

# OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY

The newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

FREE

May 2010



## Invitation to celebration of marriage and family life at St John's in July

Bishop Michael will preside at the fifth annual Diocesan Celebration of Marriage and Family on Saturday 3 July at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich.

There will be a celebratory Mass, at which couples will be invited to renew their commitment to marriage, followed by refreshments in the Narthex.

Couples celebrating 1st, 5th, 10th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th and above, as well as those celebrating the birth of a baby this year, will receive certificates from Bishop Michael.

Mary Clark, diocesan co-

ordinator for marriage and family life, said: "All families are invited to attend this now regular part of the diocesan celebrations that take place each year.

"St. John's is at its best when it is full, so let us have a celebration with families and couples from every parish in the diocese and really celebrate what it means to be part of our own families as well as members of the diocesan family.

"To help with the catering, you are asked to let us know if you wish to attend by telephoning Mary on 01603 504667, or by e-mail to [mfco-ordinator@east-](mailto:mfco-ordinator@east-angliadiocese.org.uk)



[angliadiocese.org.uk](http://angliadiocese.org.uk).

This is essential if you wish to receive a certificate for a significant anniversary or a new baby, but everyone is encouraged to book in advance, with numbers attending.

Twenty couples preparing for Marriage celebrated a special Mass at St Peter's and All Souls in Peterborough to mark the end of their preparation course.

Fr David Jennings reminded the couples to say to each other each and every day 'I love you' and so radiate the beauty of God's love revealed in Jesus at the Transfiguration.

## Pilgrimage focus on priesthood

**T**he main theme of this year's diocesan pilgrimage on Monday 3 May is the priesthood with special focus being given to the role of altar servers.

Fr Peter Rollings, one of the organisers of the annual pilgrimage which is attracting an increasing number of people from parishes across the diocese, said: "Mary is regarded as the mother of all priests and the pilgrimage will celebrate this special relationship.

"Altar servers also act in collaboration with priests at the Mass and other liturgies - so it is right they should join the celebration.

"The day of the pilgrimage is also the feast of the apostles Philip and James who are patrons of the priesthood."

Bishop Michael said: "As I visit the parishes across our diocese, I am so often impressed by the altar servers I find there - girls and boys, young and not so young - who give their time and enthusiasm most Sundays to helping the celebration of Mass to go so smoothly.

"It is one way in which they 'offer their lives to God', our diocesan theme for this year.

"I look forward to seeing as many of them as possible at our diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham on 3 May, so that we can celebrate together their special service at Mass, the heart of our Catholic life."

It is planned some altar servers will be enrolled into the Archconfraternity of St Stephen named after their patron saint and they will receive medals and certificates.

As usual the altar servers will lead the procession from the Friday Market Place to the Chapel of Reconciliation at the Walsingham Shrine.



Altar servers lead the pilgrimage procession

Fr Peter said there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the parish church in the Friday Market Place from 10.30am on the Monday.

"Many people who come to the pilgrimage value a time of peace and quiet.

"The procession will begin at about 12.30pm and Mass at the Chapel of Reconciliation will be at 3pm."



Fr Gordon Cordy and Fr Tony McSweeney laying on hands at a service of healing at St George's in Norwich at the beginning of Holy Week. The parish brings house-bound people to the twice-yearly services. The hands of those taking part are anointed and the congregation prays for each other.



Shaji Jacob, a high school teacher from Assam, talked about the plight of the tea workers and their families in India, Sri Lanka and Africa.

## Justice group hears of tea workers' plight

Two people with first hand experience gave parishioners at St Philip Howard parish in Cambridgeshire an insight into the plight of tea workers.

Parishioner Sheila Brookes said: "Tea is an everyday drink, yet do we ever pause to think of the tea pluckers labouring in the heat in India, Sri Lanka or East Africa?

"Can Fairtrade really make a difference to their lives? Why is only one cup in ten drunk in Britain Fairtrade?"

At a Fairtrade tea party in February two parishioners shared personal experiences of the plight of tea workers.

Shaji Jacob, a high school teacher from Assam, talked of children as young as 10 who drop out of school to work.

Tea plantation owners firmly control their whole lives and workers are prevented from negotiating for better pay and have difficulties getting good housing and sanitation.

Clancy Peiris from Sri Lanka said tea garden workers are the most neglected and are effectively outside the country's employment laws, despite the huge value

of tea to the economy.

All these grim facts encouraged those listening to support the Make It Fair campaign led by Traidcraft to persuade the five major tea companies - PG Tips, Tetley, Twinings, Typhoo & Yorkshire Tea - to convert completely to Fairtrade.

Boosting demand would enable more estate workers and poor tea farmers to share in the unique benefits of Fairtrade that not only guarantees a better price but also a real say in improving the future of their communities.

This event launched Fairtrade fortnight and was hosted by the Cambridge Justice and Peace Group.

Sheila Brookes said: "It was an opportunity to welcome Cherry Hinton Baptists and Anglicans.

"Along with St. Philip Howard and Our Lady and English Martyrs, they form a Traidcraft partnership with a monthly stall in each church."

Nic Boyns was thanked for his management of the shared stock for over 14 years, before he hands over to a new team.



# NEWS FROM BISHOP MICHAEL

## To Rome and back

It seems so long ago now that the Bishops of England and Wales journeyed together to Rome for our five-yearly *Ad Limina* visit to the Holy Father, the various Congregations and Councils which support him in his ministry, and the tombs of St Peter and St Paul (as well as a few Pizzeria and Trattoria in the odd spare moment!). We were there together for nearly 12 days from 24<sup>th</sup> January until 4<sup>th</sup> February.

It was an opportunity for us to give the Holy See an even better understanding of the life of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Each bishop had already sent a long report on his diocese, responding to 25 pages of questions. The East Anglian version was over 100 pages!

These had all been read and summarised, so that the Holy Father and the Cardinals and Archbishops heading the Congregations and Councils were well briefed and understood the particular challenges and opportunities facing the Catholic Church in our dioceses. We came away with a strong sense of being warmly affirmed and supported in what we are trying to do individually and together as bishops. This was reflected in the Holy Father's address to the bishops.



*The Bishops after seeing the Pope together*

In his address to us, Pope Benedict offered his warmest good wishes and prayers to all the faithful of England and Wales: that includes you personally. There have always been strong bonds of communion between the Catholic community in England and the Holy See: as the Holy Father put it, 'a communion that sustained your people's faith for centuries, and today provides fresh energies for renewal and evangelisation. Even amid the pressures of a secular age, there are many signs of living faith and devotion among the Catholics of England and Wales.'

He is looking forward to witnessing that faith for himself when he comes to England later this year.

As we bear witness together to the Gospel and to Catholic teaching – 'the full saving message of Christ' – whatever the opposition we may get, a special concern of the bishops must be to 'draw on the considerable gifts of the lay faithful in England and Wales and see that they are equipped to hand on the faith to new generations comprehensively, accurately, and with a keen awareness that in doing so they are playing their part in the Church's mission.' Our diocesan 'Learning Together' programme is designed to help with this need for ongoing adult religious education.

This is especially important for parents, catechists and teachers in our Catholic schools, but all of us need 'fresh energies' for the Church's vital work of evangelisation – proclaiming the Good News to all creation. Our diocesan theme from Home Mission Sunday this year (19<sup>th</sup> September) until World Mission Sunday 2011 will be 'Proclaim the Good News'.

The Holy Father reminded us that the Holy Spirit inspires us with missionary zeal: that must be our prayer for our future as we reach outward to East Anglia with the Good News of God's saving love in Jesus Christ.



*All smiles*



*'Now let me tell you about East Anglia!'*

At the end of my own 20 minutes with Pope Benedict, during which our discussions included various aspects of diocesan life, ecumenism, relations with other religions and vocations, I presented him with our diocesan vocations card for last year, with its picture of St Felix, the Apostle of East Anglia who was renowned for living up to his name – Felix, the Happy One.

He proclaimed cheerfully the Good News of Great Joy. I told the Holy Father that when I was a seminary lecturer, I used to give students who came to me for spiritual direction a copy of his book – *Ministers of Your Joy*. He laughed, but the whole time with him had been a joyful experience. When he asked about vocations to the priesthood, and I told him we now had six seminarians – six more than six years ago – and that two were to be ordained priest this July, his immediate response was 'What a joy!'



*St Felix – minister of God's joy*

For our future together as a diocese, and for our role together of proclaiming the Good News to East Anglia, following in the footsteps of St Felix, St Fursey and so many others, we need more priests who will offer their lives to God in love for his people, priests who will be ministers of God's joy to our world.

Towards the end of his address to the bishops, he showed how well-briefed he had been about our situation in England and Wales, and the challenges facing us:

'Encourage the lay faithful to express their appreciation of the priests who serve them, and to recognise the difficulties they sometimes face on account of their declining numbers and increasing pressures. The support and understanding of the faithful is particularly necessary when parishes have to be merged or Mass times adjusted. Help them to avoid the temptation to view the clergy as mere functionaries, but rather to rejoice in the gift of priestly ministry, a gift that can never be taken for granted.'

## LEARNING TOGETHER

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

### Praying with the Bible

*Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2010*

*at St Luke's Catholic Church, Benyon Grove, Orton Malborne, Peterborough PE2 5XS*

Sr Pia Buxton CJ, lecturer in Systematic Theology and Spirituality at Heythrop College, London, leads a day on *Lectio Divina* and other ways of praying with the Scriptures.

### Julian of Norwich & other medieval English mystics

*Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2010*

*at the Catholic Church Hall, 1 Norwich Road, Wymondham, NR18 0QE*

Pauline Lovelock, Learning Project Officer at the Julian Centre in Norwich, explores the spirituality of Julian of Norwich and other medieval mystics.

### Was the Reformation good for Catholicism?

*Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2010*

*at St Luke's Catholic Church, Benyon Grove, Orton Malborne, Peterborough PE2 5XS*

Deacon John Morrill, Professor of British & Irish History at Cambridge University, asks whether the Reformation was ultimately good for the Catholic Church.

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 – & perhaps a cushion!



# THE BISHOP TEACHES

## THE MASS - the ultimate act of worship (Part 2)



Zurbarin's 'Bound Lamb'

### THIS IS THE LAMB OF GOD

These are words we hear every time we come to Mass, said as the priest holds before us the consecrated bread and wine, now the Body and Blood of Christ, just before we come to receive Holy Communion. A few moments earlier, we pray together to Jesus as the 'Lamb of God', asking for his divine gifts of mercy and peace.

But why do we address Jesus in this way, especially at Mass? John the Baptist said of Jesus: 'Look, there is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world' (John 1.29). This humble 'title' holds together the Suffering Servant in Isaiah chapter 53, who is 'led like a lamb to the slaughter' (v.7) to bring God's healing peace, and the Lamb that was sacrificed in the Temple before being eaten at the Passover Meal.

At the heart of all true 'religion' is the loving God who seeks to 're-link' us with himself. God first gives his life for us, offering himself to us; we come to God to offer our lives to him, so that we can be one with him, sharing his life. Before the Passover Meal in Jesus' time, a lamb would have been taken to the Temple. Once it had been sacrificed, its blood (symbolizing the people) would be poured out at the altar (symbolising God). Later, at the Passover Meal itself, between eating the unleavened bread and drinking the cup of blessing, those present would eat the lamb so that they were united with the animal whose blood had been poured out. In a sense, they became 'one lamb' with the sacrifice.

If the Mass is the new Passover Meal, why do we not have lamb as well as bread and wine? Because Jesus himself is the Lamb that was sacrificed, and we receive him by receiving the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. We are drawn into Christ's sacrifice, into his life, into himself, by being at Mass.



Window of the Lamb of God from Taizé

### ONE BREAD ONE BODY

In 1998, the bishops of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland published a teaching document on the Mass – *One Bread One Body*. In January, I gave some extracts on the Mass as sacrifice. Here are further extracts on the power of the Eucharist and the role of the priest.

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

35) Because of the Church's intimate communion with Christ, as a body to its head, the Eucharistic sacrifice is offered to the Father by the 'whole Christ', head and members together. 'In the Eucharist the sacrifice of Christ becomes also the sacrifice of the members of his Body.

The lives of the faithful, their praise, sufferings, prayer and work, are united with those of Christ and with his total offering, and so acquire a new value.'<sup>74</sup> Because Christ's one sacrifice is present in the Eucharist, 'all generations of Christians can be united with his offering.'<sup>75</sup>

36) In the Eucharist, the Church powerfully and effectively 'proclaims the death of the Lord until he comes.'<sup>76</sup> The sacrifice of Christ and the Eucharistic sacrifice are one single sacrifice. This means that through the Eucharist Christ's saving power reaches not only those gathered in celebration, but also all those in communion with us in any way, both the living and the dead.

We offer the Eucharistic sacrifice 'for ourselves and those who are dear to us' and for 'those who have died and have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.'<sup>77</sup> We ask our Father: remember and welcome not only our Christian brothers and sisters who have died, but also 'all the departed',<sup>78</sup> 'all who have left this world in your friendship',<sup>79</sup> 'all the dead whose faith is known to you alone.'<sup>80</sup>

We pray that Christ's sacrifice, which has made our peace with the Father, may 'advance the peace and salvation of all the world.'<sup>81</sup> We include among those who take part in our offering not only those present and all God's people, but also all who seek him with a sincere heart.<sup>82</sup> We should come to Mass with all humanity and all creation in our heart, so that the joy of salvation may reach through our celebration to all the world.

37) When we come forward together in procession to receive Holy Communion at Mass, we do so as a pilgrim people seeking to enter into Christ's offering of himself to the Father. The 'bread of life' we share is Christ's Body given for us; the 'cup of salvation' we drink is Christ's blood poured out for us.

It is Christ giving, offering, sacrificing himself whom we receive. Receiving Holy Communion can never be separated, therefore, from the whole meaning of the Eucharist as the sacrament or memorial of Christ's sacrifice, the making present of his death and resurrection here and now for our salvation. The table of the Lord is the altar of his sacrifice.<sup>83</sup>

38) The sacrificial nature of the Mass was solemnly proclaimed by the Council of Trent and reaffirmed by the Second Vatican Council. It continues to be carefully presented in the revised Order of Mass promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1969 (the *Missa Normativa*), and especially in the Eucharistic Prayers of the Roman Missal.

Although there have been changes in its celebration through the centuries, the Mass remains the same, from the 'breaking of bread' of the first Christians and the Eucharist described

by St Justin Martyr in the second century, to the Mass celebrated after the Council of Trent and the same Mass celebrated today using the missal of Pope Paul.

39) The people of God are the worshipping community which offers the sacrifice of Christ to the Father. The Eucharist is the action of the whole Church, and this should be expressed in the way we celebrate together. Today's Roman Missal bears witness to the ancient and unbroken tradition of the Catholic Church.

It complements and enriches the liturgical norms of the Council of Trent. Above all, it seeks to draw Christ's priestly people more deeply into the celebration of the Eucharistic sacrifice through their 'conscious, active and fruitful participation', so that they may grow in holiness.<sup>84</sup>

40) The Risen Lord in person calls together his Church and presides invisibly over the Eucharist as our Head and great High Priest.<sup>85</sup>

It is our Catholic faith that Christ presides in and through the visible ministry of a bishop or priest. In the midst of God's priestly people, the bishop or priest is the living sacramental sign and instrument of Christ as our Head and Shepherd, our Teacher and High Priest.<sup>86</sup>

The Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission's Clarifications state that 'the one who presides is thus the minister of the sacramental self-offering of Christ.'<sup>87</sup>

Because the Eucharist is the memorial of Christ's sacrifice, the action of the presiding minister 'stands in a sacramental relation to what Christ himself did in offering his own sacrifice.'<sup>88</sup> The priest 'offers sacramentally the redemptive sacrifice of Christ.'<sup>89</sup>

#### FOOTNOTES

74) Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 1368.

75) Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 1368.

76) 1 Corinthians 11.26.

77) Eucharistic Prayer I.

78) Eucharistic Prayer II.

79) Eucharistic Prayer III.

80) Eucharistic Prayer IV.

81) Eucharistic Prayer III.

82) Eucharistic Prayer IV.

83) Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, nn. 1182, 1383.

84) General Instruction on the Roman Missal, 5.

85) Cf. Report of the Anglican-Methodist International Commission, *Sharing in the Apostolic Communion* (1996), no. 9: 'the Risen Christ is the true president at each celebration of the Eucharist ...'

86) Cf. Second Vatican Council, Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests, n. 12.

87) Clarifications on Eucharist and Ministry (1996).

88) Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, *Ministry & Ordination* (1973), 13.

89) Response of the Holy See to the Final Report of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (1982).

When we come to Mass, we come to enter together into Christ's offering of himself in love to his Father. Let us be more conscious of this every time we gather for Mass.

+ Michael



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Leave a message if no  
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## About CYMFed

**CYMFed stands for Catholic Youth Ministry Federation. It recently formed to bring together 32 Dioceses (including East Anglia, represented by director of Youth Service Hamish MacQueen), Catholic organisations and Religious Orders working with young people in England and Wales. It exists to help shape and support Catholic Youth Ministry. CYMFed is recognised and supported by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.**

## Getting ready for Pope

It is now official – Pope Benedict XVI will visit England and Scotland on a four-day visit from 16-19 September 2010 – the first papal visit to these shores since Pope John Paul II visited nearly 30 years ago.

As part of the visit, the Holy Father will be at a prayer vigil in London.

CYMFed (see above) have been asked to plan what happens in the prayer vigil and a working group has been set up from members, including our very own diocesan youth worker, Hamish MacQueen.

“It’s great that CYMFed have been asked for their input, so we can make this an event that is aimed at young people and an experience they will never forget.

“Personally, I feel very honoured to be so closely involved with this once in a generation occasion” said Hamish.

“It hasn’t yet been decided if it will be a ticket only event and if so how these will be allocated, but I certainly hope to take a group of young people from East Anglia to it.

“It will be a good warm up for World Youth Day! More details when we have them.”

## Events 2010 from the Diocesan Youth Service

### May 3rd

Walk to Walsingham

Sponsored walk to Walsingham joining with the Diocesan Pilgrimage for Mass.

### Summer half-term

Better than Bear Grylls

Raft building and abseiling at Eaton Vale Centre. For those of secondary school age

### 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+

### August 20-27th

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Young people aged 17+ welcome

### August 27-30th

Summer Camp at Eccles Hall

Faith, food and fun in Norfolk countryside. For those aged 8-14

Details from Diocesan Youth Service - phone above or

[www.catholiceastanglia.org/youth](http://www.catholiceastanglia.org/youth)

## Event to help look into your future

Young people from the parishes are being encouraged to attend Invocation 2010, a three-day festival encompassing two events held at St Mary's College at Oscott near Birmingham in July.

The event will open with a diocesan schools conference on Friday 2 July where the main discussion will be about the role of school leadership in fostering a culture of vocation aimed at head teachers and chaplains.

This will be followed on the next two days

by a national festival for young people aged 16 to 35 who are looking to deepen their relationship with Christ.

It is an opportunity for young women and men to discern God's will for their lives and to be open to the possibility of consecrated life or priesthood.

Fr David Bagstaff, the diocesan director of vocations, said: “It is the first time a national gathering of school leaders will focus on their role in fostering vocations.

“It is also the first time young people will

with you.

“Connect young people to the faith community. Help the young Church encounter Jesus.”

Fr Timothy Radcliffe addressed the theme of hope and said: “The older people need to give hope to the young, by believing in their future. And the young give hope to older people, because they are the future.

“My hope is that you will be bearers of hope. The future may look bleak. We may wonder where on earth we are headed.

“Each of us will live through moments of crisis when the future seems unsure.

“But at every Eucharist we remember the moment when there seemed to be no future except the cross, when it all seemed over, and then Jesus made this extraordinary act of generosity and hope. And so we need never be afraid. We can share our hope with each other.”

In the questions and answers session Abbot Christopher Jamison spoke about the need for silence. “Spend time in silence yourself.

Eventually you will really want to go there. You can offer the integrity of your own silence to other people,” he urged.

In his closing exhortation, Archbishop Vincent Nichols said: “This is a day to make us proud - to restore flagging spirits.”

The conference also saw the launch of ‘Mapping the Terrain - Discovering the reality of Young Catholics’, a new CYMFed publication which maps the world that young Catholics inhabit.

The key message of the Congress was that we will find most hope in Youth Ministry when we work together – the best Youth Ministry is where young people are offered a variety of approaches to live the Gospel message and to deepen faith, including social action and service, time to be together, and time to contemplate.

Rosemary Boyle who came with the group from Cambridge described the day as “extraordinarily good and encouraging, personally a tremendous encouragement in my own life of faith”.

*Mindful of the challenges the geography of our diocese presents us with, this was the second year we ran our ice skating event twice in different parts of the diocese.*

*It was held in Norwich on the Thursday of Spring half-term and in Peterborough on the Friday.*

*Between the two, about 40 young people came and our pictures (left) show some of those who enjoyed themselves so much. It gave them an opportunity to meet each other in an informal atmosphere as well enjoy refreshments and of course impress each other with their ‘Dancing on Ice’ inspired skating!*



## Diocesan Pilgrimage 2010 Youth Walk to Walsingham

*A sponsored walk raising money for CAFOD, Cambodia, the Holy Land and World Youth Day*

- For those of secondary school age and above
- Starting with camping on the evening of May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Approximately 15 miles.
- Arriving in time for Mass as part of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Bank Holiday Monday May 3<sup>rd</sup>.



For more information and to book a place (bookings must be received by April 28<sup>th</sup>), please Tel. 01508 494833 or go to [www.catholiceastanglia.org/youth](http://www.catholiceastanglia.org/youth)

Organised by the Diocesan Youth Service

gather nationally with a focus explicitly on vocational discernment. The event has also been organised to bring together most of the seminarians of England and Wales.

“We are also inviting members of religious congregations in the same age range. As vocations director I am very much looking forward to participating on the Friday.

“But I also hope schools try to identify and encourage at least one young man and woman from the sixth form to attend.

“Many young adults who experience

events like World Youth Day, Lourdes Pilgrimage or Briars Retreat often come away with a more heightened sense of vocation or even receive a definite call to priesthood or religious life.

“The cost of the weekend is £50 and I hope parishes will help the young people to fund their attendance.”

The event is being heavily subsidised by the Vocations Team and Diocesan Youth Service who have more information so contact them.





*Pictured left is the deacon bringing the Oil of Baptism to the altar, right, prayers are said over the Oil of the Sick and, below, the Oil of Chrism is prepared*



## Bishop talks about the role of priests in diocese

# Chrism celebration

**P**eople from parishes across the diocese filled St John's Cathedral on the Wednesday of Holy Week to celebrate the Chrism Mass when Holy Oils for the sacraments in the next year were blessed.

But before that rite priests, deacons and laity renewed their commitment to ministry, service and vocation.

Priesthood was a strong theme of the Mass in the diocesan year when all are asked to consider their vocation in giving their life for others.

Bishop Michael said he had been looking through his ordination photographs from 1975 and also said he had told his bishop at the age of four that he was to become a priest.

His homily described how the Holy

Oils played a part in his life and in the lives of every Catholic.

At Baptism all are anointed with oil of Catechumens as a sign of wisdom and strength that comes from above.

But he drew special attention to Chrism, the perfumed oil used at ordinations to anoint the hands of the new priest because they would be doing the work of Jesus Christ ministering to a priestly people.

Bishop Michael said he was looking forward to a year of "wonderful celebration" with the Cathedral centenary and two priests due to be ordained in July.

The Chrism that will be used in their ordination contains balsam, a perfume from Jerusalem in the Holy Land where they spent a placement and saw the suffering of the people there.

"The priest on his ordination day is anointed with God's love so he can say the Spirit of the Lord is on me for he has anointed me."

The Oil of the Sick was also blessed

for the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

This is used to fulfil the precept in the Letter of St James for priests to lay their hands on the Sick and anoint them with oil.

Bishop Michael referred to his visit to the see Pope Benedict who wrote many years ago when he was Cardinal Ratzinger that the priest's role was to proclaim the joy of the gospel and bring it to all people.

But priests face a great deal of work today and sometimes people may have expectations that cannot always be fulfilled.

"Priests carry on because they are anointed with the joy of God's love.

"We need to pray that God will renew this anointing of each of us. We need more priests to bring the Good News of the gospel to the whole of East Anglia.

"I appeal also to any young men here asking themselves if God is calling to respond."



*Pictured (right) is the choir that led the music for the Mass and above the bishop surrounded by members of the clergy*



*The bishop awaits the gifts and the Holy Oils being brought forward*



# Families and individuals commit themselves to become Catholics at Rite of Election



*Bishop Michael welcomed each of the family groups and individuals with their sponsors, godparents and parish priests after they were called forward to confirm their commitment - see pictures right*



Families and individuals seeking to come into full communion with the Catholic Church in East Anglia were welcomed by Bishop Michael at the Rite of Election on the first Sunday of Lent at St John's Cathedral in Norwich.

Parishes from across the diocese were represented with several family groups all aiming to become full members of the Church at Easter.

And Bishop Michael challenged them by asking in his homily "Why do you want to be a Catholic?"

He answered his own question by saying "because we believe Jesus Christ is God's beloved son and we are

members of his family - his brothers and sisters".

He also stressed the importance of the sacraments through which people are welcomed into the Church's family but said it was a journey.

He echoed Christ's own words that "anyone who wants to be a follower of mine let him take up his cross and follow me".

Bishop Michael said it was relatively easy to do this in the western world and he drew a parallel with Cambodia where becoming a Christian rather than a Buddhist is sometimes seen as a betrayal of being really Cambodian.

"It is not such a drastic situation here

in England but we are here in St John's because of the joy of knowing God's love.

"The Holy Father asked about vocations to the priesthood in East Anglia and was delighted two are being ordained this July."

The Catechumens who were to be confirmed and receive their first Communion at Easter were welcomed individually by Bishop Michael and signed the Book of Life set out on the Sanctuary. The Candidates who would also come into full communion with the Church were also then invited to come forward with their sponsors and welcomed individually.



*Bishop Michael talking to one of the people at the Rite of Election and above the choir*



*Priests, deacons and laity renew their commitments*



*Once again St John's Cathedral was packed with people from all parts of the diocese coming together for the Chrism Mass during Holy Week*



## CAFOD offer to build bridges with communities abroad

CAFOD is offering parishes in East Anglia the opportunity to enter into a relationship with one of its overseas partners in Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, El Salvador, Ethiopia or Rwanda through a new programme.

By getting involved in Connect2: parishioners will learn more about the lives, hopes and struggles of particular people in a community.

They will see how their lives change over the next few years and through photographs of special events, cards and stories share something of their own parish and community life.

Bunthoeun, a Buddhist monk from Cambodia, says: "We invite you to join us on our journey with the people of Samrong Mean Chey over the coming years.

"CAFOD will be standing alongside them - helping them to create a more secure future for themselves. They can't wait to hear from you!"

If your parish or group would like to explore the idea of Connecting2: one of CAFOD's partners and the communities they work with, please contact CAFOD East Anglia office on 01603 624714 or email: eastanglia@cafod.org.uk.

CAFOD also wants to thank supporters in East Anglia for the outpouring of generosity in response to the Haiti appeal launched in February.

The amount of donations to both the DEC appeal (£94m) and CAFOD (£4.8) itself are quite amazing.

Senior emergency response officer Robert Cruickshank has recently returned from the devastated country

"At first I assessed the needs of the homeless and the enormity of what happened hit me. Many people were very traumatised, openly telling me they had lost loved ones," he said.

"I visited a hospital where the patients were recovering in tented wards. There were only two functioning latrines but I was told not to dig more in case I disturbed the dead."

Within days of Robert being in Haiti, it was clear that aid was getting into the country.

Robert said: "After a week we had made progress. Our partners and I had managed to get four water bladders into camps to contain 10,000 litres each. This was able to provide over 30,000 people with safe water. A modest success."



*At the February meeting of the Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association held at the Norfolk Club in Norwich cheques of £440 each were given to Richard Chubbock, chairman of the Norwich Branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Society and Angela Stone, President of the Norwich District Conference of the Society of St Vincent De Paul. Pictured are Peter Godfrey, president of Norwich circle, Richard Chubbock, Angela Stone and Tony Baker.*

## Pilgrimage to Iona with Knights

A pilgrimage to Iona is being planned to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Knights of St. Columba run by the Lowestoft chapter of the East Anglian province.

Local departures are available from Felixstowe, Ipswich, Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth, Norwich, Kings Lynn, Cambridge, Wisbech and Peterborough

Five days and four nights half board accommodation to include evening meal, bed and breakfast with overnight stops in northern England on the outward and return journeys costs £325 per person sharing a twin/double bedded room with en-suite facilities.

Departure date is Monday 14 June returning on Friday 18 June 2010.

Bookings and inquiries from Christopher J Brooks, KSC Provincial Treasurer, 356 London Road South, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 0BQ, Tel : 01502 563208.





Explaining the role of the cathedral and its bishop

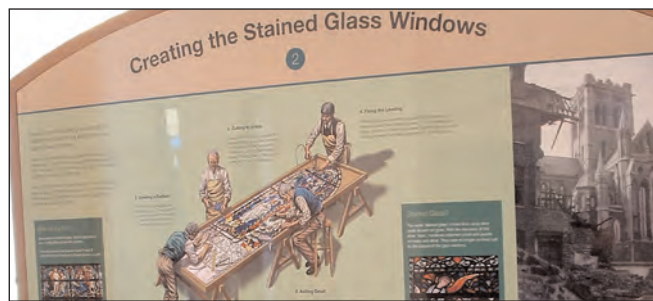
## Education displays open

A new feature of the Narthex is the educational display which looks at St John's Cathedral from the time it was built to the present day.

Display boards also give an account of the history of the church in East Anglia including the Penal Times.

There are also many other explanations of the role of the cathedral.

It is really worth a visit next time you are in Norwich.



Building the cathedral and its significance is explained



Three dozen young people aged 16 to 30 are getting ready for the international Augustinian Youth Encounter (AYE 2010) to be held near London in August.

A group from Clare in Suffolk has joined others from parishes run by the Augustinians in Edinburgh, Birmingham, Hammersmith and Hoxton in London, and Woodvale in Southport. The group met at All Saints' Pastoral Centre in London Colney, near St Albans, to volunteer for tasks involved in welcoming and looking after the 350 or more young members of the Augustinian family. They will arrive on 9 August for a week of workshops, worship and prayer, and socialising.

Augustinian youth worker Michela Notarianni has been planning the event since March last year.

"We had a fantastic Come and Volunteer weekend," Michela said.



"We now have designated teams to take care of every aspect of the week-long gathering such as site management, hospitality, liturgy, music and entertainment.

"One team will look after special events, including the opening and closing ceremonies, a ceilidh and a Taizé evening."

The theme chosen for the whole week is 'I call you friends'.

# Welcomed to Narthex

The new Narthex at the Cathedral was in use for the first time at the Chrism Mass during Holy Week.

Many visitors from around the Diocese commented on the difference the new facilities made to their visit to the Cathedral.

Sadly, the evening was marred for many, not least for the cathedral staff on hand, when the new toilets ceased to function and gave up the ghost mid-flow, so to speak.

"The new system uses a combination of grey water from rainwater harvesting, topped up by mains water during peak use," explained Clare Goddard.

"This was the first time it was put to the test and it failed miserably. The mechanical and electrical engineers responsible for specifying the system have been informed and instructed to rectify the problem.

"Meanwhile, we can only apologise to those who were inconvenienced and we look forward to making it up to them on their next visit."

Notwithstanding that problem, the evening was enjoyed by most and Cathedral staff have received many complimentary comments.

The work of the women who decorate the Cathedral week in week out was on display over Easter with an impressive range of crosses made from plants on the pillars. Everyone is now looking forward to the festival in flowers 24-27 June to mark the centenary celebrations.

For more details and ways of taking part call the cathedral on 01603 624615



The Baptistry at St John's Cathedral has been restored to its original design following the move of the shop to the new Narthex.



A new display area has been established just inside the door of St John's near the newly restored Baptistry so that some of the cathedral artifacts can be shown off

## Thanks for all the news

Thanks to everyone who sends in material most of which is used and I hope you will continue to keep us supplied but please send pictures as jpgs at 72 ppi and no bigger than 1MB.

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 Upgate, Poringland,  
Norfolk NR14 7SH.  
Tel/Fax: 01603 627409  
and email:

ptjbyrne@patrickbyrne.go-plus.net

**Deadlines: Our**

Diocesan Family is a bi-monthly newspaper and is printed early in the month before publication.

Material for must arrive by 1 June for JULY issue.

Patrick Byrne - Editor





BUILDING BRIDGES in Cambodia

OUR SEMINARIANS  
IN BATTAMBANG

In January 2010, Pádraig Hawkins and Henry Whisenant, two of our East Anglia seminary students studying at Oscott, went to our twin Diocese of Battambang in Cambodia for their pastoral placement, as had Michael Collis and Luke Goymour several years ago.

It is now an established part of formation for priesthood for East Anglia to spend time in each of our twin dioceses – Battambang and the Holy Land – at some stage during their six years before ordination. They experience first hand the lives of the poor, and the mission of the Catholic Church in their midst.

Here Henry Whisenant gives his account of their trip.

“Joom Reap Sooah!” With a bow of the head and raising our hands, held together as if in prayer in front of our face, we greeted the two girls who came to pick us up from the airport in Phnom Penh.

The cultural gesture was hardly necessary, as neither of them were Cambodian, and they just shook our hands and said, “Hi”. But our first night in Phnom Penh – sleeping beneath a mosquito net, and listening to the howls of what seemed hundreds of restless dogs – made us realise that we were indeed in a different world.



Our seminarians (the taller ones!) with Ratana (left), Fr Heri (middle) & Thon from Siem Reap

What followed for Pádraig and me was a two week experience of the Catholic Church in the Prefecture of Battambang, north west Cambodia. First we went to Battambang city, in time for a Mass to celebrate the 220th anniversary of the Prefecture. We were warmly welcomed by Father Totet, the parish priest in Battambang, and by Mgr Kike, the Apostolic Prefect of the Prefecture (Battambang is not yet a diocese).

That evening there were at least a thousand adults and young people from various communities who came for the Mass and the celebrations afterwards, which consisted of elaborately planned songs, dances and dramas. Colour and music are important in Khmer culture, particularly as there are no cinemas to provide alternative entertainment. In the next few days, Pádraig and I sought to get used to radically new living circumstances – while England was covered in

snow back home, cold showers at 5.00 in the morning, insect repellent, and lots of sunscreen in the daytime were aspects of our new life!

The Battambang church is involved in a number of charitable projects, providing a home for disabled children and for those children whose home environments make it difficult to pursue academic studies. Some of the disabled are the victims of landmines left behind by the recent conflicts in Cambodia between the Khmer Rouge, the Vietnamese and Thailand.

We went with a few of the young Church volunteers to a village of landmine victims near the Thai border where the Church is helping families to build houses. I greatly enjoyed experiencing family life in the smaller out-of-the-way villages, such as Chomnaom and Kompong Kor.



Pádraig and company

The children who were initially shy of foreigners were quick to open up, and the Khmer people were always cheerful and hospitable. But they were also living in the aftermath of a terrible national struggle. As well as striving to make ends meet on a daily basis, they were affected by the corruption of the country’s institutions.

Many days the children would not have school because the teacher would not turn up, and the only way the children could pass their grade 12 exams was to pay for extra lessons with the teacher in which they would learn everything they needed to revise. The young people also have a hard time trusting the police, some of whom will use their privileged position to take bribes or sell drugs.

On the last day of the trip we visited the Killing Fields outside Phnom Penh, where the Khmer Rouge systematically murdered thousands of their fellow Cambodians and left them in open graves.

This visit changed my perspective on the Cambodian life I had enjoyed for the last two weeks, and I admired the resilience with which this people could find again some



Pádraig (left) and Henry leave the floating church.

pattern of normality after all that they had been through. The streets are full of old people chatting away and watching the world go by, and young families riding contentedly with five people to a motorbike!

What did I enjoy most about the placement? We did of course visit the famous Angkor Wat temples outside the touristy city of Siem Reap (starting at 5.00 in the morning no less), but this was not the highlight for me.

Instead, it would have to be, as Pádraig agreed, the ‘floating villages’ on the Tonle Sap Lake. Here, the Vietnamese refugees (who could not legally live on the land) made their home, using bamboo to float their houses on the water, creating a network of houses, shops, school and even a church, complete with electricity, powered by car batteries.

When the church bell was rung to announce that Mass was imminent, groups of children, followed by adults, rowed over to the church in tin tubs and in boats as if it was as normal as walking down the road. No matter how basic or difficult conditions became for them, life went on nonetheless. And their strong faith in God continued nonetheless.

Pádraig and I would like to thank Mgr Kike, Fr Totet, and the priests and people of Battambang Prefecture for looking after us and providing us with an experience we shall remember for years to come.

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 for 2010/2011 is agreed), 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:

CAMBODIA .....

HOLY LAND.....

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 Ugate, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7SH  
Registered charity no. 278742



# Parish forms longest toilet queue for Wateraid

The parish of Our Lady of the Annunciation, Poringland and Loddon, joined the world record breaking attempt organised by Wateraid, to form the world's longest toilet queue on Sunday 21 March, (see the picture below of those taking part).

The parish supported Wateraid as its Lenten almsgiving project this year by collecting 'buckets of pennies' to be exchanged for buckets of water.

"When Tom Palakudiyil, one of our parishioners, spoke about the work of Wateraid, we were shocked to discover that two out of every five people on earth do not have access to proper sanitation!" said Fr Mark Hackeson, the parish priest.

"The resultant incidence of disease, death as well as social and economic hardship is a tragedy and must be addressed.

"As well as raising money to provide clean drinking water through the 'buckets of pennies' appeal, joining the world's longest toilet queue, enabled us to help raise the profile of water poverty and the lack of sanitation.

"It was certainly a Sunday Mass to remember, with everyone rushing out at the end to join the queue!

"Bishop Michael also queued in front of a Victorian WC that had originally been installed in his house but on that Sunday was standing against the church wall."



# Mission pledge to renew

**O**ur Lady and Saint Walstan's at Costessey held a parish mission in Lent with the title Refresh! Renew! Rejoice!

Two Redemptorist priests from Bishop Eton Monastery in Liverpool led parish events to refresh faith, renew hearts and rejoice in the love of God, said Pauline Stephenson.

"Fr Tim Buckley and Fr Ralph Heskett have a long history of giving missions and retreats and have more than 70 years of priestly vocation between them.

"We began our mission with a week of spiritual refreshment during which Fr Tim led us through two courses of study.

"Prayer Paths was a four part course in which we reflected on the role of prayer in our lives and considered the diversity of prayer forms from the earliest form of Christian prayer, Lectio Divina, through to meditation and adoration as outlined by Saint Alphonsus.

"The second course, Getting to Know the Bible, guided us through questions such as 'where did the Bible come from?' and helped us to explore the fundamental message of salvation held for us in the Scriptures.

"Our meeting room was full to capacity. Perhaps one of the greatest blessings of the mission was the increase in community spirit brought about by the parish coming together and meeting so frequently, increasing our love, faith and trust in the Lord and each other."

"We celebrated our unity and diversity rejoicing in the Catholic faith that binds together people of every race, background and character.

"A Pledge Tree that started the evening bare was set up and parishioners clothed it with their pledges, written on paper leaves.

"These were both private pledges, hopes for an increased spirituality in one's own future life, and public offers to get involved in ministry.

"Our pledge tree is a cherry which will be planted in the church garden and to flower at this time each year reminding us of our mission," she said.



Immediate past president of Norwich Circle of the Catenians John Kenny of Acle presents Bishop Michael a cheque for £1,000 towards the East Anglia Diocesan Sick and Retired Priests' Fund. The money was raised mainly by way of raffles which are a regular feature of the monthly dinners.

## Open heart talks at OLEM

As part of the Pentecost celebration at Our Lady and English Martyrs in Cambridge is running a series of spiritual talks to open hearts to the life-changing work of the Holy Spirit.

Among the speakers will be Fr Rex Vegebe and Charles Whitehead, who for 10 years was president of International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services, with an office in Rome where he was in regular contact with the Pope, cardinals and bishops.

The talks will be in the parish hall. Topics are: the certainty of God's love, freedom in Jesus, the power of the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts, the fullness of life and journey of faith.

There will also be Mass said, with the imposition of hands for those attending the course. If you are interested, please phone Sandy on 01954 780196

Times are 7.30pm on Mondays and dates are 26 April, 3 May, 10 May, 17 May, 24 May and Saturday 22 May.



The East Timorese Association of Peterborough held their inaugural meeting at All Souls Catholic Church. The association was formed to promote the well-being of East Timorese people, to celebrate their culture and customs and address issues relating to work, housing, education and health. In the picture is Fr David Jennings, parish priest of All Souls, Jawid Khan from the cohesion department of Peterborough City Council, Police Community Support Officers, Sister Mary Clare - cohesion link and members of the newly formed committee.

BISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS IN MAY AND JUNE				
MAY				
1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup>	Parish Visitation to St Ives	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Celebration of Thanksgiving at Cathedral with blessing of Narthex buildings at noon	Teachers at Poringland Diaconal Ordination at Cathedral (tbc)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham		Confirmations at Our Lady's, King's Lynn at 6.00	14/18 <sup>th</sup> Diocesan Priests Retreat in Merville, France
5 <sup>th</sup>	Prison Chaplaincy Meeting at Poringland	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Confirmations at Cathedral at 11.00	19 <sup>th</sup> Confirmations at Haverhill at 6.30
6 <sup>th</sup>	Catholic – Oriental Orthodox Forum in London		Adult Confirmations at Walsingham	20 <sup>th</sup> Confirmations at St George's, Norwich at 5.30
8 <sup>th</sup>	Diocesan Council of Laity at Poringland, 11.00-3.00	24/25 <sup>th</sup>	Westminster Province Bishops' Meeting (London)	21 <sup>st</sup> Inter-Church Schools Trustees at St Bede's, Cambridge
9 <sup>th</sup>	Mass at University of East Anglia Chaplaincy at 6.00	26 <sup>th</sup>	Confirmations at St Oswald's Peterborough 7.30	22/23 <sup>rd</sup> Bishop's Ordination Year Reunion at Poringland
12 <sup>th</sup>	Confirmation Group at St Luke's, Peterborough 7.30	28 <sup>th</sup>	Year 13 Leavers Mass at St Alban's School, Ipswich	24 <sup>th</sup> St John's Cathedral Centenary Celebration Mass at noon
13 <sup>th</sup>	Synod of Parish Priests at Poringland	29/30 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Visitation to Lowestoft	25 <sup>th</sup> Confirmations at Lowestoft
15 <sup>th</sup>	Mass and Lunch for Deacons and Wives at Poringland at noon	JUNE		26 <sup>th</sup> Commissioning Day for Lay Ministers of Holy Communion
18/19 <sup>th</sup>	Overnight meeting of British Methodist/Catholic Committee (Welwyn GC)	1 <sup>st</sup>	Diocesan Children's Pilgrimage to Walsingham	27 <sup>th</sup> Confirmations at Thetford at 6.30
20 <sup>th</sup>	Diocesan Schools Service Commission at Poringland	2 <sup>nd</sup>	College of Consultors at Poringland	28 <sup>th</sup> Confirmations at OLEM, Cambridge at 7.30
21 <sup>st</sup>	St Benedict's Pyramid Schools Pilgrimage to Walsingham	6 <sup>th</sup>	Cathedral Trustees Meeting (at Cathedral)	29 <sup>th</sup> Confirmations at St Laurence's, Cambridge 7.30
		11 <sup>th</sup>	Day of Reflection for Diocesan Deputy Head	

## Crucifix gift for Zambia

During the New Dawn Conference at Walsingham last August Jane Quail from St Peter's parish in Blakeney met Fr Leo Ululi from Mongu Parish in Zambia.

He told her he had no Crucifix in his Church.

Jane said: "I volunteered and made one using very light board for the Cross and the background which was set into an oak frame.

"The figure was modelled in Plastika which sets hard and resembles wood.

"The colours used are taken from the Zambian flag: green for natural resources; orange for mineral wealth; black for the Zambian people.

"Red symbolises the struggle for freedom, and the eagle represents the people's ability to rise above the nation's problems.

Fr Leo and his parishioners are very pleased with it.

