

# NEWS FROM BISHOP MICHAEL

## Christmas and New Year

I hope you had a good Christmas celebration, full of the joy and peace of God's Son. Christmastide continues as you receive this newspaper, and the challenge now is for each of us to live all year round the mystery of Christmas, bringing Christ and his saving love to others by our words, deeds and lives. I wish you a very happy and holy New Year.



*Christmas in Cambodia*

My thanks to everyone who once again sent extra Christmas cards to Catholic communities in our twin dioceses in the Holy Land and Cambodia. It is probably difficult to realise how valued this simple gesture is by our friends in these countries.

## Cathedral Centenary and Narthex

2010 is a big year for our Cathedral in Norwich. It is 100 years old this year, and I am launching the Centenary Year at Mass at the Cathedral on 3rd January.

There will be big celebrations on 24th June and 8th December. The Cathedral is the Mother Church for every Catholic in East Anglia, and so very much your Cathedral. The celebrations are something for the whole diocesan family together.

When you receive this, the new 'Narthex' buildings at the Cathedral should be all but complete and ready for use by the diocese, Cathedral parish and the wider community. I am most grateful to all of you who have contributed to the funding of this project.

## Bishop's Winter Travels

With all the other Catholic bishops of England and Wales, I am off to Rome from 24th January until 4th February for our five-yearly *Ad Limina* visit to the Holy Father and to many of the various Congregations and Councils that help lead the Catholic Church.

It is partly an opportunity for us to give the Holy See a collective glimpse of Catholic life in England and Wales.

Each of us had to produce a lengthy report on our dioceses, in response to 25 pages of detailed questions.

## East Anglia to Cambodia

Our twin diocese of Battambang, Cambodia, is being invaded by East Anglia for the next couple of months. Two of our seminary students, Henry and Padraig, are going there for a two-week pastoral placement from 3rd-20th January.

They will be followed by parish groups from Ely (twinned with Prek Taol) and North Walsham (twinned with Svay Sisophon) and then, if my treatment plan allows, by myself in late February.

All these visits help strengthen the bonds of friendship between our two dioceses, just as the many pilgrim groups deepen the bonds of solidarity and friendship between us and the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

This is an important dimension of being truly Catholic.

## LEARNING TOGETHER

These are the next two modules for our diocesan adult religious formation programme. Everyone is welcome.

### The Gospel according to Luke

*Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2010*  
at St Laurence's Catholic Church,  
91 Milton Road, Cambridge, CB4 1XB  
Dom Laurence O'Keeffe OSB leads a day on St  
Luke's Gospel.

### Coping with New Science

*Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2010*  
at the Parish Centre, Catholic Church,  
14 Exeter Road, Newmarket, CB8 8LT

Dr Celia Deane-Drummond, Professor of Theology and the Biological Sciences at the University of Chester, offers Catholic reflections on new developments in embryology and fertility management.

You can register for each module by e-mailing:  
[learning.together@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:learning.together@yahoo.co.uk)

or by going to the 'Adult Education' pages on our diocesan website and registering on-line,  
or by writing to:

**Diocesan Learning Together Programme, Parish Office, 14 Exeter Road, Newmarket CB8 8LT**

All modules are on Saturdays, with registration and coffee at 10.30 and finishing at 3.00. Bring your own packed lunch.

## Second Collections

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January (Epiphany) BUILDING BRIDGES

(optional)

On this celebration of Jesus being the saviour of all nations, parishes are encouraged to contribute to projects in our two twin dioceses of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the Apostolic Prefecture of Battambang in Cambodia. All money will be divided equally between the two. Parishes involved in their own local twinings may prefer to hold a collection for their particular projects.

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January (Peace Sunday) PAX CHRISTI

Pax Christi is an international Catholic movement for peace which offers support and encouragement to work for justice and peace. Pax Christi strives to help the church and the wider community to proclaim and make peace through its work for reconciliation and the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence.

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January (Education Sunday) CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE

This service is the chief negotiating and advisory body on all matters regarding Catholic education in England and Wales.

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February CAFOD (after CAFOD Fast Day)

CAFOD is one of the major relief and development agencies, expressing the concern of Catholics in England and Wales for the needs of people in poorer parts of the world. Its goal is to promote human development and social justice as an integral part of the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. age.

## NEWS FROM OSCOTT

### "You, showers and rain, O bless the Lord!" by Simon Davies

This line from the beautiful Cantic of Daniel was stuck in my head as I drove through Oscott's black gates for the first time as a seminarian last September. Fortunately, I was greeted at the front door by two of my diocesan brothers with umbrellas, and by the Rector, welcoming me to Oscott.

There were seven new seminarians due to arrive that day, and I was the first, so everyone helped me to unpack and move in. My corridor was quiet, my room empty, apart from a bed, bookcase, desk and wardrobe.

I stood in the middle of my new home, suitcase in one hand, a picture of Our Lady under the arm, and looking around, I suddenly realised I was a seminarian. The floors filled up, the bustle of the new arrivals disturbing the laziness of the summer vacation.



After a half-week induction for my first-year brothers, the rest of the house came back home to find their places in chapel and refectory taken, but in those seats were an eager platoon of freshman seminarians.

First years, top years, religious, diocesan; we are all here for the same reason: to search for God's will for us, and to prepare ourselves to answer positively to it. Our Bishops have sent us here to examine our worthiness for serving the faithful as priests, and in the process, to form us spiritually, socially, intellectually and pastorally for this awesome responsibility.

I am on the very first step, and this 'end' seems a long way off. Six years *is* a long time, but hearing God's gentle voice calling to us in a noisy, modern world is no easy task.

Fortunately, God has many megaphones: the formation staff, my brother seminarians, family, friends, those back home in the diocese and ultimately the Bishop, who all ensure we are following as best we can the path laid before us by the Good Shepherd.

Our days, which are centred around the solemn celebration of holy Mass, are a lot longer than those I experienced at university. I was fortunate enough to be able to visit Oscott several times while I was discerning my application to the diocese.

This has made my settling in a little easier; I recognised many faces when I arrived, and the corridors were not *too* much of a labyrinth. Our studies this year are designed to train our minds to think: metaphysics, logic and epistemology have suddenly become part of my everyday vocabulary, though I'm still finding it difficult to decline my Latin verbs correctly!

The autumn semester is quickly coming to an end, which is a good portion of the first year already spent. The speed of it all may be a little scary, but I have two excited eyes looking around the corner at the start of chapter two of my life at Oscott.

# THE BISHOP TEACHES

## THE MASS - the ultimate act of worship (Part 1)

Our diocesan theme for this year is 'Loving Sacrifice': first and foremost, Christ's sacrifice on the cross, giving his life for us in love. Christ makes us his priestly people by uniting us to himself. It is above all at Mass that we share in his sacrifice, giving ourselves to God as his Church in union with Christ himself. This is the heart of the meaning of the Mass. This above all is the answer to the question, 'Why go to Mass?'

In 1998, all the Catholic bishops of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland published a teaching document on the Mass – *One Bread One Body*. In this issue, and again in May, I will present excerpts from this document on the Mass as sacrifice. It will need slow and careful reading and re-reading, but please do make the effort. In March, I will focus instead on Archbishop Oscar Romero, who gave his life for God and his people at the altar during Mass.



### ONE BREAD ONE BODY

#### The Mass: Memorial of Christ's Sacrifice

27) 'Amen' is a word we use often in our prayer and worship. Although sometimes translated simply as 'So be it!' or 'Yes', it comes from a Hebrew root which implies firmness and sureness. When we say 'Amen' at various times during the Mass - above all our 'Great Amen' at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer - we proclaim that we believe what has been said, that we unite ourselves to the prayer, and that we are committed to all that it means. It involves a personal affirmation, saying 'I believe' as a sharing in the 'we believe' of the Church community gathered for worship.

28) When we receive Holy Communion, and hear the words 'The body of Christ', 'The blood of Christ', our response of faith is 'Amen' to the One who is offering and giving himself to us. This 'Amen' is, of course, an affirmation of the real presence of the Body and Blood of the Lord, but it is more than that. It is at one with the 'Great Amen', and we cannot properly separate the two. Above all, we confess our readiness to enter into all that Christ has achieved for us by his death and resurrection, the gift of salvation made present for us here and now as we celebrate Mass together.

29) It is here that we come to the heart of our Catholic understanding of the Mass: the celebration of the Eucharist makes sacramentally present the whole mystery of salvation.

The Mass is the sacrament of salvation, the memorial of the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We say 'Amen' to this truth of faith when we receive Holy Communion.

30) We rejoice that we share this understanding with many of our fellow Christians, but it is still a point of division for others. Since the Reformation, many Christians in the West have rejected Catholic teaching on the Eucharist as 'sacrifice' because they believed it denied the unique saving work of Jesus Christ, a free gift of grace to be accepted by faith.

Ecumenical dialogue should have made it clear to our fellow Christians that Catholics also are firmly committed to belief in Christ's 'one, perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the world'; that 'Christ's redeeming death and resurrection took place once for all in history', and that there 'can be no repetition of or addition to what was then accomplished once for all by Christ.'<sup>61</sup>

Yet we believe that this once-for-all event of salvation becomes effectively present for us through the power of the Holy Spirit every time the Mass is celebrated: 'The Eucharist is the heart and summit of the Church's life, for in it Christ associates his Church and all her members with his sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving offered once for all upon the cross to his Father.'<sup>62</sup>

31) This 'sacrificial' understanding of the Eucharist needs renewed emphasis even among Catholics. In some Catholic circles there can appear to be a confusion between the celebration of Mass on the one hand, and a Communion Service or 'Celebration of the Word and Communion' on the other. The Eucharist or Mass is much more than a service in which we are led in prayer, hear the Word of God and receive Holy Communion.

There are certainly proper occasions for Communion Services, above all the Commemoration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday. When no priest is available, Catholics cannot celebrate Mass. Instead, they are sometimes invited to reflect on the word of God and to pray together, and then to share Christ's body and blood consecrated at a previous Eucharist.<sup>63</sup> This is not the same as the Mass, however. No Communion Service can substitute for the celebration of the Eucharist, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

32) At the Last Supper, Jesus said to his apostles, 'Do this as a memorial of me.'<sup>64</sup> Our use of the language of 'memorial' is rooted in the Last Supper, when 'Jesus gave the Passover Meal its definitive meaning.'<sup>65</sup> It was used by the ancient Fathers of the Church, by the great medieval theologians, and by the Council of Trent, as a way of expressing the relation between the once-for-all sacrifice of Christ and our celebration now of the Eucharist.<sup>66</sup> 'Memorial' is a word that lies at the heart of the Eucharistic Prayers of East and West.

33) What do we mean by a 'memorial'? At the Passover meal each year, the Jews celebrate a memorial of the Exodus. At the Last Supper, Christ gave the Passover celebration its full meaning. In doing so he entrusted to us a memorial of his own passion and resurrection. A biblical memorial is far more than simply calling to mind past events and their significance: in the liturgical celebration of these events, they become present and real.<sup>67</sup> A memorial means at very least 'the making effective in the present of an event in the past.'<sup>68</sup> Catholic use of the word 'memorial' in the Eucharist involves making effectively present here and now an event in the past.

A memorial is a sacred gateway into living communion with God in his work for our salvation. By the power of the Holy Spirit, 'the Church's living memory',<sup>69</sup> the saving events of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are recalled and

made powerfully present for us.<sup>70</sup> Their saving power touches our lives today, and through us can touch and transform the lives of all. Very much anchored in the present, we are united across time with the past, and indeed with the future, by the eternal Spirit of God, who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

34) In the Eucharist, Christ's gift of his life to his Father for our salvation is made present, so that we may be united with him in his sacrifice and be accepted in him by the Father: 'In the celebration of the memorial, Christ in the Holy Spirit unites his people with himself in a sacramental way so that the Church enters into the movement of his self-offering.'

<sup>71</sup> The Mass is the ultimate act of worship.

By our communion with the Risen Christ, we become one with him in his giving of himself to the Father. Our lives are at-one with his as he commends his spirit to the Father. United with Christ, we lift up our hearts to the Father and give him thanks and praise.

Through him, with him and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, the Church becomes 'an everlasting gift' to the Father,<sup>72</sup> 'a living sacrifice of praise.'<sup>73</sup> We give to God all that he first gave to us, all that we are and have, uniting ourselves with the self-giving of Jesus himself. Our sharing in the Eucharist should make us a sacrificial people, lifting up and laying down our lives in love for God and for one another, and sharing all that we have and are with those in need.

#### FOOTNOTES

61) Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC I), Eucharistic Doctrine, no. 5; cf. Joint Commission for Dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and the World Methodist Council, *Growth in Understanding* (1976), n. 66.

62) Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 1407; cf. Pope John Paul II, Apostolic letter *Dies Domini*, n. 43.

63) Cf. leader's introduction to a Celebration of the Word and Communion, approved for interim use from Advent 1996 by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales; cf. Pope John Paul II, Apostolic letter *Dies Domini*, n. 53.

64) 1 Corinthians 11.24-25; Luke 22.19.

65) Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 1340; cf. n. 1334.

66) Cf. Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC I), *Elucidation* (1979), n. 5.

67) Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 1363.

68) Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC I), Eucharistic Doctrine, n. 5.

69) Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 1099.

70) Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 1104.

71) Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC I), *Elucidation* (1979), n. 5; cf. ARCIC's Clarifications on Eucharist and Ministry (1994): 'In the celebration of the eucharistic memorial, the self-offering of Christ is made present. The community, gathered around the ordained minister who presides in Christ's name, enters into communion with this self-offering.'

72) Eucharistic Prayer III

73) Eucharistic Prayer IV

+ Michael

The prayer *O Sacrum Convivium*, attributed to St Thomas Aquinas, acclaims this mystery of the Eucharist: 'O sacred banquet in which Christ is our food, his passion is recalled, the soul is filled with grace, and a pledge of the life to come is given to us.'

The Diocesan Youth Office,  
The White House, 21 Ugate,  
Poringland, Norwich, Norfolk  
NR14 7SH Tel: (01508) 494833  
Mobile: (0781) 2004934 Email:  
dys@east-angliadiocese.org.uk  
Leave a message if no answer.



Hamish MacQueen, diocesan youth director

# National initiative to inspire youth work

**A** national day of inspiration for Catholics working with young people is planned for early in the New Year by the recently formed CYMFed.

This stands for Catholic Youth Ministry Federation made up of 32 Dioceses and Catholic organisations working with young people in England and Wales, and it is supported by the Bishops' Conference.

Hamish MacQueen, the diocesan youth director, is involved with it on behalf of East Anglia and tells us more.

"It's really exciting! There've been

national initiatives in the past but we're working closer together now than ever before.

"One of the first things we are organising is a national training day – a 'National Day of Inspiration'.

"You can hear some of the finest speakers in the world share their wisdom and knowledge about working with young people.

"Bob and Maggie McCarty are at the forefront of youth ministry in America, and they will be joined by well known Dominican author and speaker Fr Tim Radcliffe, Abbot Christopher Jamison (from the BBC series, The Monastery), and Archbishop Vincent Nichols.



"The event aims to inspire and support all those looking to connect young people with the Church – especially youth leaders, priests, parish volunteers, chaplains and catechists."

"It's on February 27th 2010 at the Friends Meeting House, opposite Euston Station in London. Tickets are £14 while still available.

"I know it's a long way to go and quite expensive but I'm sure it will be worth it!

"If anyone is interested in going please contact me in the Diocesan Youth Office as we may be able to coordinate transport, and possibly subsidise the cost of tickets."

More information about CYMFed can be found at [www.cymfed.org](http://www.cymfed.org)



## Make national day last all through year

The last Sunday in November was 'National Youth Sunday'.

Throughout the diocese, different parishes celebrated this in different ways – some using ideas from the specially set up website [www.nationalyouthsunday.org](http://www.nationalyouthsunday.org) pictured left.

Each year this site will be added to and hopefully it will become a valuable resource full of ideas and activities, many of which could be used any time of the year.

This year National Youth Sunday took for its inspiration this year's World Youth Day message entitled "We have set our hope on the living God" from 1 Tim 4:10.

There is a World Youth Day every year but it is only celebrated internationally every 2 – 3 years.

On this theme, in his message to young people, Pope Benedict said that although youth is "a special time of hope", it can also be marked by a "crisis of hope" when difficulties threaten to overwhelm us.

He encouraged young people to follow the example of St Paul in being "witnesses of hope", placing our hope in Christ, the living God.

Christ is the great hope to which we all aspire and who never disappoints.



Some pictures of the young people who enjoyed last year's Candlelight Mass



## Key Events in 2010

### From the Diocesan Youth Service

**February 7th**  
World Youth Day Preparation Day  
For all those planning on going to WYD 2011 in Madrid.  
Details to be confirmed

**Spring-half term**  
Ice Skating  
Details to be confirmed

**May 3rd**  
Walk to Walsingham  
A sponsored walk to Walsingham joining with the Diocesan Pilgrimage for Mass.

**July 11th**  
The Big One  
Our main event of the year for young people of secondary school age.

**July 24th - August 2nd**

Young Adults Pilgrimage to Taizé.  
Our annual pilgrimage to Taizé.  
For those aged 17+

**New Year Epiphany Candlelight Mass**  
Celebrated by Bishop Michael  
Followed by refreshments, a bonfire and fireworks  
For all young people confirmed in the last five years or preparing for Confirmation  
*Please bring a wrapped gift up to the value of £5 to go into a lucky dip.*  
**6pm – 8pm Saturday 2nd January 2010**  
at The White House, 21 Ugate, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7SH  
Organised by the Diocesan Youth Service  
Tel. 01508 494833. Email [dys@east-angliadiocese.org.uk](mailto:dys@east-angliadiocese.org.uk)

**World Youth Day Madrid 2011**  
From: August 6th – 23rd (provisional dates)  
For: Young People aged 16 and over by 1st August 2011 and adult leaders  
To guarantee a place, a completed booking form and deposit must be received at the Diocesan Youth Office by 1st January 2010 (deadline extended because of postal delays). Bookings will continue to be received after this date until we are fully booked.  
For more information telephone the diocesan youth office on 01508 494833 or go to [www.catholic-eastanglia.org/youth](http://www.catholic-eastanglia.org/youth) where you can download an information pack and booking form.



Flower displays depicted Saints of Our Time many of whom are behind prison bars

## Revolutionary church marks 70th anniversary

The only church designed by Eric Gill, the craftsman and writer, has celebrated its 70th anniversary.

St Peter the Apostle in Gorleston was hailed as a revolutionary church when it was built to a design by a man famous for sculptures, engravings, writings and typeface designs.

People still come from all over this country and the world to see this church, which Gill said was meant to bring the altar into the middle of the congregation and to be free of unnecessary ornamentation.

It was meant to be "a plain building done by local bricklayers and carpenters".

It was only the second church built in this country with a central altar, and most visitors are struck by the unusual arches and the white walls contrasting with the red quarry-tile floor.

The stained glass east window was by Eddie Nuttgens, the leading designer in this field in

the 20th century, and a simple Stations of the Cross by Denis Tegetmeier, Gill's son-in-law.

To mark the anniversary the parish held a flower festival in mid-September, dedicated to "Saints For Our Time".

A steady stream of visitors over the four days commented on the quality of the 27 displays, mainly the work of parishioners, with some contributions from other churches.

The festival also included an exhibition in the church hall of the history of the church, using rarely seen photos from the parish archives and from the albums of parishioners.

They depicted priests, bishops, weddings, first communions, construction of the church, the original church from old postcards, and much more.

The whole festival was a great success, said parish priest, Fr Henry MacCarthy.



The altar display was dedicated to St Peter the Apostle but other saints were also depicted

## Clare meeting sets out plan for 2010 Augustinian youth event

The Augustinian Order's International Youth Commission has asked the UK province to host the 2010 Augustinian Youth Encounter (AYE 2010) for 16 to 30-year-olds next August.

More than 300 young people from Augustinian parishes and schools throughout the world will converge on London Colney, near St Albans, Hertfordshire, to stay at the Westminster Diocesan Youth Centre and the All Saints' Pastoral Centre on the same site, and to camp in the grounds.

They will have overspill accommodation at the University of Hertfordshire.

"We are delighted that the UK has been asked by the Order to host the next international gathering on 9 to 15 August," says the Very Rev David Middleton OSA, head of the Augustinian friars in the UK.

"Our national youth worker, Michela Notarianni, is organising the event with the help of our AYE assistant Claire Webster and a team of young people and friars from around the country.

"They are already hard at work and are visiting each of the Augustinian parishes in England and Scotland with their AYE 2010 road show to involve as many of our young people as possible.

"The theme they have chosen for the gathering will be 'I call you friends' which is taken from Jesus' parting message to his disciples in John 15.

In his own lifetime St Augustine of Hippo sought after true friendship which would bring real meaning to life, just as young people continue to do today," Father David said.

The preparatory team met the International Youth Commission at Clare Priory in Suffolk on Wednesday 28 October to report on the arrangements they have made so far for a week of discussions, workshops, worship and prayer, and socialising."

Youth leader Michela Notarianni outlined the AYE 2010 programme at a meeting in London.

"We have chosen I call you friends as our theme

# Prayer group looks to 30 years more

**A** prayer group founded in 1979 at Great Yarmouth has just celebrated its 30th anniversary.

St.Mary's Prayer Group marked the occasion with a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Fr Gordon Williams.

The Mass was attended by over 30 people who heard about the different types of prayer.

Mary Spragg, one of the prayer groups members, said: "We heard about formal prayers, readings from the Bible, talking to God, wanting to pray can also be a prayer, meditation, rosary, novenas, contemplative prayer.

"And it is not just for religious but for lay people too.

"As we learn different forms of prayer we open ourselves to God. We learn to find peace and stillness, as we try to enter into a real silence, finding the real presence of God in our lives.

"We lit 20 candles for the deceased members of the prayer group placing them on a special table with their names, remembering and praying for those who went before us."

The Prayer Group was started by Fr. Matthew Curran OSA, the parish priest at the time.

He had attended a charismatic renewal service in Ireland while on holiday where he had received a gift of healing .

"On his return he gathered a few members of the parish - Alice Gourley, Maureen Garden, Sr Ann Docherty SSL to pray with him weekly to discern whether to set up a prayer group in the parish," Mary said.

"In 1979, a year later, a day of renewal was organised for the parish led by Delia Smith and this is when the prayer formally began.

"Today this group led by Molly Smith attracts up to 20 people each Tuesday evening at 7:30pm in the hall.

"It has become specially known for its intercessory prayer, and we get asked for prayer from all over the world including people like Albert, a prisoner on death row in Zambia.

"The many intentions can be seen in our miracle book."

As an example of the power of prayer Mary told the story of a distraught lady who came to the group to say her son had just had a call from the doctor to go and discuss a blood test result as it had shown up something urgent.

"We wrote the man's name and the mother's name in our special book.

"During the meeting we all prayed over this book earnestly

that the man would be healed and the distraught woman would find peace.

"The following week the woman returned to tell us they took another test and it was all clear.

"We have received many messages of congratulations for our anniversary, especially from Fr David Middleton, Augustinian Provincial of England, Fr Joshaphat Ezenwa - a priest in Tunbridge Wells who is a past member, Mrs Moira Selvedge in Iona and also Kristina Cooper from the Good News to name just a few.

"As we go forward together in hope, let us continue to praise and thank the Lord for everything in our lives bad and good.

"We hope to pass on the Good News to those we meet while learning to become beacons of light, signposts to others as we walk in the footsteps of Jesus, offering loving kindness and service to those that come our way.

"Perhaps we too will be remembered by a lit candle in 30 years time.

"Let us pray that there will be still a prayer group and people with faith in the years to come to light a candle for each one of us when that time comes."



The prayer group celebrated with a Mass of Thanksgiving and they also cut a special cake to mark the occasion and look forward to 30 more years of offering help



Special awards were made



# Churches meet interfaith specialist at Wisbech

Wisbech Churches Together and Wisbech Interfaith forum jointly sponsored a visit to their community of Sr Maire Hayes from Luton, advisor to the Bishop of Northampton on interfaith matters.

She addressed the congregation at Our Lady and St Charles, and a unity service in the same church on Sunday evening when she also saw the exhibition of the major faiths, on display in the Rosmini Centre.

On Monday morning she led an assembly at St Peter's Junior School and then led a seminar for 6th form students at Wisbech Grammar School.

Sr Marie said: "I find the people here very friendly. I was very impressed with the architecture along the Brink and found my listeners very receptive to my message."

Sr Marie is presently working in a multifaith setting in Luton, Bedfordshire.

"Luton has a large ethnic minority population with the challenges that this presents," she said.

"The multifaith group are actively engaged in promoting community harmony and when tensions arise they help to defuse the situation."

In regard to the latter she described how the rabbi in Luton was recently abused by some Asian youths.

They were angry at what they saw as Israel's attack on their brothers and sisters in Gaza.

"The multifaith group were asked for help by the Jewish community and responded by having volunteers from the various faiths including the Mosques to walk with the rabbi on his way to the synagogue.

"The challenge is very formidable but there is no alternative," she said.



Yvonne Lawrence - Mayor of Wisbech - opening the faiths exhibition with Major Robert Smart of the Salvation Army and Chair of Wisbech Churches Together, Tony Hoey - chairperson of the local Catholic Parochial Council and Bob Lawrence - the Mayor's consort



Representatives of all the churches looked at the multicultural nature of their community and social issues





# CATHEDRAL FOCUS

NEWS FROM OUR MOTHER CHURCH

## Glass doorway to Narthex open

**A**s we go to press it is all systems go in the Narthex.

Pamment tiles are being fitted, the new glass screen linking the Narthex and the Cathedral is in place, decorative plasterwork is being applied, kitchen fittings are arriving.

It is all a frantic effort to get as much of the building as possible completed before Christmas.

The new building will be a huge asset and a great place to visit - we hope to see you there in 2010!

People can keep up with progress by visiting our website which can be logged on to at [www.sjbcathedral.org.uk](http://www.sjbcathedral.org.uk)

## Year of celebration just beginning

This year 2010 is a very important year for the Cathedral - marking 100 years since its completion in 1910.

There will be many special events throughout the year, all of which will be

advertised on the Cathedral website which can be reached at this logon [www.sjbcathedral.org.uk](http://www.sjbcathedral.org.uk)

A highlight will be a Centenary Flower Festival from 20 - 27 June, with a special Centenary Mass on

24th June.

The Centenary Year will be launched at the Cathedral at a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael on Sunday 3rd January ( the Feast of the Epiphany) at 11am.

## New 'green' identity is unveiled

As part of the Narthex project, a logo and new external signage has been developed for St John the Baptist Cathedral.

The whole cathedral community had the chance to get involved in selecting the new logo. Graphic designers Ugly Studios, who are currently designing the exhibition stations for the Narthex Gallery, took us gently through the process.

The design that was eventually chosen, pictured here, has an iconic image of the Cathedral atop a hill.

The predominant colour is a warm dark green - reflecting the Cathedral's aspirations



to become an Eco-Cathedral!

The external signs and plans will all feature the same colour scheme and should be in place towards the end of January.



Finishing touches being completed to glass screen from the cathedral into the Narthex



The Cathedral sanctuary now has a magnificent carpet. Paid for by donations from members of the cathedral parish, it has been specially woven to fit the chancel. This, together with the riddle posts and dossal hangings really do make the altar the true focal point of the Cathedral - with the added advantage of making the whole chancel area much warmer!

The ambo, designed to match the altar and paid for by the Cathedral Friends was installed during the summer.

### More news please

The editor Patrick Byrne needs news about activities and people in parishes.

Please send a few notes and a jpg at 72 ppi and no bigger than 1MB as this clogs up the computer which receives lot of material by email.

You can also send a photograph in the post but please do not embed pictures in Word or other documents as quality is impaired when extracted.

Please send material to

The Editor  
Our Diocesan Family,  
The White House,  
21 Ugate, Poringland, Norfolk  
NR14 7SH.

Tel/Fax: 01603 627409 and email:

[ptjbyrne@patrickbyrne.go-plus.net](mailto:ptjbyrne@patrickbyrne.go-plus.net)



**Deadlines: Our Diocesan Family is a bi-monthly newspaper and it is printed early in the month before publication. Material for must arrive by 1 February for MARCH, 1 April for MAY, 1 June for JULY, 1 August for SEPTEMBER, 1 October for NOVEMBER and 1 December for JANUARY.**

### Catenians checking out Narthex for events

A group of brothers and their wives from the Norwich Circle of the Catenians were recently shown around the new Narthex building under construction at St John's Cathedral by Deacon Patrick Limacher, the estates manager.

John Kenny said it was state of the art.

"Although the dictionary definition of Narthex simply describes it as "an antechamber or large porch in a modern church" this particular specimen boasts substantial dining facilities and meeting rooms.

"It has already been booked for several



wedding receptions in the New Year, enabling bride and groom an easy walk

from the church ceremony to the reception.

"In fact Norwich Circle is

already contemplating using it as a venue for its next clergy night."

# BUILDING BRIDGES in Cambodia and the Holy Land

## HOPE FOR PAILIN

**Thank you, Diocese of East Anglia!**

*Fr Totet Banaynal, Vicar General of Battambang*

A pleasant surprise met me when I arrived in Pailin for the Sunday Mass four months ago. The owner of the house we were renting for our temporary parish activities was sitting on a bed near the doorway, sweetly cuddling her newly-born infant in her arms. She immediately showed the healthy and beautiful baby girl to me. I touched her head, and gave her a blessing – that the Lord may bless her with good health and that she may grow well in wisdom. The mother gave a beautiful smile.

The baby's mother and father are Buddhists but they have allowed their two children to become Catholics. They themselves join us at the Sunday Masses but they have not asked to join in a catechism class for adults. The eldest, Srey Mech, is an active youth leader and has been teaching catechism to children. There is so much friendship between them and all of us in the community. I see their hospitality and how they help and welcome us in every way.



The gesture of the mother presenting the baby to me was a deep sign of that friendship and welcome. Deep in my heart, I felt the hope of our small Christian community entering into deeper friendship and growing in witness.

This baby comes at a time when our multi-purpose parish centre is almost ready for occupancy, most probably by October 2009. Soon we will have our own place and ground where we can hold our activities: outreach for the disabled, spiritual formation of the youth, medical services, some English language and computer training for the youth, environment care, and many others. Three Marist Brothers – Bro. Francis, Bro. Bernhard, and Bro. Brian – are working closely with me to lead and take care of the community.



*The road to Pailin during last summer's floods*

Additionally, through the help of some donors from Korea, we are able to proceed with the construction of the Church. We have a small Catholic community now; probably only 20 of them are baptized, many are still in the adult catechism classes. But the work and challenge around us is big. God's love and compassion need to be made real in this part of Cambodia, one of the most heavily mined areas of the country.

Thank you for joining us, Diocese of East Anglia. Thank you for helping us build the Multi-Purpose Centre. You have helped to give birth to a hope that we feel so strongly now, and which is evident as we look at smiling faces of mothers asking for blessing for babies.

*Bishop Michael writes:* East Anglia has already raised £9,000 of the £14,000 we hope to pay towards our project in Pailin, but we still need to raise around £5,000 in the next few months. Thank you for your wonderful generosity.



## AL-WAHADNEH Holy Land Project 2010

**Catechism Centre for St. Elijah's Church in Al-Wahadneh, Jordan**

Last year, we raised much money to help buy bagpipes and drums for Catholic Scout groups in the Holy Land, supporting young people.

Our project for 2010, proposed by the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, is to provide a room in the northern Jordanian town of Al-Wahadneh, the first time we have taken up a project in Jordan, which is part of the Latin Patriarchate. Fr Humam, Chancellor of the Patriarchate, writes to us from Jerusalem:

'Catechism is a very fundamental issue in Al-Wahadneh and in many other parishes in Jordan. In Al-Wahadneh we plan to build a special hall that will serve different purposes in the parish. This room will constitute a classroom for catechism for students who study in government schools and who do not get the chance to get any religious education. This room will be also used for different activities in the parish.

This is a need regarding the elements to help our youth to like catechism and to concentrate, to give them the chance to have a clear idea about the dogmatic, spiritual and human part of our Christian faith.

This catechism centre will serve for all teachers and all students in the school (between kindergarten and 6<sup>th</sup> grade) and our government school students (between 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> grades), and serve other activities especially with young families and the Legion of Mary.

I believe strongly in creating a special atmosphere for catechism in our parishes, so that the pastoral work there will be more and more useful, and our youth will get the chance to learn better with audio and video facilities and get a clear vision.

There are a lot of elements needed to help the students, but



*Wheelchair badminton in Cambodia*

*Bagpipes for Catholic Scouts in the Holy Land* unfortunately at the moment there are no materials to use, such as power-point programmes, films, songs, crafts, etc. To have a special classroom for catechism, we will need the following materials: bookshelves, chairs and tables, portable computer, big screen TV, spiritual books, prayer corner, etc.

Thank you all for helping us with this new project: it will be a great help to us.'

## CAN YOU HELP?

Our two diocesan 'Building Bridges' projects this year are helping to build a church centre in Pailin, Cambodia (until our new project in March), and to provide a catechism room at Al-Wahadneh in Jordan.

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:

CHURCH CENTRE, PAILIN (Cambodia) .....

WAHADNEH CATECHISM ROOM (Jordan) .....

### 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 tax or capital gains tax equal to any tax claimed.

Signed.....

Date.....

### Please send to:

Bishop Michael, 'Building Bridges',  
21 Upgate, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7SH  
Registered charity no. 278742

# Calling for justice for migrants seeking jobs

**The plight of migrants who come to East Anglia in the hope of finding work only to be bitterly disappointed was discussed at a recent meeting of the Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission.**

About 30 people from across the diocese gathered at the Margaret Beaufort Institute, Cambridge on 17 October for a day of recollection.

It was entitled "Migrants: How can we welcome the Stranger?" and was organised by Sr Pat Robb CJ.

The programme included personal testimonies, theological reflection and small group discussions to explore opportunities to respond practically to the many situations that migrants find themselves in.

Anita Grodkiewicz of the Rosmini Centre in Wisbech spoke of the difficulties experienced by migrants, especially from the Baltic States and Portugal.

They are attracted by job prospects in the food industry that do not meet expectations, she said.

They often have little opportunity to learn English and understand our laws and customs, resulting in experiences like that of a worker who missed an important follow up hospital appointment after treatment for an injury.

A family, who had fled horrific experiences as Christians in Pakistan, spoke of three bungled attempts to deport them followed by a month in detention.

This was an unpleasant experience for the family's young children and their mother experiencing complications in pregnancy.

Despite having their case accepted by the European Court of Human Rights, their future remains uncertain and the fear another knock on the door at dawn.

Cecilia Taylor-Camara is now policy advisor on migration and refugee policy to the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales but experienced real difficulties gaining acceptance in a parish after fleeing from Sierra Leone at the height of the civil war with her husband and family.

Nicholas Sagovsky, Canon

Theologian at Westminster Abbey, led a theological reflection, drawing on his wealth of personal experiences and the testimonies of other speakers.

The concluding time of reflection included the following prayer:

*Almighty God, we pray that what we have learnt today of the needs of our brothers and sisters will open our minds and hearts.*

*We ask you to guide us as we try to live the Gospel message of "Welcoming the Stranger". Give us a generosity of spirit and the courage to speak up for those who come to our country for sanctuary, work and a better life.*

AMEN

Suggested practical responses to the needs of migrants from the day of reflection included prayer and volunteering with a visiting scheme for detainees.

One suggestion was Friends of Oakington or organisations providing language tuition for migrants but there are many opportunities in the locality of the parishes, Bernard Shaw, secretary of the Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission, said.



*This statue of the Sacred Heart, photographed by John Merriman from St George's in Norwich, was rescued from a skip by an anonymous person who contacted parish priest Fr Tony McSweeney and offered it to him. Fr Tony said "Yes" and the anonymous person who described themselves only as a "Christian" cleaned the statue and delivered it. It now stands on the left hand side of the church for all to see.*



*Thirteen new students are pictured as they begin their studies for the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies at the Margaret Beaufort Institute in Cambridge. The group includes primary and secondary teachers from*

*across the diocese as well as parish catechists and those who, having completed the Learning Together days run in the diocese, want a little more Catholic theology! Courses this year will cover the Old and New Testaments*

*and Church, Sacraments and Morality. If you'd like to know more about the course please contact Dr Anna Rowlands at the Margaret Beaufort Institute on 01223 741040 or email afr26@cam.ac.uk.*

**Deacon Mike Vipond and Ann want to wish everyone a Happy and Holy Christmas and are sending a pair of CAFOD piglets in place of Christmas cards.**

## EAST ANGLIA DIOCESAN SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1102707



Supporting Secular Priests of the Diocese, unable to continue their work, through old age, sickness and infirmity



- Make a Gift Aid Donation ( if you pay income tax)
- Set up a Standing Order with your bank in favour of the fund
- Leave a legacy in favour of the fund
- Send a donation

Cheques to be made payable to;  
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA  
THANK YOU

Further details from  
The Secretary,  
Rev. Henry MacCarthy,  
17a, Sussex Road,  
Gorleston,  
Norfolk,  
NR 31 6PF.

## BISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

### JANUARY

- 1st Mass at St John's Cathedral at 10.00 a.m.  
Vespers at Quidenham Monastery
- 2nd Diocesan Youth Epiphany Eve/New Year Mass at Poringland at 6.00p.m.
- 3rd Mass at Cathedral to launch cathedral centenary year at 11.00 a.m.
- 9/10th Parish Visitation to Bury St Edmunds
- 15/16th Committee for Christian Unity in Leeds
- 17th Diocesan Youth Council at Poringland 3.00-7.00
- 20th Christian Unity Service at Holy Family, King's Lynn at 7.30 p.m.
- 21st Council of Priests at Poringland at 11.00 a.m.  
Diocesan Vocations Group

- at Poringland at 2.15 p.m.
- Commission for Evangelisation at Newmarket at 7.30 p.m.
- 23rd Sr Maria Joseph Golden Jubilee Celebration Mass at Quidenham

### 24th January – 5th February: Bishop on Ad Limina visit to Rome

### FEBRUARY

- 7th World Youth Day Preparation Day in Newmarket
- 10th Clergy Ongoing Formation Day at Poringland
- 11th Diocesan Schools Service Commission at Poringland at 10.30 a.m.  
Mass at Margaret Beaufort Institute, in Cambridge, at 6.00 p.m.

- 13th Lourdes Reunion at St Luke's, Peterborough at noon
- 14th Mass at University of East Anglia Chaplaincy at 6.00 p.m.
- 16th Department of Dialogue and Unity (London)
- 17th ASH WEDNESDAY
- 18th King's Lynn Catenians
- 19th Finance Board Strategy Meeting at 11.00 a.m.
- 20th Diocesan Commission for Dialogue and Unity at Poringland at 11.00 a.m.
- 20/21<sup>st</sup> Parish Visitation to the Cathedral
- 21<sup>st</sup> Rite of Election at Cathedral at 4.00 p.m.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> February – 9<sup>th</sup> March:  
**Bishop may be away in Cambodia (hospital permitting!)**