



Mexican tradition for parishes - page 3



Families in silent walk of witness - pages 6-7



New hall blessed at St Oswalds - page 12

Reaching those no longer practising faith Parish teams in new mission

Parishes have been invited to set up a team or teams of missionaries to explore ways of reaching out to people who no longer practise their faith or no longer believe.

The New Evangelisation Commission headed by Fr Sean Connolly will offer help and encouragement with the formation of the teams.

A number of pilot programmes have already been under way for some time and the feedback from these will help in the development of the teams.

This was a major initiative revealed by Bishop Alan at the Diocesan Mass on the morning after the Candlelight procession in Norwich.

At the Mass he also paid special tribute to the parish catechists who play a special part in the work of evangelisation.

"They carry out their invaluable work in preparing children and adults for the Sacraments.

"New diocesan programmes to encourage and assist them will become ready for their future use during the course of the year.

"Our parish teams and all who aim to be missionary disciples will begin to share in the ongoing work of the Lord in making disciples of all nations.

"Let us in this coming year remember the past with gratitude, live the present with a lively enthusiasm and enter the future with confidence.

"We entrust our Diocese and all that we are doing to make God's love and mercy known in East



Silent witness procession in Norwich city centre
Anglia, to Our Lady of Walsingham, to the one who is the Star of the New Evangelisation, to the one who is the unsurpassed model for all those who follow Christ in love of God and service to their neighbour," Bishop Alan said, quoting Pope Francis.

Bishop Alan has also said the parishes must continue and extend the care they offer to those who are no longer young.

"And we must reach out to the wider community and especially those who are poor and marginalised. We must enter the future with confidence," he said.

More on weekend of celebration pages 5, 6 & 7

Bishop's Advent message to come

Our Lady of Mercy icon

More than 700 people from across the Diocese walked in silent procession through the streets of Norwich, from the Castle to St John the Baptist Cathedral to mark the next stage of commitment to New Evangelisation.

A second year is now beginning and Bishop Alan said: "We've chosen to walk under the banner 'Ignite!' because enthusiasm for their faith of our young people at a Youth Festival at Swaffham was so impressive."

The youth of the Diocese then took part in an all-night vigil before the Blessed Sacrament. "The young adults who stayed on led prayer sessions and



took part in various workshops through the night, including the painting of a new diocesan icon of Our Lady of Mercy shown here by Matt Rennie and Helen Storey.

OLEM celebrates 125th anniversary

Our Lady of the Assumption and English Martyrs in Cambridge is celebrating 125 years since its consecration.

The building that stands at the head of Hills Road in the university city has become a "place of rest, beauty and grandeur to all who pass through its doors," according to Parish Priest Mgr Peter Leeming.

"OLEM forms the heart of a busy, diverse parish set in the midst of a city known throughout the world as a centre of historic learning, contemporary research and rich artistic creativity. Its liturgical life is a treasure that attracts young and old," he said. The festival began on the Feast of Our Lady's Assumption on 15 August with Solemn Vespers and Benediction. It continued with Masses to celebrate the Blessed Virgin's Nativity and Our Lady of Walsingham as the Principal Patron of the Diocese.

Other Masses have included music by OLEM's choir and featuring many settings from Tallis, Byrd and other composers from the Tudor period.

There has also been a 125th



anniversary lecture called Catholics under the Cross - Conformity and Martyrdom in Tudor England by Dr Richard Rex, Reader in Reformation History and Fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge.

A highlight was a walk along Tyburn Way in honour of the English martyrs led by broadcaster and journalist Joanna Bogle.

Also, an essay competition was launched to include young people in the celebrations. They were asked to choose one of the 171 martyrs and write about their lives and witness and why their example is relevant today.

Primary school children were sent on an "angel hunt" in the church and to pick one of them to draw or paint.

Events still to come include a Solemn Requiem for departed clergy, parishioners and benefactors at 7.30pm on 6 November and an organ recital by Peter Stevens, assistant master of music at Westminster Cathedral, on Thursday 26 November at 7.15pm.

To mark the first Sunday of Advent a Choral Vespers will be held at OLEM on Saturday 29 November at 5pm.

On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on 8 December the Inauguration of the Global Jubilee - the Holy Year of Mercy - will take place with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 2.30pm and a Solemn Mass at 7.30pm when the preacher will be Fr Alban McCoy, OFM Conv, Dean of St Edmund's College, Cambridge.

A 125th Anniversary Dinner will take place at Magdalene College on Saturday 19 December with tickets available from OLEM Parish Office prices £65.



Church at Clare consecrated

The new church that blends centuries of history with modern day architecture has been consecrated by Bishop Alan at Clare in Suffolk.

A 200-seat extension to the original 13th century Church of Mother of Good Counsel at Clare Priory cost about £1.2m and has already won the "Building Conservation" category in the Eastern Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors 2015 Awards.

Bishop Alan, said: "This is a significant celebration in the life of the people of God here in Clare.

"We have many people to thank including former parish priest, Fr Bernard Rolls, who was so closely involved in the planning and beginning of the project and current priest, Fr David Middleton, who has brought the operation to its fulfilment

"The new building has grown out of the ancient stones over the past few years and your worship here will enable the mission of the church to grow further and flourish."

Relics from a number of saints of significance to the parish, including St Augustine of Hippo and his mother St Monica, were placed in the altar and then sealed during the consecration.

At the end of the service, parish priest, Fr David Middleton, said: "Since the church was completed in July 2013, visitors have been full of praise for the church.

At the Consecration Mass we experienced for ourselves all that



The new church at Clare consecrated by Bishop Alan



has been achieved in providing a dignified, spacious, beautiful place for prayerful worship."

Planning permission was first sought in 1996 when more space was needed for services in the church and at Clare Priory than the original 90-capacity church could accommodate. This need has increased over the intervening 19 years when it was often standing room only at Sunday Mass and special services.

The new building has been designed to avoid interfering with the fabric of the existing church and the archaeology of this special, historic site.

Clare Priory and its church are important monuments both in terms of the historic building stock of England and as the Mother House of the Augustinian Friars in the UK Province and in the entire English-speaking world.

Reflection on praying for the Holy Souls

by Fr Henry Whisenant

Saying goodbye to someone is an awkward, untidy affair. We try to ignore the impending moment until it comes, and then we usually do not say just what we would like to say. Perhaps that is why friends often cry at decisive partings, or say little or nothing at all – because words cannot communicate the jumbled mess of feelings and memories that they have.

How much truer is this when someone dies. Whether the loved one is taken from us suddenly, or with our full anticipation, we are often left with a lingering sense of what we could have done better – "I should have visited them more, I should have told them how much I appreciated them, I should have asked forgiveness for *this*, or reassured them that I had forgotten all about *that*".

The loss of a friend or family member can leave us with the burden of a proper goodbye never given.

It is possible to see the consequences of this at funerals. Sometimes the next of kin will have very precise and extravagant funeral arrangements made for their deceased, and we assume it is because they were so close to the person... But then we discover that they had in fact fallen out, or rarely been in touch, and the pomp of the ceremony is meant to assuage the next of kin's conscience, and make up for a failure to love the deceased while they were alive.

Thank goodness for our Catholic faith! Through faith we know that our relationship with the departed is not ended, nor are they beyond the sphere of our concern and affection. We have the capacity to *pray* for them, and to commend them to God.

This is what we call the seventh spiritual work of mercy: to pray for the dead as well as for the living. It is attested to in The Second Book of Maccabees, where the Jewish leader Judas Maccabeus offers atonement sacrifices for those who have died, "that they might be delivered from their sin".

To offer Mass for the holy souls, that they be forgiven their sins, and pass from the transitional purification of purgatory into the eternal happiness of heaven, is a true act of mercy... But it is also a sign of God's mercy to *us*, the living, for by it he allows us to make up for our earlier regrets and omissions, to complete the goodbye we were not ready or able to make before, until such time as, by God's grace, we meet with our beloved departed in the communion of the Blessed Trinity.

There we will delight to hear of the influence our intercessions had for them, and to discover the power their prayers had for us.

New editor welcomed by diocesan teams

The Catholic Diocese of East Anglia has appointed a new Director for Communications.

From the December edition, Keith Morris also takes over the editorship of Catholic East Anglia, the Diocesan newspaper, in place of Patrick Byrne who has produced the newspaper for the last 23 years.

Keith will be responsible for public communications and strategy across the Diocese. He will also act as the press officer for the diocese and Bishop Alan.

He will also be working closely with Gavin Dvelys, the Diocese IT Manager, in producing content for the website and the social media channels such as Twitter, Facebook and Flickr, alongside other communication tasks.

Bishop Alan said: "With Patrick retiring from his newspaper role after 23 years of wonderful service to the Diocese, this gave us the opportunity to look at our wider communications strategy.

"We hope that Keith's appointment will enable us to more effectively communicate the vision and the mission of the diocese and all the positive things that are going on in our parishes throughout East Anglia."



Finance manager John Pitt, Ignite team Clare Storey, Bishop Alan, new communications manager Keith Morris, Diocesan youth director Hamish MacQueen and Ray Lambert from CathCom who publish the newspaper

Keith has a journalistic background, working for the Eastern Daily Press for seven years, editing magazine titles and as corporate communications manager for local media group Archant for the past 16 years.

Keith is also the publisher of the award-winning independent ecumenical Christian news website Network Norwich and Norfolk, has edited the Good News for Norwich & Norfolk newspaper for over 20 years, is a trustee of Norwich Vineyard church and is married to Nicky, who is a GP.

Keith said: "My Christian faith and ecumenical background meant that I jumped at the opportunity to help the Diocese with its communications. I have already

heard so many great stories of people, events and initiatives that deserve a wider audience and I am very keen to receive news from people across the Diocese on a regular basis.

"I will be using the established Diocesan newspaper to publish this news, alongside the new Diocese website, social media and other communication channels. I am really looking forward to meeting more people across East Anglia and getting stuck into the role."

Feel free to send your news items and pictures to Keith at comms@east-angliadiocese.org.uk or ring him on 077127 787762. The deadline for Christmas edition contribution is 28 November but please send before if possible.

SFLG ST FRANCIS LEPROSY GUILD

**120th Anniversary
Mass of Thanksgiving
for our Benefactors**

at

**The Church of the Immaculate
Conception
Farm Street, London W1K 3AH**

on

Wednesday 28th October 2015 at 6 pm

Principal Celebrant

**His Eminence Vincent Nichols
Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster**

The Mass will be followed by a reception and a presentation by Medical Elective Students on their work and experience in Asia

All are welcome

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NEW EVANGELISATION

Global Jubilee - The Year of Mercy

Holy Doors opened across the Diocese of East Anglia to welcome in a new era

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin is another important date for the New Evangelisation and begins another phase.

On the feastday, 8 December, Pope Francis will open the holy door of St Peter's Basilica to mark the start of the jubilee year: a Year of Mercy.

Following that event, 'holy doors' will be opened at cathedrals and shrines around the world, with Bishop Alan opening our own 'holy door' at St John's Cathedral after Mass on Sunday 13 December.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham will also be opening a 'holy door' and the occasion will be marked at Our Lady and English Martyrs in Cambridge as part of the parish festival of celebration of its 125th anniversary of consecration on 8 October 1890.

You might be wondering what a doorway has to do with mercy. For centuries, now, the opening of a holy door has marked the start of a Jubilee Year.

In 1500, Pope Alexander VI opened the holy door of St Peter's to start the then jubilee, offering an indulgence to pilgrims who made their way to Rome and entered the basilica through it. But holy doors go back earlier than that.

The earliest account seems to be from a Spanish pilgrim called Pero Tafur who lived in the first part of the 15th century.

He noted that, during Emperor Constantine's time in the fourth century, Christians could claim 'sanctuary' and

immunity from punishment if they crossed the threshold of the main doorway into the Lateran Basilica in Rome.

This privilege was abused, however, and so the door was closed and walled up, to be opened only at special times of grace.

At first this was every 100 years. Later this was reduced to 50. And then it was agreed the door was to be opened at the will of the Pope.

The opening of a special door is symbolic, then, of the opening a special time of mercy and reconciliation: when all of us sinners can seek sanctuary.

Of course, we can 'seek sanctuary' anytime of our lives by turning back to God and through the gift of his sacraments, but a jubilee year and a holy door serve to emphasize what God is offering us daily.

In John's Gospel (Jn.10:9), Jesus says: 'I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.' The holy doors being opened in Rome and Norwich and at Walsingham simply remind us of this fact.

In the forthcoming Year of Mercy, there is an invitation to walk through a holy door as part of a personal pilgrimage, and to realise that as you do so you are walking into a new and deeper relationship with the Lord.

This is a time not only of mercy, but also of evangelisation: a time for each and everyone of us to be more of an evangelist. Perhaps, when we do find ourselves walking through a holy door, we can make sure we take someone with us.



Pope John-Paul II at the opening of the Holy Door at the Vatican

Could Mary and Joseph be visiting your home this Advent?

There's an old Mexican tradition called 'Posada'. A young man and a young woman from the parish are selected to dress up as Mary and Joseph and then spend the days of Advent travelling from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling their hosts about the imminent arrival of Jesus at Christmas.

Modern day 'Posada' uses a statue of Mary and Joseph and the donkey instead of a young couple to travel from home to home as it's less of a safeguarding headache!

But it still provides the same opportunity for hospitality and a sharing of our Christmas faith.

This Advent, every parish across our diocese will be given a beautiful 'Posada' statue and is being asked to organise and celebrate this simple but effective form of evangelisation.

Parishioners will have the chance to sign up to host the statue for one evening in the days leading up to Christmas. As the statue makes its way around the parish, with one host family taking it to the next,

there is the chance to pray together, perhaps share a cup of tea and a cake or even a simple meal, and think about what we're looking forward to at Christmas.

One or two of our parishes have already been celebrating 'Posada' in previous years and report what a really good way it is to get to know others in the parish.

Last year, in one parish, the statue of Mary and Joseph found its way to two care homes and a secondary school, where it is featured not only in the morning's staff briefing, but also a Year 10 assembly and several lessons!!

So look out for the 'Posada' when it arrives in your parish in November and why not sign up to be a host. You'll be given a pack with suggested prayers and scripture readings for the 'hand-over'.

It's up to you how you offer hospitality and then you just give the statue pride of place in your home for a night. To be real evangelists, why not invite round some neighbours or those non-church going members of your family?



A statue of the Posada depicts the Virgin Mary and St Joseph on a donkey and one will be issued to each parish so that during Advent it can be taken around to homes so that local people can be brought together as part of the out reach for the New Evangelisation

A Prayer for Families, taken from the 'Posada':



We pray for families around the world.
For the family of our parish community.
For our own families.
For families who are separated at this time of year.
For those with no family.

That this Advent may be a time of preparation and thought;
that Jesus will be at the centre of our lives;
that we may unite and forgive each other;
that we may look forward with confidence, showing true love for one another.
Amen.



Pupils told to seek purpose

St John the Baptist Cathedral was filled to the brim as Notre Dame High School, pictured above, celebrated Mass to mark the opening of the school year. The entire school community of 1,500 made its annual pilgrimage to St John's, walking through the streets of Norwich earning compliments for the standard of behaviour from many passers-by. Fr Sean Connolly celebrated the Mass and in his homily he spoke to the students about the importance of being comfortable with who they are and stressed that each of them had a unique purpose to fulfil. After Communion headmaster Brian Conway congratulated the school on having had another extremely successful year, pointing out that Notre Dame had yet again achieved outstanding examination results. The Mass is always an important spiritual event in the school's calendar and one in which the students involve themselves with joy and enthusiasm, he said.

Clearing prayer courtyard of weeds

Trowels, forks, enthusiasm and fun were the order of the day at St Louis Middle School, Bury St Edmunds, as a team of 9 - 13 year olds volunteered to help tackle the weeds and overgrown mint that had taken hold in the Prayer Courtyard during the summer.

The enthusiastic young gardeners were invited to "drop in" and give whatever time they felt they could in order to transform our Prayer Courtyard into a beautiful, peaceful area to reflect and pray.

Girls and boys, pictured right, turned up with their gardening gloves and decided to take a patio square each and first tackle the unsightly weeds.

This soon turned into a "who can dig up the biggest weed?" competition and was accompanied by lots of laughter and many a requested "photo opportunity!" which they thoroughly enjoyed. Before long their efforts became apparent; torn up weeds were brushed away and a real sense of achievement could be felt amongst the team.

Bin bags of weeds were hauled through the school, again with lots of laughter, gaining the curiosity of



bystanders. The proud youngsters promptly asked, "Can we do this again next week?"

The team have decided that once the weeds are gone, our next plan of action is to: cut back the mint, clean the patio, sand and repaint the bench and plant daffodils ready for the spring.

Volunteer artists, also taking part in our Prayer Courtyard renovation, will provide drawings of the Stations of the Cross ready for our Lenten Celebrations in 2016.

Praise for commitment to science at St Mary's

Dame Mary Archer officially opened the new Science Hub at St Mary's School in Cambridge bringing five new laboratories - two for biology, one for chemistry, one for physics and one for sixth form science.

The Hub also includes two previously upgraded Chemistry and Physics laboratories.

The school community has raised just over £105,000 towards the development with activities including filling boiling tubes with loose change and organising a popular onesie day. The remainder of the cost has been met with previously allocated school funds.

Dame Mary said: "You have made such an investment in facilities that are not only first class technically, but first class aesthetically."



Dame Mary Archer with headmistress Charlotte Avery

'Put Jesus at centre of learning' Bishop Alan says

A new Sixth Form block has been opened by Bishop Alan, pictured right, during a visit to St Alban's Catholic High in Ipswich at the beginning of the school year.

Principal Colin Walker said: "Many sixth form took leading roles in the readings, prayers and offertory procession, which included symbols of their lives, at the Mass.

Bishop Alan encouraged the students to give firm foundations to their faith, learning and relationships by making Jesus their cornerstone.



Exciting day of theatre performance

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary in Norwich had a day theatre recently when Ten Ten Company came to the school, see picture above.

Theatre group members Kevin and Hannah arrived early and set out their props in the hall ready for the day.

The morning started with a session for parents where they saw and thought about a scene from each of the three plays the children were going to see.

The plays were based on the themes of

service, rules and changes.

The children had prepared for the performances in the classroom and followed-up the day in a variety of ways.

"It was a really inspiring, challenging and thrilling day," the school said.

"The children thought the plays were fantastic and had a lot to talk about afterwards. Kevin and Hannah had certainly given us all a lot to think about and they'll definitely be coming back again next year!"



Youth Matters

Prayer and creativity at vigil

After the procession, the celebration of the New Evangelisation continued with an all night vigil before the Blessed Sacrament in the Cathedral.

People prayed all night and different groups – mostly young people – representing their parish or deanery led a reflection on the half hour or hour.

“They were really inspiring - some read poems or bible readings, others gave a short talk or sang a song. We also had prayers led by our priests and deacons - Night Prayer at midnight, the Divine Mercy at 3am, The Rosary at 4am, Office of Readings at 6am and Morning Prayer at 8am.... It was quite a night!” commented Hamish MacQueen who helped organise the vigil.

Meanwhile throughout the night there was a programme of activities in the Narthex ran by the Ignite Team and members of the Diocesan Youth Council.

“Young people from different deaneries would come and go until the

early hours of the morning, and some stayed all night. While we encouraged them to pray before the Blessed Sacrament as much as possible, they could also come into the Narthex to join in the activities and have refreshments.” said Hamish

“Just after midnight and again at sunrise, we took groups to the top of the tower to pray for the diocese as we looked out over it, which was amazing.”

“One of the main projects was the creation of an Icon of ‘Mary Mother of Mercy’ which many young people contributed to painting throughout the night. This was brought up at the end of the closing Mass on Saturday and blessed by Bishop Alan.”

The Icon will make its way around parishes next year as a focus for prayer in the Year of Mercy.

Many thanks to the staff at the Narthex who looked after everyone so well.



Young people worked together through the night to paint the Our Lady of Mercy icon



Ignite team ignited

It was almost 20 years ago when Hamish MacQueen (now Director of Diocesan Youth Service) went to see Bishop Peter Smith to suggest the diocese have a full-time youth mission team. Hamish had already been part of a national youth mission team and was convinced of the benefits of this approach.

It took a bit longer than I had hoped but we got there in the end, Hamish said.

The team known as the Ignite Team started

in August, then after going to the Youth 2000 Prayer Festival in Walsingham spent a month training with the Sion Community for Evangelisation. They are now working in schools and parishes across the diocese.

The aim is to share the Gospel message in a way young people can relate to. This includes using music, drama, puppets, multimedia presentations, personal testimony and group work.

Meet the team members



Matt Rennie
(Team Leader)

Hello, I'm Matt. For the past 7 years I've been living near Bury St. Edmunds. I started working with Hamish a year ago to set up the Ignite Team and it is a really exciting time to be part of the diocese. Having two teenage children myself helps me keep an eye on how to keep Jesus real!

G'day, my name is Judith Turner, I'm 28 and come from a small town in Australia called Inverell. I've spent the last year in Ireland as a lay missionary and have now come to England to work with the Ignite team for a year. I really enjoy playing music.



Judith Turner



Clare Storey

'Ey up! My name is Clare, I am 26 and from a village in Cambridgeshire. Before the Ignite Team, I worked in government administration. In 2014, I graduated from Keele University where I read Geography. I enjoy singing, especially at worship, and crochet.

My name is Ben Nazareth and I come from Cambridgeshire. I recently graduated from UEA where I read International Relations. My hobbies include music, gaming, walking and playing Laser Quest.



Ben Nazareth

Ignite School Diary

November

- 1 Preparation Day for primary school retreat days
- 2-3 St Pancras, Ipswich
- 6 St Augustine's, Costessey
- 8-13 Members personal retreats
- 16-20 Preparation week for Christmas Tour
- 21-22 Speaking at Masses on National Youth Sunday
- 23 (morning) St Francis', Norwich
- 24 (morning) Sacred Heart, Swaffham
- 24 (afternoon) St Martha's School, Kings Lynn
- 26 (morning) St Edmunds, Bungay
- 27 (morning) St Mary's, Ipswich
- 30 (morning) Sacred heart School, Peterborough
- 30 (afternoon) St Thomas More School, Peterborough

December

- 1 (morning) St Benet's, Beccles
- 2 (morning) St Mark's, Ipswich
- 3 (morning) St Albans, Ipswich
- 4 (morning) All Saints Academy, March
- 7 (morning) St Mary's School, Cambridge
- 8 (afternoon) St Joseph's, Sudbury
- 9 (morning) St Augustine's, Costessey
- 10 (morning) St Alban's, Ipswich
- 14 (morning) St Mary's, Lowestoft
- 14 (afternoon) St Mary and St Peter's School, Gorleston
- 17 (morning) St Laurence's School, Cambridge

To book the Ignite Team for your school or parish (to work with youth groups, First Communion or Confirmation Groups) contact Matt on 07769315031, email: igniteteam@east-angliadiocese.org.uk



Bishop Alan welcomed the school children at the first Mass of the celebration on Friday, above, and spoke about initiatives for the future at Saturday's Diocesan Mass at St John the Baptist Cathedral, below



Young people worked throughout the night of the vigil to paint a new icon of Our Lady of Mercy for the coming year of New Evangelisation that Bishop Alan blessed at Saturday's Diocesan Mass



Diocese looks to future with confidence Bishop leads weekend of celebration

Hundreds of school children from across the Diocese of East Anglia came to St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich to celebrate with Bishop Alan a Mass for Evangelisation.

This was the first event in a weekend of celebration at the beginning of October to mark the second year of New Evangelisation.

The celebration continued on Friday evening with a candlelight procession of the Blessed Sacrament across the city of Norwich from the Castle Gardens to the Cathedral where Benediction, Exposition and Adoration began an all-night vigil by young people from across the diocese.

A Mass for the Evangelisation of Peoples was celebrated on Saturday morning by Bishop Alan who announced initiatives for the coming year when the Diocese of East Anglia will mark its 40th anniversary.

The weekend was celebrated under the title Ignite 2015 in recognition of the success of this youth event earlier in the summer.

Bishop Alan opened the celebration by welcoming the school children and in his homily he spoke about how God had inspired Mother Teresa of Calcutta to set up the Missionaries of Charity to work among the poorest of the poor.

She had witnessed deep deprivation in India during the 1930s and received a "call within a call" to reach out to people - especially the poor and marginalised.

He also spoke about St John Bosco, an Italian priest, who in 19th Century Turin set up orphanages where young men could learn trades and earn a living.

He was called to help abandoned children after seeing some as young as 12 in prison or living under bridges in the growing city.

The Mass programme which the children took home with them carried the message from St Matthew's Gospel: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit".

Then, in the evening about 700 people met in Norwich Castle gardens where they recited the Creed before walking in a silent procession of witness across the city to St John's Cathedral.

Many local people, alerted to the event by social media, watched the long procession, some asking what it was for. The procession of witness later gained publicity in local newspapers. People in the procession walked through the gardens carrying

candles "to bring the light of the Lord to all". They walked along the Norwich thoroughfares of Castle Meadow, Opie Street, London Street, Back of the Inns, Davy Place, Gentleman's Walk, the Haymarket, Millennium Place, Bethel Street and St Giles Street.

They crossed Barnes Road dual carriageway by the pedestrian bridge in groups for the sake of safety to Unthank Road and the Cathedral.

Bishop Alan celebrated Benediction and a large number of young people began an all-night vigil during which a new icon of Our Lady of Mercy was painted. Details of this are on page 5.

Bishop Alan celebrated a Diocesan Mass on Saturday morning when he spoke about the coming year as very important as the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the diocese.

It would be celebrated in the context of New Evangelisation which was a call by Pope Francis to share the Gospel with everyone - "to engage with and encourage those who no longer practise their faith or no longer believe; to reach out to the forgotten ones whom society deems unimportant or useless".

He also recalled the words of St Pope John Paul "to remember the past with gratitude, to live the present with enthusiasm and enter the future with confidence" (*Towards the New Millennium*).

Bishop Alan said gratitude was owed to all who had helped make the diocese a "strong and vibrant part of the Church in England Wales. He said the work of today was to continue with "the same creative and exciting spirit that marked the beginning of the life of our Diocese".

This was to be achieved by each parish setting up a team or teams of "missionary disciples" to reach out to those who no longer practise their faith or who no longer believe".

Entering the future with confidence means continuing to "witness to the love and mercy of God for many years to come", Bishop Alan said. "We must never become despondent, negative or cynical. We must seek to build up parish communities of love, unity and service.

"We must must work and pray for more vocations to the priesthood.

"We must continue to prepare our young people as disciples of Jesus," Bishop Alan told the people at the Mass.



Hundreds of school children opened the weekend with a Mass for Evangelisation celebrated by Bishop Alan



The Candlelight Procession of the Blessed Sacrament across Norwich began at the castle that dominates the city



People of all ages took part in the procession of silent witness



NEWS

from THE CATHEDRAL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

Hundreds of visitors came to St John's to discover its treasures and hidden places guided by volunteers some of whom are pictured below



Bishop Kike's visit to diocese



Bishop Kike visited the Diocese recently and was welcomed in many parishes including Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds (where he stayed with Fr Mark Hackeson), Great Yarmouth and Costessey where he planted a rosebush in the garden shown in the picture below. He is pictured above with Bishop Alan and said he would write about his trip for the next edition.



Record numbers see treasures

A record 3,000 visitors enjoyed four days of displays, tours and stunning views over Norwich at the RC Cathedral of St John the Baptist during Norfolk's annual Heritage Open Days event last weekend (September 10 to 13).

During the four days, visitors were able to see displays of the works of Henry Fitzalan Howard 15th Duke of Norfolk who was a prolific benefactor and builder of churches in England, including St John's in Norwich and Arundel cathedral.

Many visitors also took the opportunity to join the cathedral's Hidden Places tour, viewing places not open to the public, ranging from some of the upper reaches of the Cathedral and down to the lower depths.

There was also the chance to climb the

cathedral tower and enjoy views from the highest vantage point overlooking Norwich, with views as far as the coast.

There was also the opportunity to meet local stonemasons and watch demonstrations of their work, hear a talk on the architectural and engineering aspects of the building and browse through the 5,000 books in the Duckett Library.

One of the event organisers, David Simcock, said: "It was the biggest-ever response to the annual Heritage weekend and we had almost 3,000 visitors – the largest number of non-worshipping visitors we get during the year – and 1,000 people enjoyed the views from the tower."

Pictured above, the dozens of volunteers who helped make the Heritage days such a success at St John's.

Damaged statue of Our Lady repaired

The damaged lily held by Our Lady on her statue in the Walsingham Chapel has been repaired.

The pictures show a close-up view of the newly carved lily including the bright gold coloured stamen. The white lily is a symbol of the purity of Our Lady. Keith German carved the new lily and repaired the statue. He also carved the lily at Westminster Cathedral.



Faith grows by taking part in church community activities

Mbongiseni Nyathi, known as Dominic, from St John the Baptist Cathedral, one of the newly selected seminarians, here puts down some of his observations on the large number of different denominations which are active on the continent of Africa and also here in East Anglia.

The question that puzzles me and many others I am sure now is how do you and I remain Catholics in midst of many churches around us? I would say if you put a little effort, your catholic faith can grow on its own, gradually encompassing more and more of your life.

Firstly, understand what faith is, the meaning of the word faith, because FAITH is the centre or key word when it comes to answering this question. It means steadfastness and it entails a belief of a certain truth and that truth is God whom the Mother Church is evangelizing to you and me.

The main reason why the church exists is to evangelize the truth of who God is. Now, to remain steadfast in your catholic faith, you must be consistent in your efforts and involvement in the church. To

act in faith requires assent on your part to recognize that your catholic faith is founded in the love of God who is the truth. Most Catholics do watch Protestant churches TV channels. Some would even sometimes go visit those churches. They see protestant pastors performing so called 'miracles' on the stage, praying jumping around, shouting loud, speaking in tongues.

After seeing all that, they compare it with the catholic church and think there is no Spirit in the catholic church, that there are no miracles in the catholic church. That is a wrong thought.

If praying in tongues, being charismatic is the right thing for you, then it is fine, the Catholic Church allows that. That is why we have Catholic charismatic renewal in the church.

I for one am a charismatic Catholic. Do not think that your trials will vanish by leaving the church and joining another. It all depends on your faith, God does not choose which church you belong to in ending your trials,

He hears a humble prayer from every corner of the world in every Christian church. Remain strong in the face of your

trials, they are tests of your faith. God requires your free will to show Him that you believe in Him.

You show your faith actively by conquering all your weaknesses and holding fast to God who is the truth. The church is evangelizing you through your catholic faith. Become actively involved in the church, do not just come to Mass and go home after. That can be indeed boring sometimes.

If you are a young person join youth groups in the parish, if you are a woman join women's associations, if you are a man join any of the men's associations, if there are mixed associations become part of them and participate in each and every activities that take place to spice up your catholic faith.

You will find whatever your talents, there will be some way you can be of service to the church and its members.

When you actively participate in your church, it will become like a second family and the fellowship you will find there will keep you close to the members and to God. That will also boost and increase your catholic faith and love for the church.



Bishop Alan welcomed the flag carriers and gave them his blessing



Pilgrims from across the world came in traditional dress



Hundreds of people came to Walsingham for the Dowry of Mary pilgrimage and made the day a truly joyful and spiritual occasion



Joyful Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage

From Albania to Zimbabwe, 4,000 people comprising a literal A to Z of the universal Catholic church gathered at Walsingham on Sunday September 6 for the annual Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage.

They came in coach loads from all over England and further afield, representing Catholic communities from Sri Lanka, France, Trinidad, Ghana, India, Albania, Benin, Ethiopia, Lithuania, Filipino, Congo, Zimbabwe, China and Latvia among many others.

Led by Bishop Alan the day of pilgrimage began with a colourful parading and reception of national flags and banners.

Bishop Alan led the opening prayer and spoke about the refugee crisis across Europe: "We pray for refugees and I know that a number of you have been in that position yourselves," he said.

"We pray for the generosity and

compassion of people in England and across Europe, that we may welcome them as brothers and sisters. We pray especially for the Syrian community and I think that there are some here today and for peace."

Bishop Alan Williams, from Brentwood, a former director of the Walsingham Shrine gave the homily.

"We are amongst friends here today, this is Our Lady's home, this is your home," he said. "You can be as close to God here as Mary is close to God. But we will go back to lives which are difficult sometimes, disturbed sometimes."

"We live in a time of civil wars in Syria and elsewhere and of great migrations, great difficulties with great questions facing politicians in Europe. The question is 'how should we react to all of this?', 'how can we make sense of it all?'"

"Let's be absolutely clear – there is

only one way and that is the way of Jesus Christ. He is the way, the truth and the life. Any solution, any way forward, any strategy that fails to follow that will actually not work. It was Mary's way and that is the way of Jesus Christ."

"As Bishop of Brentwood I look after Essex and East London which is a wonderful mix of all kinds of people, all kinds of ethnic backgrounds. We must pray for all peoples in the world who don't have homes, who are migrants, who are suffering."

"Just as other people helped Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. We are called to be those people who are the Gospel of Christ to others."

After a picnic lunch the pilgrims walked the Holy Mile to Walsingham Abbey where Bishop Hopes conducted a Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and prayers at the original shrine site.

by Keith Morris

Costessey community delight over room

For the past seven years, Our Lady and St Walstan parish in Costessey has undertaken the mammoth task of extending the Garden Meeting Room attached to the church.

A survey had shown the bay window in the room was becoming unsafe and would be very expensive to repair.

Rather than spend a lot of money to patch up the existing room, a fundraising campaign would begin to enlarge the room which was proving to be inadequate for the growing numbers attending functions.

The work has now been completed by Guerin Construction Ltd, a local building company run by two Catholic brothers, and the room has doubled in size.

They have also provided a fully-fitted kitchen, a large

disabled toilet, and landscaped the garden which gives the room its name.

The existing too-small kitchen has become a much-needed storage cupboard, and loft space has provided additional storage. Fundraising continues to buy new equipment for the room.

Bishop Alan celebrated morning Mass at the church on 13 October and then blessed the new Garden Room. He and Parish Priest Fr David Ward each planted a rose bush in the garden.

Another rose bush was planted by Bishop Kike from Cambodia who visited a few days later.

The celebrations continued with the parish's annual International Lunch, which had been postponed from its usual April slot due to the building work. Bishop Alan



Bishop Alan with the Costessey parishioners in the hall which he blessed, above, and, right, planting a rose in the garden thanked everyone for their sterling work, and for their faith in undertaking such a major building work.

He also passed on his thanks to the builders via their mother, Honor Guerin, who is a parishioner at Costessey.



University of East Anglia Catholic Society President Toyosi Oni, Fr Pdraig Hawkins and Norwich Catenian Michael Prior at the October entertainment evening where the Circle provide the entertainment. This is a tradition that has taken place annually in October since the university opened in the 1960s.

Lectures on Church and modern world

Details have been announced for the 2016 series of the Newman Lectures. The Newman lectures are a collaboration between the Diocese and the University of East Anglia, and have attracted wide audiences from across the Diocese.

The theme of the 2016 lecture series is 'The Church and the Modern World', taking inspiration from the 50th anniversary of Gaudium et Spes (December 1965). This year's keynote speaker is Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor. The series will run from April 4th to

April 25th 2016 at the University of East Anglia.

Deacon Andrew Eburne, who organises the lecture series for the Diocese, said, 'The Newman lectures were established in response to Pope Benedict XVI's call for the voice of the Church to be heard in the public square. Over 500 people came to last year's lecture series, and we are hoping for even greater numbers in 2016.'

Full details of the Newman lectures can be found on the website <http://www.newmanlectures.co.uk>.

News in Brief

Congratulations to Jim and Elsie Travers and to Tony Stone on receiving the Diocesan Medal in recognition of their many years of dedicated service to St Dominic's, Downham Market and former parishes.

Parish Priest Fr Michael Vulliamy presented the medals at Mass on St Dominic's Feast-day, Saturday 8 August, and expressed the great appreciation and sincere thanks of all their fellow parishioners.

Fr David Ward has undertaken the sponsored task of reading all four gospels in aid of St Walstan's twin parish of Taken in Cambodia and Let the Children Live. He will perform at the church in Costessey near Norwich on 9 November beginning at 10am and hoping to finish by 6pm that day.

A symposium to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Nostra Aetate, Pope Paul VI's Encyclical on relations with those belonging to non-Christian religions, is to be held at the Narthex at St John the Baptist Cathedral in 1 November introduced by Bishop Alan. A modern Catholic perspective will be given by Archbishop Kevin McDonald who chairs the Bishops of England and Wales conference for Other Faiths. Dr Jonathan Gorsky, lecturer at Heythrop College, will give a Jewish perspective and Dr Musharraf Hussain, Chief Imam of the Karima Institute in Nottingham, a Muslim perspective.

Bishop Alan is planning to lead a Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome next year 6-10 June and details are now being circulated to parishes for those who want to accompany him.

New parish hall blessed at St Oswalds

A new parish hall has been built and blessed by Bishop Alan at Sacred Heart and St Oswald in Peterborough.

To mark the development Bishop Alan concelebrated the Saturday evening Mass with Parish Priest Fr Thomas Walton and two other priests from the Deanery - Fr Adam Sowa and Fr Olindo Cramaro.

After Mass the Bishop blessed the extended church foyer and the new parish hall.

Bishop Alan said how the bright and modern new hall would certainly be a great asset to the parish and to the wider community for a variety of activities including parish catechesis programmes as well as social events.

He also said the parish needed to have a very clear vision for its own future and that of the wider community.



Bishop Alan with the parishioners outside the new hall at St Oswalds

Following the blessing of the hall the Bishop joined the parishioners in the new hall for a celebratory buffet supper.

The new parish hall in future will be known as St Felix House. It was a most memorable and wonderful weekend for

the parishioners.

A big thank you was given to Fr Thomas who during only two years in the parish has worked hard and with tremendous enthusiasm to make the dream of a parish hall a reality.

Plight of people of Malawi after floods

Andy Clark updated Norwich Catenians on the work being done by the charity, Network for a Better World which he chairs.

The charity supports the parish of Sitima, in the Diocese of Zomba, Southern Malawi and he said a visit over Easter had been derailed from its original purpose of overseeing the health and school work by the floods of January.

The East Anglian Cycle Pilgrimage to Walsingham had raised £1,600 for the victims of these floods.

Andy said: "Although other districts in Malawi had been hit harder by the 'once in a lifetime' floods, the Sitima region had not had any tangible relief from outside agencies.

"For 200 households, the two day torrential rains had swept away all of their belongings, crops and livestock.

"The absence of the second rains at the end of February had meant that crop growth just hadn't happened and it is estimated that the national production of maize, the staple food, will be down by 30% over the year."

The charity was able to donate much needed emergency food aid, as well as cooking utensils and farming tools. A member of the group had been able to request an emergency grant from CAFOD to assist the families.



Andy Clarke with Michael Prior of the Norwich Catenians

The World Bank has ranked Malawi as the poorest country on earth and Andy was able to report how that affects the country's own ability to help its people in times of crisis.



Sr Teresa Walsh RIP

Sr Teresa Walsh RIP

Sr Teresa Walsh of Newmarket Convent died on Tuesday 18 August 2015, two months after her 100th birthday. May she rest in peace.

Many former pupils will remember Sr Teresa known fondly by her extended family as Auntie Teasie, and by those she taught as Sr Brenda.

Sr Teresa was born in Ballylongford, County Kerry, and was educated at St Louis in Monaghan.

She entered the convent there in 1933 and was sent to teach in Great Yarmouth in 1939.

When the school children were evacuated to Retford in 1940 she was billeted there for up to four years, helping to teach and take care of the children.

Later she attended Notre Dame Training College in Glasgow and became a renowned infants school teacher for several generations of children in Great Yarmouth and spent short spells in Newcastle, County Down in Northern Ireland and Bury St Edmunds.