



POETRY BY
HEART

My stretcher is one scarlet stain,
And as I tries to scrape it clean,
I tell you what - I'm sick of pain,
For all I've heard, for all I've seen,



**Pupil poet
wins place
in final
on page 4**



**Chrism Mass
message of
unity in faith
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**Quidenham
celebrates
St Teresa
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Called to study for priesthood

Five men have come forward and been accepted to study for the priesthood for the Diocese of East Anglia and all have very different backgrounds.

All have gone through a period of discernment and a selection process that has set them on paths of formation.

Bishop Alan said he was delighted that so "suitable and enthusiastic candidates" had been accepted.

He entrusted them to various colleges for study and formation overseen by diocesan vocations directors Fr Patrick Cleary and Fr Michael Collis.

Mike Brookes, 53, comes originally from Birmingham and first visited East Anglia 20 years ago and decided to settle here.

His parish is the Sacred Heart in Dereham, Norfolk, and worked as a psychiatric nurse before taking up his current role in social services.

He said the idea of priesthood haunted him for some time and would not go away. He took up church activities to see what would happen and his enthusiasm gradually grew to a point where he decided to take the step and become a candidate.

He will study at the Beda College in Rome.

Alan Hodgson, 50, is from Cape Town in South Africa and is a manager for British Airways where he has spent most of his career beginning as cabin crew and working his way up.

He is now living in Bury St Edmunds where he has been involved in parish work for the past year.

He said his vocation had been building up since his teenage years and he had pledged that when he reached 50 it would be a threshold in his life where he would

decide where his future lay.

"Through good spiritual direction I achieved the decision to test my vocation and I am delighted to be going to study at the Beda College in Rome which was originally set up for the Anglican priests who joined the Catholic Church to study.

"It is now the place where more mature candidates go," he said.

Mbongiseni Nyathi, 24, likes to be known as Dominic and is a student at Norwich City College coming originally from Zimbabwe but he spent several years in South Africa.

As well as seeking asylum in Britain Dominic is in the second year of a course at Norwich City College and will delay his entry to seminary for 12 months.

His first thoughts of the priesthood were cultivated by the Dominicans he met in South Africa and from which his adopted name comes but he felt his calling was to work in a parish.

He said his college has not yet been decided but will be either Allen Hall in London or St Mary's at Oscott in Birmingham.

Religious studies teacher Paul Spellman, 44, was born in Bishop Auckland in Durham but now works with the Salesians in London.

When he left university with a degree in theology and religious studies, Paul went to work for a mobile phone and telecommunications company.

He eventually turned his attention to teaching and was one of a group who helped St George's school in Maida Vale where head Philip Lawrence was stabbed to death come to terms with the tragedy.

This was done through



Fr Patrick Cleary, Alan Hodgson, Mike Brookes, Bishop Alan, Mbongiseni Nyathi, Paul Spellman, Mark Ashwood and Fr Michael Collis

commemorative religious services and prayer, he said.

His first thoughts of priesthood were inspired by the visit of a White Father to his parish when he was a boy of about nine.

This sowed the seeds and he had looked during his career at the Benedictines but as his vocation grew it became more focused on parish life.

He will also study at Beda College in Rome.

Mark Ashwood, 36, comes from Belfast, Northern Ireland. He has spent the last 12 years working as an occupational therapist in England.

In 2013 he moved to Norwich to study for his doctorate at the University of East Anglia (UEA). He is researching the impact of nerve disorders affecting the hand on people's daily lives.

While attending Invocation last year, a discernment conference at Oscott seminary he realised that God might be calling him to priesthood and thus his discernment journey began.

On completion of his PhD in 2016 Mark will attend the Venerable English College in Rome for formation and study for the priesthood.

Mark is filled with great joy and excitement to be accepted for priestly formation with the Diocese.

Celebrating marriage

The Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life will be celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich, at 10:30am on Saturday 20 June.

Certificates will be presented to those celebrating their first anniversary as well as 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 years, and more as well as to those who have had a new baby in the past year. A lunch buffet reception will follow.

"We hope you will join us," Kerry Urdzik said.

Please RSVP to her at mflc@east-angliadiocese.org.uk or 01473 251301.

Daily reflection on Web

Fr Henry Whisenant will be writing a daily reflection for each of the days between the Ascension of the Lord and Pentecost.

You can read his musings on the website at www.catholiceastanglia.org

Important pilgrimages

Please remember this month has two important diocesan pilgrimages to Walsingham - on 4 May it is an event for all the parishes and on 26 May for the children on the Tuesday of half term.

Seminararian receives Ministry of Reader



One of the Seminararians studying at St Mary's College at Oscott in Birmingham recently received the Ministry of Reader. Alfonso-Jude Belnas said it was "indeed a meaningful part of my life".

"I am so happy and pleased that Mgr Eugene Harkness, Fr Pat Cleary and Fr Michael Collis concelebrated and joined in with the festive dinner.

"I felt so blessed to have a diocese like ours. It gave me the feeling that I belong to a big family.

"Again, many thanks for your prayers and



congratulations. I am praying for you and our diocese."

Bishop Alan wrote back to Jude to say how pleased he was to hear that he was progressing in his journey towards priesthood.

Jude is pictured (above left) during the ceremony and (above) with Mgr Eugene Harkness, Fr Patrick Cleary and Fr Michael Collis.

The pathways to priesthood and religious life are discussed in a feature on page 2.

Advertisement



News from communities and parishes around the Diocese

Rector inducted at Walsingham shrine

Mgr John Armitage was inducted as Rector of the Shrine of Walsingham on the Feast of the Annunciation - an appropriate date for the major Marian place of pilgrimage in England.

Bishop Alan who presided over the Induction Mass made reference to the story of Gabriel's visit to the house at Nazareth and Mary's acceptance of her role in the Incarnation and Salvation of mankind.

"It was the perfect response to God's request when Mary said 'I am the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to your word'.

"All life is present in that first moments of conception when God

came to share our humanity," Bishop Alan said.

Mgr John said he was delighted to become Rector of the Shrine and thanked all those who had helped him since his arrival.

He said: "I am from the east end of London but I have known Walsingham for 30 years as a welcoming place for visitors and local people.

He paid tribute to the hard work of all the staff and the "support they have given me".

He also welcomed the ecumenical guests from the parish of Walsingham and the Anglican Shrine.



Bishop Alan inducting Mgr John Armitage as Rector of the Walsingham Shrine



Celebrating Mothering Sunday Mass at Bungay

Bishop Alan celebrated the Family Mass on Mothering Sunday at St Edmund's in Bungay.

During his opening remarks, the Bishop commented on the splendour of St Edmund's, especially the baptistry, reminding everyone of how lucky they are to have such a beautiful church.

Children of the parish were the readers said led the bidding prayers while the children's choir led the congregation with two of the hymns, *Ave Maria* and *Amazing Grace*.

"Before the final blessing, Bishop Alan called all the children to the front for a 'private chat' (although the adults were allowed to listen in!)," Mary Kirk said.

"During his lively exchange with the children, he explained his three key roles as Bishop - apostle, shepherd and teacher."

He later joined parishioners for coffees and cakes in the hall (below).



Bishop Alan greeted members of the congregation outside the church



Pathways to religious life

Fr Patrick Cleary outlines what a seminary student can look forward to as he embarks on formation for the priesthood.

Mgr Eugène Harkness, Fr Michael Collis and I travelled to St Mary's College, Oscott recently to take part in the Mass during which the ministry of 'Lector' was conferred on Jude Belnas, who is in his second year of studies preparing for priesthood.

It was a moving ceremony which emphasised the importance of proclaiming the Word of God in the liturgy and putting into practice what we hear proclaimed in our everyday lives. Jude is now a Lector, a universal ministry in the Church. It is to be understood in that context rather than just a step towards ordination.

Up until 1970 those preparing for priesthood were conferred with four minor orders which were Acolyte, Exorcist, Doorkeeper and Reader. (The early church also had Fossores, tomb diggers, but other people take care of that these days!)

Before any of the minor orders were conferred, the candidate was tonsured, a clip of hair was removed, at one time this was more than a clip as can be seen in depictions of medieval monks with a bald circle on the crown of the head.

The **acolyte** carried candles during liturgical services and brought the bread and wine to the altar, rather like our offertory procession. and presented wine and water at Mass. In fact, it was largely what our present day altar servers do.

The candidate for **exorcist** was told by the bishop, "As you drive forth the devil from the bodies of your brothers, be sure to reject from your spirit and body all impurity and iniquity, so as not to be slaves of him from whom you deliver others." Each diocese has an exorcist, is isn't any longer something automatically conferred on those on the road

to priesthood.

In the early Church, it was the duty of the **Porter** or Door Keeper to ring the bells for Mass and for the offices, open the church and the sacristy, hold the book in front of the preacher and keep troublemakers out of the church!

Lectors had (and have) the privilege of reading the Scriptures during the liturgy. The Bishop addresses them thus "Apply yourselves to reading the word of God in a clear and distinct manner to instruct and edify the faithful."

After the minor orders came the major orders of **Sub Deacon, Deacon** and **Priest**. Seven in all. A satisfying and significant number. During the Pontificate of Pope Paul VI, the minor orders, along with the sub diaconate, were replaced with the ministries of Lector and Acolyte both of which must be conferred before ordination to the diaconate and priesthood.

The motu proprio 'Ministeria Quaedam' of Paul VI dated 15 August 15th 1972, says that the term 'minor orders' has been replaced by that of ministries. Two of what were called Minor Orders, those of Reader (Lector) and Acolyte, are kept in the Latin Rite church. The motu proprio said that both ministries were to be conferred on those preparing for priestly ordination allowing a significant period for these ministries to be exercised by the candidate before ordination to the diaconate.

The minor order of 'Lector' was probably the most historic of the minor orders. The Council of Sardica (343) mentions Lectors alone as necessary for those preparing for diaconate and/or priesthood.

As we witnessed Jude being conferred with this ministry we were keeping alive an ancient tradition in the Church and we wish him well as he continues his journey towards priestly ordination.

Discernment to vows at Carmel

Women called to religious life also go through many stages of development and formation. Here Sr Teresa from the Quidenham Carmel monastery discusses the contemplative life.

The first idea of a religious vocation can enter one's thoughts in a variety of ways. For some it is a still small voice of calm which builds up over time until it becomes clear that some action has to be taken. For others it comes very suddenly and prompted by something read or heard.

The next step is to find somewhere to enter. Although websites can be very useful in showing what a particular house looks like, and also what sort of spirit it has in a general kind of way, I think a religious vocation is such a deeply personal and intimate occurrence that technology can only be of very limited help.

In practice most people who enter Carmel have done so on the advice of a spiritual guide. I certainly did. The first thing that needs to be discerned is to which religious way of life is one being called.

I went by process of elimination. I knew I would never be able to cope with an active religious life, and this was not only because I did not have the necessary qualifications and skills for teaching, nursing or social work, but mainly because whatever I did had to be total and radical, and without being able to put my finger on it at the time I knew that I needed enclosure in order to be able fully to focus on what I had undertaken.

Although I was very attracted to the Benedictines I knew that I could not cope with *lectio divina* which is one of the basics of Benedictine monasticism: I didn't have the intellectual capacity that was called for. Carmel with its emphasis on silent prayer made me feel much more at home.

I then contacted the novice guardian at Quidenham and was asked to come and stay in the guest house for a few days, to meet some of the sisters, including the novices.

At the end of the visit I knew I had to ask to be admitted. I did so informally and was told, much to my surprise, that I would be allowed to enter, subject to the community's vote. I joined 11 months after realising that I had a Carmelite vocation.

One enters as a postulant in one's own clothes; postulancy lasts from a minimum of six months to a maximum of 18 months. Then one is given the habit and is admitted to the novitiate proper and this phase lasts for two years.

At the end of this time the novice asks to be admitted to the profession of temporary vows. Throughout postulancy and novitiate one learns the basics of Carmelite life, partly through regular conferences by the novice guardian and a variety of other sisters and partly by getting to know and love the community, and living in it day by day.

The period of temporary vows lasts three years and at the end, all being well, one goes on to solemn profession, at which one makes vows for life.

Celebrate Pentecost - the Church's birthday!

PENTECOST SUNDAY
24th May 2015



Did you know that the feast of Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the Church? It is called that because Pentecost is when the apostles went out among the people and began spreading Jesus' message, thus establishing the beginning of the Church.

Pentecost (Greek for "50th day") is celebrated by Christians 50 days after Easter, and marks the day that the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles while they were cowering and hiding behind locked doors following Jesus' resurrection. After receiving the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit, the apostles immediately went out and preached Jesus' message to everyone—even those who spoke other languages.

Nine days to prepare for Pentecost this year:

The disciples waited in unity and prayer for the Holy Spirit for nine days after Jesus' ascension to heaven. Jesus asked them to pray constantly in the upper room until the descent of the Holy Spirit. "They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers." (Acts 1:14).

As Christians we share the gift of the Holy Spirit given freely to us at our baptism and confirmation. How can we celebrate the gifts of the Holy Spirit working within us?



Come Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the power of your love.
Send forth your spirit
and they will be created,
and you will renew the face of the earth.
AMEN

Celebrating Baptism

"I baptise you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit".

Pope Francis suggests that we remember our baptism anniversary as a celebration. Do you know the date? Is it in your diary as a day to remember? The Pope suggests a pilgrimage to the church you were baptised to give thanks. If you were baptised as a baby or a child and can't remember the experience maybe you can ask someone who was there what the day was like. As a family share memories of the day with each other - are there photos, funny stories, a christening gown, a candle? If you were baptised as an adult, spend some time remembering the experience and maybe share those feelings with someone.

Pray for your godparents and those who shared their faith with you.

Celebrating Confirmation

"Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit."

The effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as given to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. We often choose a saint as a patron at the time of our confirmation. Who is yours? Why did you choose him or her? Do you celebrate his or her feast? Share the story of your saint with someone. Ask your patron saint to pray for you. Pray for your confirmation sponsor and all those who supported you by sharing their faith.

Prayer: Commit to saying the traditional prayer of the Holy Spirit - "Come, Holy Spirit" from Ascension Day to Pentecost Sunday.

Study: Read through the amazing account of Pentecost in the second chapter of Acts.

Give: Talk to someone you wouldn't normally speak to. Break the silence.

Share your faith: Wear Red. It's the colour for the vestments for Pentecost. Be ready to explain that it reminds us that the Holy Spirit came as tongues of fire. It might start an interesting conversation.

On Pentecost Sunday why not celebrate with cake and candles. For a really dramatic moment light a sparkler!

A story from the desert fathers.

Abba Lot came to Abba Joseph and said:
Father, according as I am able, I keep my little rule, and my little fast, my prayer, meditation and contemplative silence; and, according as I am able, I strive to cleanse my heart of thoughts: now what more should I do?

The elder rose up in reply and stretched out his hands to heaven, and his fingers became like ten lamps of fire.

He said: Why not become fire?

**Be who God created you to be and you will set
the world on fire!**
- St Catherine of Siena



Glass artwork marks 150th anniversary

To mark this special 150th anniversary of the founding of Notre Dame School in Norwich, Bishop Alan blessed a glass art piece entitled "Aspire and Soar".

Artist Susan Purser-Hope was commissioned to produce a commemorative artwork with the theme of education and how it can expand lives. Soaring birds were chosen as a symbol of how education expands knowledge.

Each pupil in the school created a paper bird with a word or phrase indicating what education meant to them. Susan developed these ideas into 'fused' glass pieces. These birds soar up the staircase towards a maze created by the artist.

The greenery of the maze represents the verdant, garden-like environment of the school, even though it is located in the heart of the city.

At the heart of the maze are the founding Sisters with generations of pupils and staff wandering through its centre.

Head teacher Brian Conway said: "We wanted to do something that's lasting that will be there for the next 150 years, and we wanted to capture some of the thoughts of the students."



Head teacher Brian Conway with Bishop Alan and the artist Susan Purser-Hope

Children performed in Gorleston church music festival



A group of 21 children from St Mary's School in Gorleston took part in the town's Music Festival at St Andrew's Church.

The children, some pictured left, performed in different classes with a wide range of instruments - violin, clarinet, recorder, keyboard, saxophone, flute and piano.

Rachel Salton has worked with the school in recent years and dedicated her efforts to helping every child to have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument, be able to perform in settings other than the school and enjoy making music together.



Way of cross to Walsingham

Pupils from St Bede's in Cambridge are pictured above on their pilgrimage bearing their 2015 Walsingham Cross. They caught the train to Kings Lynn where Fr Henry Whisenant celebrated Mass at the church of Our Lady of the Annunciation.

Before the serious walking part of the pilgrimage they prayed at the Pontifical Shrine to Our Lady of Walsingham in a side chapel of the church.

The group said: "We made our own private intentions for the pilgrimage, lit a candle, and set out. Fortunately, Rev Crompton's mini was acting as our Sherpa Van to carry our sleeping bags to Hunstanton.

"When we arrived the rectory of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour and St Edmund, where we were sleeping, had been made warm and welcoming for us.

"In the morning brave parishioners made their way through 11 sleeping boys stretched across the parish hall floor and prepared breakfast for us all, for which we were very grateful.

"We then chanted the psalms as part of our morning prayer, and headed off along the coast to Holme-next-the-sea. We passed the ruins of St Edmund's chapel where Chance (one of the walkers) did a passable impression of the wolf which guarded the saint's head after he was killed by the Danes.

"When the bus arrived it took us to Wells-next-the-sea where we lunched before making the final leg of our pilgrimage to Walsingham. With two miles to go only some Kendall Mint Cake pushed us through the last part of our journey.

"We were very glad to get to the Anglican Shrine at Walsingham."

Br Robert explained the origins of the shrine after dinner and the next morning an Anglican Eucharist in the Barn Chapel was followed by 15 minutes of Ignatian prayer led by Mgr John Armitage from the Roman Catholic Shrine.

The students walked about 16 miles over two days, but everyone thought the effort was worth it.

Musical spirit winning at St Martha's



Musicians from St Martha's school in King's Lynn took part in the 90th anniversary concert of the Norfolk County Music Festival on Sunday 8 March. Thirty Year 5 children played ukuleles and performed songs from around the world. These children will also take part in the national Music For Youth along with 30

Year 1 children, contesting for a place to perform at Birmingham Festival Hall. St Martha's school Choir, pictured above, took part in a Young Voices Concert in the O2 Arena with 7,000 other children. "Music is a gift for all and we celebrate that gift for children in St Martha's King's Lynn," Helen L'Estrange said.



Niamh poetry winner

One of the youngest competitors from Sacred Heart School in Swaffham, Niamh Hodges, carried off the top prize at Norfolk's of Poetry By Heart contest.

She is pictured here, right, with joint competitor Charlotte Turner.

Niamh was the overall winner and was awarded a certificate and anthology of this year's Poetry By Heart.



Diocesan Schools in Focus

Students enjoy Rome

Eighteen students and two tense teachers from the classics department at St John Fisher School in Peterborough visited Rome where they saw the Spanish steps and spent time contemplating the views and drinking in the Italian culture.

At the Colosseum the group looked round imagining the sights, sounds and smells of the gladiatorial games before going into the Roman Forum - the religious, political, commercial and cultural heart of the ancient city - climbing the Palatine hill to look round the remains of imperial palaces.

"With feet aching we finished the day in the Piazza Navona, looking at Bernini's sculptures on the Fountain of the Rivers, buying souvenirs and drinking in the sights," the group said.

"Saturday morning saw us arriving at the Vatican Museum. We went on a whirlwind tour, looking at centuries of sculpture and painting.

"A highlight was the original statue of Laocoon and his sons being devoured by

the sea serpent sent by Poseidon.

"We also saw 'The School of Athens' by Leonardo Da Vinci in one of the papal rooms, that also included a portrait of Michaelangelo, supposedly inspired after Da Vinci had seen the paintings on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel."

Walking round the corner to St Peter's Square the group was unable to get into the basilica as the Pope was inducting new cardinals, however they watched the service on huge screens and drank in the architectural beauty.

"As people of faith it was a very moving experience. Walking back over the River Tiber we visited the Ara Pacis on the way to the Piazza Del Popolo, some of us chose to sit and watch the Chinese New year celebrations, while others went for pizza and ice cream."

Sunday's airport transfer was interrupted by a visit to Ostia Antica, ancient Rome's port and a very well-preserved Roman town.

They returned to the UK, footsore and weary, but feeling enriched.



Classics students enjoyed the sights of ancient and spiritual Rome

Sheriff stresses importance of women leaders

St Mary's School in Cambridge celebrated International Women's Day with a talk on women and leadership by the Sheriff of Cambridgeshire, Linda Fairbrother.

She described what it meant to be a leader and encouraged girls to believe in themselves and to shatter glass ceilings.

Linda also highlighted key statistics on the gender pay gap and proportions of men and women in senior management.

"It is an honour to be speaking to the St Mary's School, Cambridge students on the issues of women.

"It is so important for women of all ages to have self-confidence and aspirations to succeed. I want to encourage students to believe in their own ability and not ask 'why me?' when considering an academic subject, university course or job role but more importantly ask 'why not me?'"

Headmistress, Charlotte Avery, said: "International Women's Day highlights the personal ethos and values of our founder, Mary Ward, and the contribution women like her have made to the future prospects and happiness of girls today.

"It is so important that our students understand from an early age the role of women and how far we have come; and how far there is still to go in terms of gender equality."



Carrying cross to raise cash

Pupils from St Benedict's Upper School took part in sponsored walks carrying a large wooden cross to remember Jesus on his way to death on Calvary.

Each student walked several laps of the field with the cross carried on their shoulder. The sixth form helped stamp sheets. Year 8 made their own comics and sold them in the Learning Resource Centre!

Year 9 brought artistic talent to their Lenten fundraising with the creation of a coin mosaic which depicted a stunning cockerel looking resplendent in all the shades and tones of the donated money.

The mosaic project raised £150, which will be added to the money raised by Mrs George and 9 GEO who have held regular "pop-up tuckshops" throughout Lent.

As part of the preparations for Holy Week, Fr Mark Hackeson at St Edmunds Church displayed a large painted cloth painted by the student on Passion Sunday.

The image is based on a late medieval prayer card which includes symbols of the passion of Our Lord.

The following students helped paint the Passion Cloth over a two week period.

Lent pledges nailed down

Every year at the beginning of Lent pupils at St Benedict's Upper School make a pledge of something they were going to do/not do during Lent. They write it on a piece of paper, put it in an envelope with some money and nailed it to a cross (above) on display in reception. If they have broken their pledge, they take their envelope down and donated their money straight to CAFOD. If by Good Friday, they have kept their pledge, they can choose whether to donate the money to CAFOD or keep it themselves.

The Pledge has been a good talking point with many students asking about what the cross is and how their pledges have been going.

Interactive Holy Week



Year 7 students at St Albans School in Ipswich experienced Holy Week in an interactive way.

They travelled His journey from Palm Sunday and wrote their hopes and dreams on a stone and placed it on the road.

They enacted the last supper, followed by the loneliness of Gethsemane.

At the cross, they prayed for those suffering and experienced resurrection with chocolate mini eggs.



Bishop Alan enters the Cathedral where the Holy Oils are waiting to be blessed and takes his place among the priests and deacons



Bishop Alan: 'A key moment marking a special bond' Diocese united at Chrism Mass

The Cathedral was packed for the Chrism Mass on the Wednesday of Holy Week.

Bishop Alan welcomed about 1,000 lay men and women representing all parishes of the diocese, seminarians, several who had been selected to begin formation for the priesthood, members of religious order and consecrated life, deacons and priests.

He said all were united in the faith guaranteed by the Bishop and had gathered to celebrate one Eucharist which meant that unity went further and reached out to Pope Francis and the Universal Church.

During the Mass Bishop Alan blessed the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens and the sacred Oil of Chrism which would be used in liturgies and sacraments in then parishes throughout the coming year.

"The Chrism Mass is also a key moment in which the special bond of the unity between the bishop and his priests is powerfully expressed as they renew their priestly promises and their commitment to serve you, God's people.

"Our unity as the local church, our communion with

each other - lay, religious, deacon, priest, bishop - is something we must never take for granted and seek to strengthen at all times.

"For our unity is not of human origin. It is a oneness that comes about from our union with the crucified and risen Lord through Baptism, made possible by the ministry of the bishop and priests.

"It is a unity and oneness for which Christ himself prayed."

He reminded all that through the faithfulness of daily life they shared a vocation to witness to Christ and his Gospel to the people of the world.

He also recognised that in an increasingly secular world this was a challenge but through unity the proclamation of the Gospel would be so much more powerful and credible.

Bishop Francis made a special appeal to the priests of the diocese.

"Pope Francis advises us that we must take time for study of the scriptures and we must always make space in our busy days for deep and personal prayer," he said.

In words of encouragement to the priests he added: "None of us is worthy to be a priest of God who uses us in spite of our imperfections and sins.

"Only Christ, the great High Priest is worthy and it is he who acts in and through us for the good of his people.

"We must take heart from knowing this! "On behalf my myself and the diocese, I want to express my very real gratitude to you and our fellow deacons for your faithfulness, fortitude and the loving and uncomplaining ministries you carry out each day.

"I ask you to please pray for me, that I may be given the grace to worthily carry out the episcopal ministry the Lord has entrusted to me."

At the Chrism Mass the priest, deacons, religious and the lay faithful all renewed vows and promises to the bishop and the church.

The Holy Oils were then blessed and carried back for distribution to the parishes by the Deans after a highly colourful and musical service as a prelude to the Triduum of the Last Supper Mass, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil.



Deacon Andrew Eburne sings the Gospel and Bishop Alan consecrates the Holy Oils



Bishop Alan prepares to welcome the gifts and the choir awaits its cue



Clergy and people together packed the cathedral



Candidates and Catechumens set out on last lap towards Easter

On the first Sunday of Lent Bishop Alan welcomed at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist Candidates and Catechumens who would come into full communion with the Church at Easter.

With their sponsors they travelled from parishes across the Diocese of East Anglia to begin the final stages of their journey into the Church.

The Bishop gave them encouragement as they approached Easter and their new lives in Jesus Christ and his saving power.

Individuals and families had followed the courses of instruction and were ready to commit themselves to the church.



NEWS

from THE CATHEDRAL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST



Looking after the children's hygiene is a priority for Wilma in her community

Tambogrande group need £4,500 to support workers

The Tambogrande Group at the Cathedral needs to raise £4,400 to support work in its twinned parish in Peru.

Since 2010 the parish has supported Wilma, a schools health worker and an agriculture teacher in the high school.

"We are their only source of funding, as the local non-governmental organisation was unable to pay them which is when we stepped in," Sarah Ebelewicz said.

"Wilma's roles are many and varied. Last year she helped monitor the hygiene in the school environment - nit watch, toilets and handwashing facilities - as many don't have running water.

"She helped to deliver food to the schools and oversaw outdoor kitchens."

Now the group is looking to help teacher Ernesto who helps the children learn about raising guinea pigs for food, planting, tending and harvesting vegetables. "These are important skills

for the children in a largely agricultural area," Sarah said.

"We need to raise £3,000 for Ernesto and £1,400 for Wilma each school year - March to December.

Situated in NE Peru, close to the equator, Tambogrande has seen the effects of climate change with increasing periods of prolonged drought.

In the nearby irrigated San Lorenzo valley mangoes, papayas, limes and rice are important crops.

"Life is hard for many agricultural workers and wages are low, despite many small producers forming co-operatives to increase profits," Sarah said.

"Our association goes back to at least 1978 which in itself is something to celebrate."

The link was established between the then Third World Group (now Justice and Peace) and the late Sr Teresa Hartley

a Notre Dame sister linked to Norwich.

"One member of the community in Tambogrande is Sr Marleny SND, herself a teacher who heads the Fe Y Alegria Number 48 school network.

"This comprises 37 schools ranging from a tiny pre-school to a large high school. The network educates 2,433 children - 2012 figures, and also works with the communities around these schools," Sarah said.

Fundraising began with Lenten soup lunches at St John's and the next event is a "quiz and ploughmans".

Sarah thanks all the parishioners past and present who have faithfully and quietly supported Tambogrande, the soup servers, cake, craft and sweet makers, stall servers and those who hand cheques or cash to send to Tambogrande.

To help please contact Sarah on 01603 506873 or Pam Smith on 01603 460764.



The Cathedral hosted fun pancake races on Shrove Tuesday and dozens took part including Bishop Alan.

Fr David, Dean, said "It was a great opportunity to bring the parish together. It was flipping brilliant!"

He would like the races to become an annual event, he said.

Two artworks of Baptist's head

Two depictions of the head of John the Baptist by Brazilian sculptress Ana Maria Pacheco, former department head at Norwich Art School (now a university), have gone on display at the Cathedral.

Education officer Jo Anderton said the parish was most fortunate to be part of an exhibition of the artist's work display at three other locations in Norwich.

"Serendipitous for us, doing homage to our patron saint St John the Baptist, is a large head in Portland stone, on a tall wooden plinth, installed in the north aisle of the nave for six months," Jo said.

"Another more grizzly version of the severed head on a primitive wooden platter, with its blow-torched, charred and chain-sawn hair is in the Baptistry."



Newspaper editor to retire in July - successor needed

Dear Readers

After 23 years reporting, writing, taking pictures and editing the newspaper for the Diocese of East Anglia I have decided to hang up the notebook, publishing system and camera and go out to grass.

Yes, I am retiring and the July issue will be my last. Thanks you to everyone who

has been a friend, sent in material, kept me in touch, levelled justified criticism and helped me to produce fine newspapers on time.

I am sure you will all make my successor as welcome as I have been.

An advertisement is already published and I hope that applicants will pour in

and someone in Cambridge, Norfolk, Suffolk and Peterborough will be successful in taking up the reins.

The diocesan editorship is a demanding but rewarding role and I offer my successor my best wishes.

Patrick Byrne
Editor - Catholic East Anglia



Thanks to everyone who sends in material but please give documents a descriptive name.

The newspaper is now on the web and can be accessed from the diocesan site. But please remember when sending photographs of children to make parents aware they may be used in the newspaper and on the website.

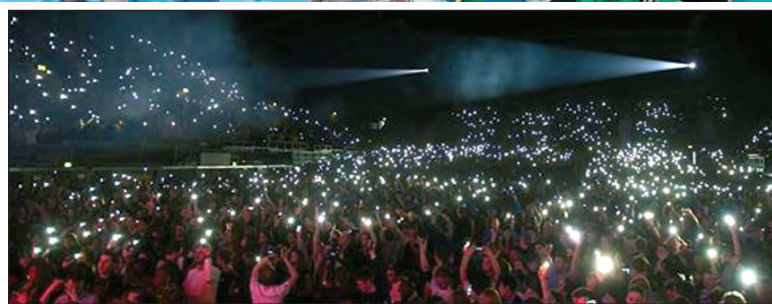
If you would like us to identify a child by name, written parental permission must be obtained for this.

Send material to:
Patrick Byrne
The Editor,
Catholic East Anglia,
The White House, 21 Ugate, Poringland,
Norfolk NR14 7SH.
Tel: 01603 627409 and email:
patrick.byrne5@virginmedia.com
Deadlines: Catholic East Anglia is bi-monthly and printed early in the month.

Material must arrive by 28 May for the JULY 2015 issue.



Youth Matters



The East Anglia group (above) and mobile phone lights(right)

East Anglia makes Flame2 burn so brightly

Along with several priests, bishops (including our Bishop Alan) and two cardinals, about 100 young people from East Anglia travelled to Wembley for Flame 2.

They helped make the event burn bright as members of a crowd of 8,000 at the huge national Catholic youth event.

Organised by the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation, (CYMFed) BBC presenters Alfie Joey and Gilly Hope introduced a line-up of speakers and performers including Cardinal Luis Tagle, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Fr Timothy Radcliffe, Baroness Hollins, David Wells and Matt Redman.

After a dramatic interpretation of St John's Gospel and opening prayer, with music from double Grammy winner Matt Redman, a message from Pope Francis was read out.

Cardinal Luis Tagle, from the Philippines, gave an inspiring talk in which he focused on sharing the mercy of

God and the joy of the Gospel.

"My dear young people of England and Wales, be the living sign in our world of God's mercy," he said.

"Be God's ears and eyes of mercy - visit the sick and prisoners, feed the hungry and thirsty, be good Samaritans. Spread the flame of God's mercy and heal the wounded world."

The Cardinal then asked everyone to get out their mobile phones and switch on the torches. For a few moments the entire arena was a sea of light.

The fast-paced programme was interspersed with dance, film, music and interviews with amongst others Baroness Hollins, who spoke of her campaigning work for mental illness.

There were also lunchtime activities including workshops run by Pax Christi, the Salesians, Columbans and CAFOD.

The day moved to a calmer time with Fr Timothy Radcliffe introducing Adoration. "We need the music and dancing to wake

us up," he said. "We need exultant joy. But we also need that quiet joy when we look at the Host at the Body of Christ ... that's a time when God looks at us too," he said.

"Adoration is like sunbathing but more than that. The monstrance looks like the sun. You feel the warmth of God's love. We say 'Let your face shine on us'.

"God knows all the worst things that you have done and he still delights in us. You are His. And he is yours.

"We let God look at us and he sees the immense capacity for goodness and holiness that everyone of us has - and he may invite us to do something crazy.

"In Adoration we look at the Lord and the Lord looks at us.

"God's smile dares us to give away our lives - because this is the greatest joy that can ever be. This is the joy we were made for."

"I don't think anyone could have left Wembley without being touched in some way," Hamish MacQueen said.



Ben from the East Anglian group in the green hoodie on stage at Flame2



Bishop Alan at last year's Celebrate East Anglia event

Faith-filled weekend at Celebrate

Get ready for Celebrate East Anglia - a faith-filled weekend for people of all ages.

Diocesan Youth Service director Hamish MacQueen said: "There are age appropriate streams for children and young people as well as adults, so because young people are a major part of it, we are really pleased to be working closely with the Diocesan Service Team to put Celebrate on, now in its third year.

"There will be talks on the theme 'Your word is a lamp for my feet' (Psalm 119) as well as seminars and lively music."

Here are some of the comments made about Celebrate East Anglia last year:

"I loved the praise and worship....the music was uplifting."

"Talks were helpful and inspiring"

"My children want to come back every week!"

This year Celebrate East Anglia is on 30-31 May in Bury St Edmunds. Everyone is welcome but numbers are limited so early booking is recommended.

Please see www.catholic east anglia.org/youth and follow the link to 'Celebrate' for more information.



New exciting era for team

Update on Ignite Festival and Ignite Mission Team from Hamish MacQueen, Director of Diocesan Youth Service

At the time of writing this, we have over 250 young people booked in to come to our Ignite Festival at the beginning of May and several applicants to join our new full time Ignite Mission Team next September. God is doing amazing things!



We are entering a new exciting era of Youth Ministry in our Diocese. I am constantly amazed at God's provision and how plans that we have had for many years now seem to be falling into place.

Please continue to pray for young people, that the Ignite Festival goes well and for the logistics of starting up the Ignite Team.

In particular, at present we only have a mission team base to accommodate three team members.

Please pray we find larger accommodation so that we have the flexibility to accept more team members... and if anyone owns a large property that is sitting empty and they would like to loan it to the Diocesan Youth Service, do get in touch!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2015

- May 2 - 4 Ignite Diocesan Youth Festival at Swaffham and Walk to Walsingham
- May 30 - 31 Celebrate Family Conference, Bury St. Edmunds
- June 14 Regional Youth Mass in Cambridgeshire
- June 28 Regional Youth Mass in Suffolk
- July 25-1 Aug Pilgrimage to Santiago Compostela (to be confirmed)
- Aug 3 - 8 New Dawn Family Conference, Walsingham
- Aug 20 - 29 Pilgrimage to Lourdes
- Aug 27-31 Youth 2000 Prayer Festival, Walsingham
- Aug 28-31 Summer Camp, Norfolk

For more details of each event, please see www.catholic east anglia.org/youth

Book to help language learning

Stowed away in luggage en route to Cambodia recently were 12 copies of Croak, a children's story book about a family of birds, written and illustrated as a project by Amy Baker, a Sixth Form student at Notre Dame High School.

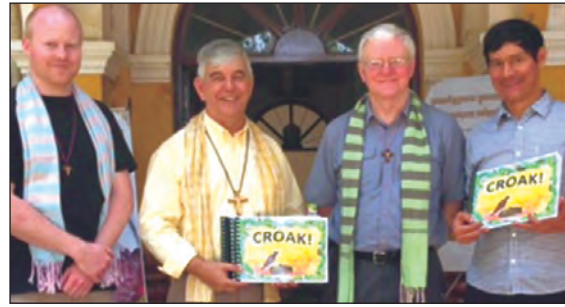
The school has a long established interest in developing countries and Amy's books would help young Cambodians learn English.

As charity and schools liaison officer of Norwich Catenian Circle, John McLean was taking the copies of Croak to parishes and missions supported by the Diocese.

With his son Philip, John met Bishop Kike, the Apostolic Prefect of Battambang Province and his assistant Fr Pedro Gomez.

"They could immediately see how Croak would be useful for young, and not so young learners, especially in the extension of their vocabulary," John said.

Also stowed in the luggage were other learning materials such as paper, pencils and pens as well as a supply of toothpaste and toothbrushes, much sought-after in Cambodia, and all kindly



Philip McLean, Bishop Kike, John McLean and Fr Pedro Gomez

donated by the children of the First Communion Group at St John the Baptist Cathedral and other supporters and friends.

Pupils from St Augustine's Primary School at Costessey also donate small amounts of money for water project in Cambodia.

"Bishop Kike was pleased and grateful for St their support and he envisages that it could be used to purchase and install a water purification system or a toilet for the disabled," John said.



These student cross pilgrims stopped for lunch at March on their Holy Week walk between Kettering and Walsingham. They were greeted by the Women's Group at Our Lady of Good Counsel parish in March.

Bursary awards of £75 were presented by Norwich Catenian vice president Mike Prior to Emily Fenton and Alexandra Bannon, sixth form students at Notre Dame High School, who have volunteered to join the HCPT pilgrimage to Lourdes in the summer.



Charismatic message from renewal leader Jenny

Charismatic Renewal leader Jenny Baker was guest speaker on Evangelisation at the Bowthorpe Worship Centre in Norwich in February.

This event drew large numbers including families with young children who had their own agenda for the day and later joined the adults for Mass celebrated by Fr Sean Connolly, Diocesan Vicar for Evangelisation, pictured right.

"Jenny is a member of the National Service Committee for Charismatic Renewal in the Church and a great evangelist and ecumenist," Anne Murrin from the Charismatic Renewal in East Anglia team.

"She reminded us that we are all disciples of a God who loves us passionately, describing discipleship as 'following the Master so closely



that you will always be covered by the dust of His feet'.

"She decried muscular Christianity (just 'doing' things ritualistically) - if our hearts are right with God then the 'doing' will follow through from love and

devotion enabled by His Spirit.

"We need to be Evangelistic, Ecumenical and Eucharistic - grow passion in our hearts and let it out.

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The next event hosted by the Diocesan Team for Charismatic Renewal in East Anglia is the CELEBRATE WEEKEND at St Benedict's School, Bury St Edmunds from 30-31 May 2015 - see the website: www.ccr-eastanglia.org.uk or Philip on 07910 157584).

Romero lecture attracts 60 people

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Speaker Fr Brian Pierce gave a very thoughtful and insightful talk which Peter Thorn from St John's described as "a very well rounded picture of Archbishop Oscar Romero".

Diss parish recently held a screening of The Stones Cry Out, a film by a Palestinian filmmaker tracing the story of Palestinian Christians from 1948. Rita Jackson from the Norwich branch of Palestinian Solidarity Campaign has six copies to lend out contact her on ritamaryjackson@hotmail.com

BUILDING BRIDGES in the Holy Land

Reflections on continuing work for people of all ages by Fr Paul Maddison

Our support as a Diocese for Christians in the Holy Land continues as over £3,500 was raised in the diocese last year to support the parish in Beit Sahour by funding a parish secretary. The parish priest, Fr Iyad, not only looks after a large and busy parish but also has a supportive role in the parish school where children are educated from kindergarten to year 12.

Fr Iyad also works at Bethlehem University where he is head of the Religious Education department; here Moslems and Christians learn together about both religions, promoting understanding and tolerance. A parish secretary was seen as vital in supporting his work in these important areas.

It has also provided a family with a long-term source of income and so fits in with the aims of our Diocesan Twinning : namely to provide practical and long term support. Thank you to everyone who donated to support this project.

As we continue to provide support to our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land we have been asked by the Patriarch to consider supporting Education in a specific and vital way. Education is a key part of the Patriarchate's strategy to improve the well-being of individuals and the economic and social development of society as a whole.



However, the dreams and aspirations are often frustrated by the lack of financial assistance. Attending a university is full of financial difficulties – tuition, resources, accommodation, and so forth, not unfamiliar to our own young people.

As a way of offering support the Patriarchate has established an Undergraduate Fund to provide talented young men and women with educational opportunities for future professional employment and leadership in our strongly developing society.

At the same time, retaining a strong Christian presence in the Holy Land requires well-educated men and women who can move out of poverty and challenging situations that are often beyond their control.

Providing financial support will help prospective students and their already burdened families relieve some of the stresses they face in achieving a quality education. As a Diocese we intend, over the next year, to assist talented young prospective students by financially supporting the scholarship fund.

If you would like to make a contribution, or raise some funds in your parish please contact Fr Paul Maddison (pm@pilgrimagepeople.org) or the Diocesan Finance Office.



Traditional Palestinian dress maintains culture

In the Middle East, access to education has improved dramatically over the past few decades, and there have been a number of encouraging trends in women's education. Women are more likely to enroll in universities than they were in the past.

The gift of a scholarship will help our young Christian men and women, in particular, achieve the gift of a university degree. Many are demonstrating the ability to be successful and have strong aspirations to move forward.



The University at Bethlehem where now women are more likely to enroll than in the past but scholarships are important

Support for people in the Holy Land by the Diocese both financially and spiritually continues

CAN YOU HELP?

Our two 'Building Bridges' projects this year are renovating the Taybeh Old People's Centre in the Holy Land and a new formation centre for children, youth groups and adults at Battambang in Cambodia.

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

First Name.....

Surname.....

Address.....

.....

.....

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

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

CAMBODIA (Battambang Centre)

HOLY LAND (Taybeh Centre)

GIFT AID DECLARATION (if appropriate)

I wish the RC Diocese of East Anglia to reclaim tax on this donation. I have paid an amount of UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the tax amount claimed by all the Charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) to whom I have donated in that tax year. Only tax arising from Income or Capital Gains applies to Gift Aid. Other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.

Signed.....

Date.....

Please send to:

'Building Bridges', 21 Uppate, Poringland,
Norwich, NR14 7SH
Registered charity no. 278742

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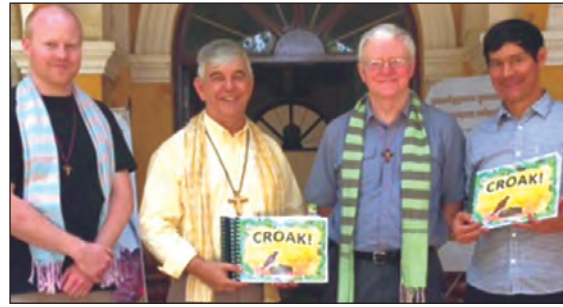
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