone when I feel helpless at seeing the horrific suffering in Ukraine – but one thing we can do is pray! We hope this song helps people – young and old – to pray for peace in Ukraine."

Hamish was joined by his teenage daughter Trinity, a student at Notre Dame High School in Norwich and a member of St George's Parish on vocals and on piano by Ray Travasso from St Mary's, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich.

You can hear and see the song at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=aM7NDB4XMyQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aM7NDB4XMyQ)

## Radio Maria teenagers win innovation award

Radio Maria England's Youth Team – RMEY Faith Vibe – has been named as Most Innovative in the Young Audio Awards.

■ The announcement was made on March 23. The award was given to the team which made the most innovative digital and technical achievements in audio this year. The Young Audio Awards are supported by both commercial and BBC radio and sponsored by Broadcast Bionics.

Faith Vibe was chosen because of their understanding of the value of teamwork, their innovative work, "the skills that make a modern radio station tick".

RMEY Faith Vibe began broadcasting at the end of 2020. The original team comprised Alfie, Maryam, Ashish, Danny and Dan M, who makes the jingles for the show.

"These young people have been able to shape a show that is fun, feisty and faith filled," writes Loretta Peck. "The programme has developed due to their innovation, from Disney Quotes and inspirational quotes cleverly linked to the Bible, to acting in a mini radio drama written by David Wadsworth. There is also a weekly poll and quiz in which music from movies is played, and the listeners can then message via Instagram or WhatsApp or call in live."

The programmes rely on contributions from many people, and the young presenters mould and present the content. You can hear the show on Fridays at 5pm or on Sundays at 8pm.

Alfie, a student at Cambourne Village College, has enjoyed being the innovator behind the social media such as YouTube, TikTok and Instagram to promote RMEY Faith Vibe. He enjoys the challenge of presenting his faith to the listener in an easy-to-hear way.

Maryam, a student at St Mary's, says: "I love being a part of this team because as young people we are connecting to the hearts and minds of other young people via radio waves. The five of us are quite different, in terms of our ages, genders, interests, backgrounds, and experiences, but all



Members of RMEY Faith Vibe in the Radio Maria England studio. From the left, are Alfie, Aoife, Danny and Maryam.

of us are united in our faith in God and our identity as teenagers.

"Every week, we come together and work as a team to create shows that bring fun and humour, information and facts, and messages of hope and understanding about teenage issues to other young listeners out there and we provide a safe haven for them to connect with us. We have also created an Instagram account for our show (@rme\_youth)."

Ashish, a student Hills Road College said: "I wanted to do RMEY because I was curious about how people make podcasts and radio shows. RMEY was a whole new experience for me, and it taught me how to do so much, carrying on I'd love to pursue making

podcasts in relation to what I want to do in the future, it has given me the opportunity to articulate my faith and has helped me as a young person through lockdown when there was not a lot teenagers could do. I feel it has also helped a lot of other young people who perhaps do not have a particular faith, as we know a lot of our friend who listen to RMEY are not Christians."

Danny a student from Long Road College said: "I enjoy RMEY as it connects young people around the world. I have also enjoyed researching the Gospel and interpreting it for other young people this has helped bring it alive for me as well as the listeners."

Visit: [radiomariaengland.uk](http://radiomariaengland.uk)

# Glowing day in Felixstowe

**The Convent of Jesus and Mary in Felixstowe recently hosted a 'Glo Day' led by the Ignite Team. Glo days are days for young people to grow in their faith.**

■ The day started with Ciaran Losasso (Ignite Team Leader) running games and

small groups. Hamish MacQueen (Director of Youth Service) followed this with a talk about his faith journey and he sung a song he wrote based on the words of St Paul that 'Nothing can separate us from the love of God'.

Lunch was enjoyed in the beautiful garden before workshops, including one about praying through music, was held on the beach. The day ended with Fr Luke Goymour (Chaplain to the Ignite Team) leading

a time of Adoration.

What a fantastic venue for a youth event, or in fact a day retreat or parish away day, said Hamish: "We were made to feel so welcome by Carol, one of the lay members of the community and the sisters. There's a hall, little kitchen, chapel and beautiful garden, and it's only a short walk from the beach. Perfect."

If you would be interested in using the convent for an event, please contact



Carol, email: [carol.charles65@yahoo.com](mailto:carol.charles65@yahoo.com)

If you would be interested in running a Glo day, please contact the Ignite Team, email: [dys@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:dys@rcdea.org.uk)



Bishop Alan with children in the cathedral garden after the Blessing of Families Mass.

# Bishop blesses children at end of Year of St Joseph

**Bishop Alan celebrated a Mass for the Blessing of Families at St John's Cathedral to mark the end of the Year of St Joseph.**

■ During the year an icon of St Joseph painted by Fr Luke Goymour had toured parishes around the diocese and it now arrived at its resting place in St John's Cathedral. Chris Braithwaite and his sons Joseph and Leo carried the

icon during the entry procession at the start of the Mass on Saturday March 19.

The icon depicts St Joseph standing very slightly forward of Mary and Jesus. The image of St Joseph breaks out of the border and approaches at the bottom of the icon. This is to show that St Joseph is the protector of the family.

In his homily Bishop Alan said: "In his hiddenness, in his silence, Joseph has much to say about his special vocation in the story of salvation...Joseph is a family man,

one who had a deep love and concern for Jesus and his wife Mary... he is always someone who acts with justice and is not self-centred."

Bishop Alan gave a special blessing for children and families at the end of the Mass. Families then moved to the Narthex, where there were cupcakes for the children as well as colouring in sheets of St Joseph.

Afterwards the children went out to play in the glorious sunshine in the garden, blowing bubbles and running around.

## Young walkers raise funds for new pro-life group

■ A group of young East Anglia Catholics have completed a 30-mile sponsored walk to raise funds for Abortion Resistance, a brand-new pro-life initiative.

On March 26 they hiked 30 miles along the Sandlings trail from Ipswich, passing through Woodbridge and Snape Maltings.

The young people belong to the Ward and Patten families. They include Theo and Tom Ward, sons of Sarah Ward, who is pro-life representative on the diocesan Marriage and Family Life Commission. Walking with them were Grace, Esther and Ruth Patten. The young people all attend Withernish Green Latin Mass Chaplaincy.

Abortion Resistance describes itself as "the UK's newest, youth-led, youth-focused pro-life organisation, devoted to making abortion unthinkable in the UK".

Tom Ward said: "Although we have all been pro-life for as long as we have known about the horrors of abortion, we have never had a very active role. This was an opportunity to take an active role in the UK's pro-life movement and try to make a difference by supporting a group that we believe will make a massive difference in the UK."

"Abortion Resistance aims to change the culture of death in the UK. Their mission is; to empower individuals so they can bring about a culture of life, to inspire action through education, and to encourage change by campaigning for better support for pregnant women and parents. They are starting the first UK pro-life podcast, baby baskets, regular resistance rallies and council campaigns. And we truly believe that they are going to make a massive difference in the UK pro-life movement."

[www.abortionresistance.org.uk](http://www.abortionresistance.org.uk)

Pictured below clockwise from top left are Grace Patten, Theo Ward, Tom Ward, Ruth Patten and Esther Patten.



# One of last Polish post-war generation

**Jerzy Kowalczyk, possibly the last surviving member of the immediate post war Polish generation to arrive in Peterborough, has died at the age of 89. Peter Waszak pays tribute.**

■ Born on April 5, in 1932, Jerzy was fortunately too young to experience service during the Second World War. After the war he was in Germany for five years and had served as a Polish paratrooper.

For part of 1944 the Free Polish Forces had been based in Peterborough and Stamford and some returned to the area after 1945 which may have influenced his decision to come to the UK.

He arrived in Peterborough on May 3, 1949, and lived in a hostel for migrant workers at the former

## Obituary

RAF Sibson near Wansford. There were a number of Polish families in the camp and he was the first Polish Scout Master.

After seven years at Sibson, he moved into Peterborough in December 1956.

He was one of the early members of the Polish Club at Sibson and when the hostel closed the club opened almost immediately in Eastgate Peterborough at the former Britannia Inn c1957.

Jerzy worked for a number of years at Dow Mac Tallington making concrete railway sleepers where he recalls working a 42-hour week. For 20 years he was at Perkins Diesel and after retirement became for 10 years the manager of the Polish Club in

Stanground (and was called back several times to sort out the club's affairs).

In 2012 the Peterborough Museum had an exhibition on the Peterborough Polish Community. It included the history of the Polish Association in Peterborough.

Two 'Video Kombataci' recordings were made in which the then Polish Saturday School pupils interviewed Jerzy and two other Poles, Jan Czwortek and Teresa Ambroziak. The movie clip lasts for about 50 minutes and is dated 23 11 2011.

Jerzy, who was married to Sofia, died on February 15, 2022. He was a regular at the Polish Mass at St Peter and All Souls in Peterborough.

For more memories from Jerzy see Peterborough Local History Society Magazine No 42 October 2012, The Polish Community.



Jerzy and Sofia at a Polish event in the 1990s.

# Lourdes pilgrimage returns in August

**Covid-19, the Diocese of East Anglia plans to join the wider Catholic Association family in a pilgrimage to Lourdes from August 19 to 26, reports Pilgrimage Director, Deacon John Morrill.**

■ Good news, after the cancellation of the 2020 and 2021 celebrations due to Covid-19 we are very confident that we will be able to go as a diocese and as part of the wider Catholic Association family, from Friday 19 to Friday 26 August, 2022. We hope to top 100 East Anglians for the first time this century.

The basics are these: We fly from Stansted to/from Lourdes with free transport from the

offered six hotels, ranging from 2\* to 4\* and from 5-15 minutes from the shrine. The costs (travel and accommodation with three meals each day) range from £850 and £1075 per person for double-occupancy rooms, to £1053-£1390 for single occupancy. But the only other costs are your bar and gift-shop visits.

Insurance, even more important in post-covid and post-brexite days, will be £41. We recommend that the mid-range Eliseo Hotel will be our East Anglia base, with the Beau Site (further round on the river) as the more basic alternative.

We do hope to have some extra treats this year, including taking our diocesan Mass on Tuesday August 23 up at the church in Bartres where Bernadette lived as a baby and as a young teenager, until just before the meetings with Our Lady in the Grotto. And it will be celebrated by our Bishop.

There is however one piece of very sad news. With a very heavy heart, the medical team feel they cannot get enough manpower to be able to support pilgrims in the accueil (hospital). There will be some nursing assistance for the hotels, but only for those largely independent (the Glanfield Groups at the Mediterranean Hotel will be with us, however). This will change the nature of the pilgrimage and we really regret this. This is yet another casualty of the covid pandemic.

I hope that we will be able to give some support to those unable to meet the full costs of the pilgrimage. If that is your situation, contact myself. All inquiries will be treated in confidence.

Let's make this a special time in a very special place. Book soon! God Bless,

For help contact the diocesan director Deacon John Morrill at [john.morrill@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:john.morrill@rcdea.org.uk) or at 07956 536140 or at Catholic Pastoral Centre, 12 Exeter Road, Newmarket, CB8 8LT. More detail on the pilgrimage website at [www.tangney-tours.com/pilgrimages/lourdes/catholic-association](http://www.tangney-tours.com/pilgrimages/lourdes/catholic-association)

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# Fr James meets Ukrainian refugees at Hill of Crosses

**Fr James Caulfield, parish priest of Wisbech, met refugees from Ukraine when he recently visited the Hill of Crosses in Lithuania.**

■ "I am praying for you at the Hill of Crosses," he wrote on March 14 in a message to Bishop Alan Hopes. "I have also left broken rosaries from parishioners as a prayer of the broken world praying for peace and reconciliation."

"Daily I meet with refugees from Ukraine and am moved by the generosity of the people here. I know my own parishioners are also responding generously to the appeals for help. I pray that this sign of humanity will provide an avenue for resolution of the current conflict."

Fr James went on to describe the setting and historical background of the Hill of Crosses. "This is a peaceful site in the middle of the countryside with nothing but a few farms nearby," he wrote. "As you approach there is clearly visible a hill surmounted by crosses, thousands of them."

Since the medieval period, the Hill of Crosses has represented the resistance of Lithuania to oppression. The original crosses were a form of Cenotaph to soldiers killed in battle who had no grave. The Lithuanians frequently struggled against the rule of the Russian Tzar and after a war against the Soviet Union in 1917 enjoyed a brief period of independence until the Second World War.

From 1944-1953 over half a million Lithuanians disappeared to Stalin's Gulags in Siberia where thousands died, among them many priests and religious. An estimated 30,000 partisans were executed. As a way of remembering these people wooden crosses began to once again multiply on the Hill. The Soviet forces took flame throwers to the Hill and burned the crosses, which the people replaced by



Pictured right is Fr James Caulfield at the Hill of Crosses and, below, the broken rosaries which he left there.

ones fashioned out of scrap metal or concrete. These too were cleared by the Soviets who bulldozed the site, but the crosses continued to return.

In 1990 when the Soviet Union collapsed the Hill of Crosses became a focal point of the liberated Lithuania to commemorate the lost and a place associated with the desire to live in peace. In 1993 St John Paul II gave thanks for the courage of the people of Lithuania and celebrated Mass at the Hill of Crosses.

"It has been my privilege to visit The Hill on two occasions," writes Fr James. "Once officially in my former role as Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain to the RAF in March 2019 and this year privately. On this recent occasion I was mindful of the tragedy unfolding in Ukraine and the fear in Lithuania that if unchecked the Russians

will return, and all the sacrifice symbolised by the thousands of crosses will once again be demanded of the people who have tried to rebuild their nation.

"As I stood in prayer and looked at the Hill, I took comfort from the realisation that Calvary was a place of death that became a place of hope and symbolises the eternal promise of God. Out of the current misery hope will emerge from the prayers for freedom."



## St Edmunds Abbey celebrates 1,000 years of history

■ Celebrations to mark the 1000th anniversary of the Abbey of St Edmund, in Bury St Edmunds, will get fully underway this spring after being delayed for over a year by the Covid pandemic.

■ Fr David Bagstaff from St Edmund's said: "These events are a testament to King Edmund, who led his people with wisdom and showed his Christian devotion by learning the Psalter and refusing to renounce his faith. His martyrdom is an enduring reminder to us of the need to strive to preserve the legacy we have inherited. It is important to maintain respect for the Abbey which served our town for 500 years and to take it into the future. Those who visit for Abbey 1000 will be assured of a warm welcome as we share our treasures."

A packed programme, supported by Heritage Lottery funding, will take place to recreate events of the past, entertain and look to the future. Pilgrimages will feature, the first setting out from Ely on April 4 arriving the following day in Bury St Edmunds, and the second starting at Hulme on May 9 and arriving at St Edmundsbury Cathedral five days later when ecumenical Vespers will be celebrated. Details can be found at [stedscathedral.org/abbey-1000-events/](https://stedscathedral.org/abbey-1000-events/)

A travelling exhibition will visit education establishments to explain the heritage of the Abbey and encourage young people to visit the Abbey grounds. The Town Guides have written a suite of Abbey-specific tours which explain in detail such topics as the life of a monk; the turbulent times; the relationship between the town and Abbey; what has happened since dissolution. More information is available at [www.burystedmunds-tourguides.org](https://www.burystedmunds-tourguides.org)

Between May 2 and June 9 there will be an exhibition of Abbey manuscripts loaned by Pembroke College; these were last at the Abbey 500 years ago. On a monthly basis there will be a sculpture within the Crypt of the Abbey ruins, the first seeing the return in April of a seven-foot tall monk made of steel.

Over the weekend of May 14-15 St Edmundsbury Cathedral is staging 'Abiding Wisdom - the Gift of Benedict today' which will explore the wisdom of Benedict for 21st-century life, including how we should live now following the pandemic. There will be a mix of workshops and keynote addresses by Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury and Canon Jutta Brueck, Dean of the With Community. Tickets are on sale at [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/abiding-wisdom-the-gift-of-benedict-today-tickets-250063094447](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/abiding-wisdom-the-gift-of-benedict-today-tickets-250063094447)

On the Sunday morning Bishop Alan Hopes and Bishop Martin Seeley will celebrate at a Mass and an Anglican Eucharist in St Edmundsbury Cathedral. Following worship and fellowship there will be a procession from the Cathedral into the Abbey ruins to which Catholic and Anglican Benedictine communities, lay Benedictines and others have been invited.

During the year other activities will occur for all ages, the final details of which can be found at [www.visit-burystedmunds.co.uk/abbey-1000](https://www.visit-burystedmunds.co.uk/abbey-1000) These will include a Bio Blitz; a heritage town trail; the M R James lecture on the Abbey delivered by Robert Lloyd Parry; a concert by the Suffolk Philharmonic Orchestra, and various events for schools and young people.

The finale will be a lighting spectacular between November 17 and 20 with images being projected on to historic buildings and a trail through the Abbey Gardens.

The Abbey of St Edmund was founded in 1020 in Beodericsworth, which was later to become the town of Bury St Edmunds. A small rotunda chapel was built on the instructions of King Cnut. It was ministered to by Benedictine monks drawn from Ely and Hulme and in 1081 it developed to be one of the three biggest Abbey Churches in Europe. It was significant in housing the shrine of St Edmund, which brought pilgrims from across the nations. Despite the dissolution in 1539, the ruined Abbey remains an attraction.



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[www.stscholasticas.co.uk/warden-clerk-vacancy](https://www.stscholasticas.co.uk/warden-clerk-vacancy)

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Further inquiries can be sent to

[info@stscholasticas.co.uk](mailto:info@stscholasticas.co.uk)

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# News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese

■ Every single deacon from across the Diocese of East Anglia took part in some way in a three-day Diaconate Retreat at Walsingham during March.

Dcn David Croucher said: "The retreat was led superbly by Augustinian Fr Gladson Dabre from Clare Priory and we enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of the Sisters of The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham.

"The full three-day programme was both inspiring and fulfilling and successfully involved every one of the deacons from across the Diocese in some way throughout the weekend. Importantly, the deacons thanked sincerely all those parishioners who had been praying for them during their retreat."



■ One of Suffolk's most popular parish priests was remembered at a ceremony in the front garden of St Felix RC Church, on March 27.

A bench placed in honour of Fr John McNally, who served in the Felixstowe parish from 1993 until his death in 2007, was rededicated by the current parish priest, Fr John Barnes. The bench refurbishment was organised by altar server Tony Lazell who had suggested to Fr Barnes that a rededication for a much loved former parish priest would be welcomed by local worshippers.

Tony paid tribute to Fr John, saying: "His sense of humour was second to none. Every Sunday morning when I arrived to serve on the altar, Fr John would be sitting in a chair in his sacristy waiting to greet us all before each mass. Similarly, he would go to the church entrance to meet all the parishioners as they arrive and then return to put on his vestments ready for the ceremony that he was about to conduct.

"Fr John enjoyed life away from the church. He often went into the town to reassure and comfort the homeless, spiritually and financially when not needed by members of his church.

Fr McNally, originally from Co Offaly in Ireland, started working life in accountancy before joining the priesthood. He also served in Brandon and Cambridgeshire.

Pictured above is Fr John Barnes and altar server Tony Lazell with the refurbished bench in honour of Fr John McNally.

■ Every year, Bishop Alan Hopes travels around the Diocese of East Anglia and celebrates a Lenten Station Mass in each deanery.

Since ancient times in Rome, the bishop would process around the city each day of Lent and celebrate Mass in all his parish churches. Each stop is called a "station" from the Latin "statio" which means "standing" or "stop" or "anchorage".

Bishop Alan's final Station was on April 7 at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich. Mass was preceded by Confessions and Benediction and followed by a Soup Supper in the Narthex hall.

The Norwich deanery includes the east Norfolk parishes of the Cathedral, St George Norwich, Costessey, Poringland with Loddon, North Walsham with Aylsham and Hoveton, Wymondham with Attleborough, Dereham and Sheringham with Cromer.

