

# OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY

The newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

FREE

July 2011



## Bishop welcomed with applause

**B**ishop Michael was welcomed with a round of applause when he entered St John's Cathedral in Norwich to celebrate the Chrism Mass on the Wednesday of Holy Week.

He was delighted that so many people had come to one of the great diocesan events of the year, when the Diocesan Family of East Anglia was gathered together.

At the Chrism Mass the priests and deacons renew their commitment to priestly and diaconal service in the Church and together with the people commit themselves afresh to spreading the Good News of God's love in East Anglia.

At the very heart of the Chrism Mass is the blessing of the Holy Oils which will be used in the celebration of the Sacraments throughout the coming year. Anointing was a theme taken up by Bishop Michael in his homily.

He said that 'the whole Church, bishop, priests, deacons and laity were anointed for service and for mission. It was the task of us all to bring the joyful news of God's love to those around us. It is a joyful message and should be proclaimed by a people themselves full of the cheerful love of God. He suggested that the whole of the congregation should 'lavished and drenched, rather than simply dabbed, with the oil.'

The Oil of the Sick was brought to the Bishop by a group of four medical professionals: a doctor, a dentist, a midwife and a carer. The Oil, blessed by the Bishop will used to anoint the sick and the dying, following the example of the apostles as described in the Letter of St. James.

The Oil of Catechumens was brought forward by candidates for Baptism at Easter from the Cathedral Parish. Used in the preparation of those approaching Baptism it is a sign of strength from God.

The Oil of Chrism was brought forward by Confirmation Candidates from the Parish of Our Lady of the Annunciation, Poringland. Balsam, a highly perfumed oil from Jerusalem, was mixed with the olive oil that had been brought forward. It was then consecrated by the Bishop. This most sacred of the Oils is used for Confirmation and ordination of Priests and Bishops. It was used by Bishop Michael at Pentecost when he confirmed 45 young people at the Cathedral and 20 adults at Walsingham. It will also be used in the Ordination of Padraig Hawkins on 9 July.

At the end of the Mass the oils were collected by deans and priests from the eight deaneries for distribution to parishes.

You are warmly invited to join Bishop Michael at the Cathedral on 9th July as we celebrate the Ordination of another young priest for our Diocese. He hopes that the Cathedral will be as packed and as joyful as at the Ordinations last year.



*Bishop Michael blesses the holy oils at the Chrism Mass*



*One of the largest congregations for the Mass for many years greeted Bishop Michael with applause. Priests and the choir that led the singing sit with the deacons, below*



*Deacon Andrew Eburne reads the gospel*



*People, Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, deacons and priests came from all over East Anglia*

*Fr David Bagstaff crowns the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham before the scout troupe from St George's carry it to the Chapel of Reconciliation - full story and pictures on the centre pages*



An opportunity will arise in October 2011 for a committed person to take over the established role of Marriage & Family Life Co-ordinator for the Diocese of East Anglia

The role includes:-

Establishing /monitoring parent support courses & resources within schools and parishes

Increasing Marriage Preparation within the Diocese

Liaison with other Diocesan Commissions and Organisations

Regular updating of the Marriage & Family Life Diocesan Webpage

Organisation of the Annual Celebration of Marriage & Family

Quarterly meetings of the Marriage & Family Life Commission

The writing of reports for various agencies

*The successful candidate will need to be able to work on their own initiative and will be home based. The post will serve the whole of the Diocese so travel and occasional work at weekends or evenings may be required.*

The hours will be 20 per week (average)

It is possible that this job could be shared between 2 people dividing the hours Support is provided by the diocese and by an active national network of Family

Ministry Workers

Remuneration is £10 per hour + expenses Annual leave is 5 weeks + Public Holidays

Further information from Diocesan Office, 21 Ugate, Poringland, Norwich NR14 7SH

Tel. 01508 492202

or

Mike Kenning, Chairman, M&FL Commission [mike.kenning@talk21.com](mailto:mike.kenning@talk21.com)

or

Mary Clark, M&FL Co-ordinator 01603 504667

[mflico-ordinator@east-angliadiocese.org.uk](mailto:mflico-ordinator@east-angliadiocese.org.uk)

# THE BISHOP TEACHES

## EARTHEN VESSELS : Chalice or Cup?



*About Pietà*

*Mary takes the body of Jesus from the cross*

### Earthen Vessels: Chalice or Cup?

One of the phrases often used at the Second Vatican Council was 'noble simplicity'. This seems to have slipped off our horizon recently, deliberately or not. I think especially of a scene from the film 'Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade'. In the film, Jones goes in search of the 'Holy Grail' which has been understood as the cup used by Jesus at the Last Supper. Jones has to choose from a whole selection of gold and silver chalices.

If he chooses the wrong one, he comes to a nasty end but he soon recognises that Jesus would probably have chosen the simple earthen cup rather than a bejewelled chalice. It reminds me of the passage I chose for my ordination as Bishop, and eventually for my funeral; "We are only the earthenware jars that hold this treasure, to make it clear that such an overwhelming power comes from God and not from us." 2 Corinthians 4:7.

### Signs of New Life and Resurrection

Over the years various books have appealed to me as expressions of that simplicity. Firstly, Morris West's book, 'The Shoes of the Fisherman', which gave an idea of the kind of life and ministry I would have liked to pursue one day, without of course ever being Pope! His other book, which I have read many times, is called simply 'Lazarus' which again tells of a Pope who is in need of spiritual resurrection in his life. Like the first Lazarus he feels an inner call to personal resurrection, but we are all called to share in the more radical Resurrection of Easter.

One of the most powerful moments of my life was being allowed to spend the whole night, alone, in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, in prayer before the steps of Calvary and then simply sitting in the Tomb in the Basilica.

Next to the Tomb there is a plaque reminding us that Mary of Magdala greeted the Risen Jesus with simplicity and joy. Death and resurrection, dying and rising, lie at the very heart of our spiritual journey and are summed up in the liturgy of Holy Week, which I was able to share in this year, despite my original prognosis.

I have also been inspired on a much more personal level by individuals such as:

Pope Paul VI, whose portrait hangs on my wall, next to my desk. He was known for his humility and simple love; Brother Roger and the Taizé Community, whose joyful trust in God has supported me during my 33 annual visits to Taizé; and Archbishop Oscar Romero whose courage in the face of injustice I would have liked to have emulated.

### Deeper and Deeper in

Many of you will know that 'The Chronicles of Narnia' have

played an important part in my reading and thinking over the years. There is much about going on journeys and Aslan, the Lion of Judah, summons us all to go deeper and deeper in, sharing the mystery of his life, death and resurrection. 'The Last Battle', the final book of the Chronicles, finishes with the words; 'And as he spoke, he no longer looked to them like a lion; but the things that began to happen after that were so great and beautiful that I cannot write them. And for us this is the end of all the stories, and we can most truly say that they all lived happily ever after. But for them it was only the beginning of the real story.'

All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on for ever: in which every chapter is better than the one before.'



*Wall painting in the Holy Sepulchre.*

*Jesus' body is prepared for anointing*

## ETERNAL LIFE

Death is the event we fear most, yet far from being the end of life, it is the gateway to eternal life and happiness with Christ, deep in God's inner life of love. This is what we mean by heaven. Because salvation is about God drawing us together into his life, heaven will be a family affair where we are fully 'at one' with one another in God.

Heaven is not forced on us, because love cannot be forced, and we are free to say a total 'No' to all God freely offers us. God never stops loving us, but we can shut ourselves in so much that we begin to live a godless hell here and now. Death cements our choice, and God respects our decision. In that sense, those who go to hell (if there are any) put themselves there by refusing God's heavenly gift of himself.

Catholics pray for the dead, rather than just remember them with thanksgiving and hope. We on earth are closely united with those who die, and our prayerful union with them can help their final movement towards God as he leads them deeper into his life.

Some people reach death unready for the fullness of life with God. They have not rejected God, but need God's power to open them up to him. They are purified by the refining fire of the God's Spirit of love, and emptied of all that blocks or hinders God's gift of himself. This is the process which Catholics call purgatory. Because God longs for us to live deep in his presence, he freely reaches out to us at death to make us more able than we can ever deserve to share the wonders of his life.

Heaven will be a glorified life as fully human beings, both 'spiritual' and 'material', body as well as soul. We believe in the resurrection of the body. How this will happen and what we will be like is a total mystery, except that the crucified Jesus has gone before us (I Corinthians 15:35-36).

We are called to be God's holy ones, a communion of saints here and now, and we are united with those disciples already deep in God, in heaven. The saints are our living brothers and sisters in the faith, examples of Christian life and people who pray for us. If we really believe they are truly alive in God, what difference is there between the near 'veneration' given to popular modern Christian figures and that given to the saints in heaven? What difference is there between asking each other to pray for us, and asking the saints to do so, except that they are nearer to God?



*Holy Sepulchre – Franciscan Plaque of Mary of Magdala greeting the Risen Jesus near the tomb*

**We are only the Earthenware Jars that hold this treasure, that comes to us from God, and not from us.**

*+ Michael*

# DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

## New home for juniors

**S**t Mary's Junior School in Cambridge relocating to a new home in Chaucer Road from September.

The school aims to create "a contemporary learning space" while retaining the building's Victorian features.

The new building will provide outdoor space, and the girls will benefit from dedicated subject classrooms, library and hall for assembly and creative subjects.

Charlotte Avery, St Mary's headmistress, said: "We

are looking forward to the opening of our new junior school with great excitement.

"This new development will open a wealth of opportunity, not only for our junior school girls, but also for the whole of our school community as well as our neighbours."

Deirdre O'Sullivan, Junior school headmistress, said: "We are overjoyed about the planned move to our new home in Chaucer Road and the development this will allow our students.

"The new building will offer a splendid setting and secure a wonderful future for our girls.

"We are particularly thrilled with the extent of our new grounds and gardens."



Victorian features of the St Mary's school building are to be retained

## St Augustine's arrival enacted

St Augustine's primary in Costessey near Norwich enacted the arrival in England of the saint the school was named after to celebrate his feast day on 27 May.

The day started with the Year 5 children acting out the events of Pope Gregory sending Augustine and some monks to England in 597.

When they arrived to meet King Ethelbert, they came carrying a large silver cross.

Ethelbert, and his fellow Anglo-Saxons were all baptised.

The children all said: "The play showed why Augustine is lovely to have as a patron saint, because he persevered when he found things difficult, and was helped by the encouragement of Pope Gregory."



Pupils at St Augustine's enact the arrival of the saint in England

A special celebratory Mass followed the drama, with the whole school signing, as well as singing many of the praise songs.

In the afternoon, the KS1 children had a party, while KS2 had their annual inter-team netball and football tournaments.



Moreton Hall Preparatory School in Bury St Edmunds has established four bee hives, pictured above, in its grounds initially to boost a species believed to be under threat. Now the hives are a centre of study for their pupils.

Head teacher Simon Head said: "There's a well established tradition, in both literature and actual practice, of telling bees your troubles or news.

"Sometimes the custom appears to have revolved around turning a hive when a death has occurred in the owner's family; elsewhere, it is as simple as wandering close to a hive and sharing your concerns.

"Such an act was felt to prevent your bees from leaving you, or even carry your problems away. Our school has four hives on its grounds. Initially, we hosted the hives to do our bit to help support the honey bee population, and offer the children a chance to understand more vividly one of nature's most remarkable and important creatures.

"Our 'listening' bees are providing us with even more - honey."



St Augustine's school council held their first ever cake sale on 6 May and it was a very busy time for those taking part as the pictures show.

Year 6 made the cakes and the whole class pulled together to set a precedent of how to successfully run a cake sale!

All the cakes sold out within 30 minutes and an amazing £129 was raised for school council funds.

The school council plan to use the money to possibly extend the trim trail and buy new playground equipment.



## Dancers are credit to school

Class 4R from St. Thomas More Catholic Junior School are pictured here after taking part in the Norwich Schools Sports Partnership Dance Show at the Open Youth Venue on Bank Plain.

They had to be there from 1.15pm till about 8.45pm and take part in a

rehearsal and two performances for about 1000 people in total!

All of the schools performing had great dances and there was friendly support for each other back stage.

4R performed their dance very well and behaved extremely well - they were a credit to the school.

Peter Godfrey, president of the Catenians Norwich Circle, right, presented £200 bursary fund cheques to sixth formers Joe Hinchcliffe, Esther Evans, Claire Ludden, Michael Lomonosoff and Stephen Harsley to assist them in their travel later this year to Zambia where they will become involved in a two week long cultural exchange.

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

**YOUTH MATTERS (Oh Yes We Do!)**



Walking to the Diocesan Pilgrimage at Walsingham

**Reflections before walk**

Young people from all over the diocese came together for a retreat before walking 15 miles to come to the Diocesan Pilgrimage in Walsingham.

Some were sponsored to raise money for good causes but most just did it for the fun of it.

One of the young people tells us more.

"We met together the afternoon before at Sacred Heart School, Swaffham, who made us feel very welcome.

"Then to help us think what Pilgrimage is about, we had a talk from Fr Luke Goymour and later a talk and mime by the internationally acclaimed mime artist Steve Murray.

"We were reminded that like pilgrimage, life is a journey and when we take a wrong turn there is always a way back – through Jesus.

"After night prayer, led by Fr Michael Johnstone, and a hot drink, it was time for sleep.

"It was up early to be taken to Holkham beach for a very inspirational morning prayer, as we looked across the sands and reflected on the famous reading 'Footprints'. "Then the walk started and this year, for once, we arrived at Walsingham in good time for the start of Mass!"



After early morning prayer on Holkham beach a bracing walk through the fresh air, above, while the group negotiates the sands, below



An exciting time for all setting out on the pilgrims' way to Walsingham



**On the way to sunny Spain to meet Pope**



**O**n August 10th, the group of 57 from East Anglia will set off for World Youth Day in Madrid.

Hamish MacQueen, the organiser, said: "We're almost there. The many months of preparing and fundraising have all been worth it.

"They are a fantastic group. I would like to thank all the people and parishes who have so generously supported our young people to make this pilgrimage possible."

Although World Youth Day implies that it is just one day, in reality it is two weeks culminating in a special Mass with the Pope.

**World Youth Day – what is it?**

World Youth Day was established by Pope John Paul as an event to reach out to young Catholics; to celebrate their Faith; and to gather young people from around the world to build bridges of friendship and hope between continents, peoples and cultures.

It is celebrated internationally every two or three years.

In terms of numbers WYD is far bigger than any sporting event or rock concert ever held. An estimated two million people will come to WYD 2011.

While the group are away, they will be sending back regular updates online. Go to [www.catholicseastanglia.org](http://www.catholicseastanglia.org) and follow the links.

**The Itinerary**

- 10th August**  
Mass at Walsingham
- 11th August**  
Mass at Lourdes, France
- 12th August**  
'Days in the Diocese' in Zaragoza, Spain  
The Days in the Diocese, which have become part of the WYD experience in recent years are to give people an opportunity to experience the culture of young Catholics in the host country. We chose to go to the Diocese of Zaragoza as they have the national shrine to Our Lady there, in the same way as we have the national shrine to Our Lady in East Anglia.
- 13th August**  
Days in the Diocese Programme
- 14th August**  
Days in the Diocese Programme
- 15th August**  
Arrive in Madrid
- 16th August**  
WYD programme - Catechesis
- 17th August**  
WYD programme - Catechesis
- 18th August**  
WYD programme – Welcome Pope Benedict
- 19th August**  
WYD programme – Stations of the Cross
- 20th August**  
WYD Vigil with Pope Benedict
- 21st August**  
WYD Closing Mass with Pope Benedict
- 22nd August**  
Depart from Madrid
- 23rd August**  
Arrive back in East Anglia

**OUR MAIN DIOCESAN EVENT OF 2011 FOR YOUNG PEOPLE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL AGE**

**The BIG One 2011**  
Lunch • Team Games • Live Music  
Barbecue • Mass  
**AND IT'S ALL FREE!**

Held at St. Benedict's School, Bury St. Edmunds  
Sunday July 17th, 12:30pm - 6pm

**Just turn up on the day and join a team or bring a team from your parish, deanery or school!**

Unless you are over 18, you MUST have a completed parental consent form with you. This can be downloaded from [www.catholicseastanglia.org/youth](http://www.catholicseastanglia.org/youth)

**SORRY** - In the last edition of the Diocesan Family the event 'As big as you want it' was advertised as July 10th. Both the name and the date were incorrect - the event 'The Big One' will take place on July 17th.

**The 3 Shrine Challenge**

As part of the World Youth Day Pilgrimage, many of the group are starting with Mass at 7:00am in Walsingham on August 10th. Those who make it, will end up visiting three national shrines in three days!

- THREE COUNTRIES** - England, France and Spain
- THREE DAYS** - August 10th, 11th and 12th
- THREE SHRINES** - Our Lady of Walsingham, Our Lady of Lourdes and Our Lady of Zaragoza



Cub scouts from St George's led the first part of the procession carrying the statue



Young people from the Philippines community carried banners with pilgrimage themes and the decades of the rosary printed on them



People from St George's parish around their banner, above, and pilgrims setting out, below



Pilgrims gather in the Friday Market



Young people dressed in orange walked from King's Lynn to raise money for the World Youth Day event and they arrived in time for Mass

# St George's Day marked by Walsingham pilgrims

**S**t George's Day was celebrated by people from all over East Anglia who went to the Diocesan Pilgrimage at Walsingham on the early May bank holiday Monday.

To mark the occasion the Scout group based at St George's parish in Norwich played a prominent part.

Members of all ages took turns to carry the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham from the Friday Market gathering point for pilgrims, along the Holy Mile, to the Chapel of Reconciliation.

The large numbers of pilgrims with banners proclaiming their home parish gathered for the Angelus, the crowning and blessing of the statue and the beginning of the procession.

Fr David Bagstaff presided and wished all the pilgrims luck as they set out singing the hymn Lady of Walsingham, Lady of England.

A group of children carried card banners proclaiming the themes of the pilgrimage "Go out to the whole world. Proclaim the Good News".

Bishop Michael celebrated the pilgrim Mass and in his homily he paid tribute to the scouts from St George's parish.

He said he wanted to join the pilgrims

along the Holy Mile but this would have been too much of an ordeal.

Many of the pilgrims felt he was with them in spirit.

He also paid tribute to a group of young people who were walking and raising money for their journey to Madrid to meet Pope Benedict XVI in August at the World Youth Day celebration.

Bishop Michael followed up the walking theme referring to Richeldis, the Saxon noble woman whose dream led to the founding of Walsingham as a shrine.

She began her work 950 years ago and over the centuries thousands of people had walked across England to pray at Walsingham.

Bishop Michael invited the pilgrims to celebrate this 950th anniversary and to "go out to the whole world and make disciples of all nations".

He said: "It takes courage to make disciples of others but all can do it.

"We are called to surrender our lives to Jesus so that he can walk with us.

"His power will work through us," Bishop Michael said.

"Stay close Christ in the sacraments and his power can do wonderful things through us.

"St George is an example of Christian courage."



Bishop Michael before celebrating the pilgrim Mass, above, and below Stephen Dean with the diocesan choir



Walking the Holy Mile, above, and rest at the Chapel of Reconciliation, below



Fr David Jennings, above and below, talking to the children about spreading the work of God's love and, top right, priest concelebrating



# Children spread word of God's love for all

The sad news on arrival for the Children's Pilgrimage was that Bishop Michael's eyesight had taken a turn for the worse and a hospital appointment made for the afternoon, so he could not be with us as hoped.

Fr David Bagstaff, our Vicar General took the reins and lead us in procession from the village to Shrine. In Sunshine!

The children cheerfully walked, sang and prayed the mile. Numbers were high and the procession formed a long trail along the old railway track.

Fr David Bagstaff presided at Mass, joined by diocesan priests.

Fr David Jennings brought this year's diocesan theme of 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News' to life with his homily and activity involving Balloons!

He reminded everyone that they were entrusted to pass on the message that 'God loves you'.

Fr Michael Collis and the World Youth Day team from Peterborough cycled to the shrine and raised over £1500 for the event in Madrid this coming August.

During the homily, a game of Chinese whispers provided the message that GOD LOVES YOU.

This message was displayed as a text message on hundreds of card mobile phone tags which were signed by everyone at Mass.

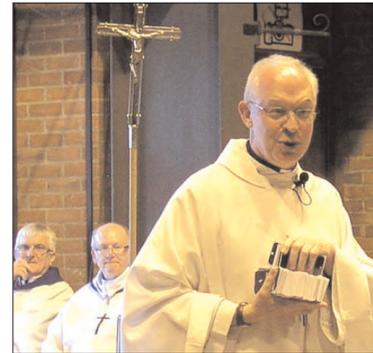
When the balloons were released by the children it made a very colourful and exciting display on the outside altar steps at the end of Mass, thus proclaiming to the world that God loves us!

A message received and passed on!

Special thoughts and prayers were said for Bishop Michael, who we knew would have wished to be with us all and had sent a message to us.

Fr Alan Williams, Director of the Shrine presented Chris Storman, one of the pilgrimage organisers, with a commemorative certificate of the 950th Anniversary of the Shrine, being celebrated this year, along with a promise of inclusion in all Novena Masses.

The picnic and beach visit were also enjoyed in warm sunshine.



Children bringing the gifts to the altar, below



A group from Peterborough, above, cycled to Walsingham to raise money for the World Youth Day. The new window carries the message of spreading the word, above right, and the balloons carrying messages are prepared by the young helpers outside the Chapel of Reconciliation



## NEWS

from  
THE  
CATHEDRAL  
OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

## Memories of Holy Land in new book

Archivist Dora M. Cowton has published a book on the Holy Land after working on it for a number of years.

It contains 61 colour photographs which she took during three pilgrimages to the Holy Land in 1989, 1995 and 1999, each of which was led by Mgr Harry Wace.

Each photograph is accompanied on the facing page by an excerpt of an appropriate psalm or canticle from the Divine Office.

Dora said: "Shortly after I started fitting together photographs and text I told Fr Harry of my intention and he encouraged me to publish it.

"The book is dedicated to him.

"For me it brings back so many memories of our time in the Holy Land.

"The silence when crossing the Sea of Galilee in a "Jesus boat", the frightening taxi ride round hairpin bends as we ascended Mount Tabor; finding a cow grazing when we reached the top and wondering did it also travel up by taxi??"

"Other memories are of seeing a party of Jewish children there protected by an armed guard."

On a religious theme Dora recalls Mass on the Mount of Beatitudes with bougainvillea providing a colourful background and Holy Hour in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Other memories include a meal in the street of Old Jerusalem, with the surrounding noise of traders, learning so much about Christianity from our Jewish Guide, trying to absorb the living history contained in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the fun of being with Fr Harry and our fellow pilgrims.

"When the book was nearly completed, I showed it to Father Mark Hackeson and was delighted when he gave me further encouragement and agreed to write the Foreword.

"I was very happy when Bishop Michael gave it his approval.

"I hope the book will give some sense of the joy, peace and enlightenment which we received from the pilgrimages and encourage more people to participate in this life-changing experience.

"The books cost £10 each and the money raised will go to Bishop Michael's "Building Bridges" Fund.

"It will be divided equally between Cambodia and the Holy Land. They will be on sale in the Cathedral Shop which has generously agreed to forego any monetary benefit to them from their sale."



The commission team are pictured above - Mary Clark, Anne Clark, Clare Richards, Bernard Segrave-Daly and the present Ben Bano and, left, some of the people from the parishes that attended.

## People with dementia need support

**F**orty people from around the Diocese attended a workshop at the Narthex to raise awareness of people affected by dementia in our parishes and the effect this has on their carers.

Those who attended were given a copy of the DVD "It's still ME, Lord" made by Ben Bano of Telos Training for Caritas Social Action Network (SCAN) for the Catholic Church.

Ben conducted the day's workshop which raised the very many issues that affect people with dementia and concentrated on all their needs, physical, emotional and spiritual.

A film, showing people with quite severe dementia responding to worship, close attention, singing, games and some of the hymns and prayers of their childhood, was shown.

Ben said: "First and foremost those affected are people with personalities and needs.

"It was important to maintain as many of the skills and activities including all the ordinary day to day routines and household chores they have done all their lives"

He emphasised the philosophy "use it or

lose it", as it was recognised that dementia is a progressive illness and being active and fulfilled for as long as possible was very important.

Ben, in his parish of Deal in Kent, is very committed to Lay Ministers bringing Holy Communion to those affected, either in their own homes or in care homes.

Two Deacons from our diocese and several lay ministers in the audience confirmed how important this was for those affected, as well as for elderly people.

Bernard Segrave-Daly said: "All those attending the Workshop received a copy of the booklet written by Marianne MacQueen of our diocese, for the Social Concern Commission in 2004 entitled 'Meeting the Spiritual Needs of older People'.

"It is an ideal handbook for parishes in ministering to elderly or housebound people."

Clare Richards, a retired teacher from Notre Dame school, whose husband Bert, a scripture scholar in the diocese who died recently, gave a most moving talk about the last years of his life as Alzheimer's affected his memory and increased his dependence on her.

She talked of the many difficulties as well as the joys they shared during this period of their marriage, but also the pain and isolation at times. She said that some of this time was

also "full of fun".

Alison Flath reminded the group about the diocesan policies on protecting vulnerable adults and which must be observed by those who visit the elderly and infirm.

Strong emphasis was placed on the support that should be giving in the parishes to those caring for people with dementia as carers are often overburdened and are in need of a break from time to time.

"We are aware that there are some priests in our diocese who are affected by dementia who are in need of prayer, support and visiting, Bernard, the Commission Chairman, said.

"The Commission could offer support and training to parishes wishing to set up a dedicated service to those affected by dementia.

"The day was deemed to have been a success by those attending who would have returned to their parishes with a clearer understanding of dementia as a progressive disease and the effect it has on the person as well as how best the parish can respond to help both carers and the person affected."

Copies of the DVD about looking after people with dementia called "It's still ME, Lord" are available from the Commission on request.

For further information and copies please contact [bernard@segravedaly.plus.com](mailto:bernard@segravedaly.plus.com)

## Ben inspired to help

Ben Bano was director of mental health care in East Kent for many years before he retired.

He is a lay minister of Holy Communion in Deal where he lives.

While visiting people to give Holy Communion he became interested in the wider spiritual needs of housebound people and especially those with dementia.

As a lay chaplain to St Mary's Hospital in Canterbury he encountered many cases of people with mental health problems.

He was inspired to do something about

it and wrote the script for a DVD which became 'Its still me Lord' which was given to those attending the Narthex event.

This DVD is now the basis of workshops which he stages all over the country.

During the workshop at the Narthex one of the themes which was made prominent was a plea from a person with dementia who said: "I need support not pity."

This has become the watchword of the Diocesan Commission for Social Concern who put on the day for the parishes.



Exhibition of thoughts of those with dementia

## Thanks for the news



Thanks to everyone who sends in material most of which is used and I hope you will continue to keep me 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 Patrick Byrne

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

Tel: 01603 627409 and NEW email:  
[patrick.byrne5@virginmedia.com](mailto:patrick.byrne5@virginmedia.com)

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# BUILDING BRIDGES IN THE HOLY LAND

## *HOLY SEPULCHRE*



“The pilgrim who enters the most venerable sanctuary on earth must be prepared to find wanting the magnificence perhaps expected; must be prepared to prescind from art in any form and from all that could delight the senses; or better still, the visitor must force himself to forget, to suppress let us say, the present and hold to mind only the bare rock of Calvary, supporting a cross, and the nude rock of the Holy Sepulchre, where sits an Angel from Heaven on the stone that has been rolled back to repeat to the passers-by the joyous news: “He is not here, He is Risen!” So says Fr Eugene Hoade o.f.m. in his renowned 1942 guide book.



*Bishop Michael at prayer at Golgotha in the Holy Sepulchre*

Often the Holy Sepulchre fails to live up to expectations, filled as it normally is by heaving crowds who see it as little more than a tourist attraction to be ticked off on their itinerary. Yet for Christians it is indeed, a venerable sanctuary, worthy of some time to peel back the layers of centuries to the moments of our redemption.

In an attempt to stamp out this emerging cult, Emperor Hadrian in 135AD built on the site a pagan temple which had the unintended result of preserving the site and fixing even more firmly in the minds of the early church the precise location of Calvary and the Tomb.

Some 200 years later Queen Helena, mother of Constantine, determined to identify sites associated with the Lord and provide fitting memorials on them. Thus the temple was



*The Holy Sepulchre: the most sacred shrine for all Christians*

demolished and the area excavated,

The Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre was consecrated in 335AD. The history of the building is fraught with destruction and rebuilding, mirroring in some way the death and resurrection it commemorates. Its destruction in 614 by the invading Persians was followed by rebuilding on a reduced scale by Abbot Modestus.

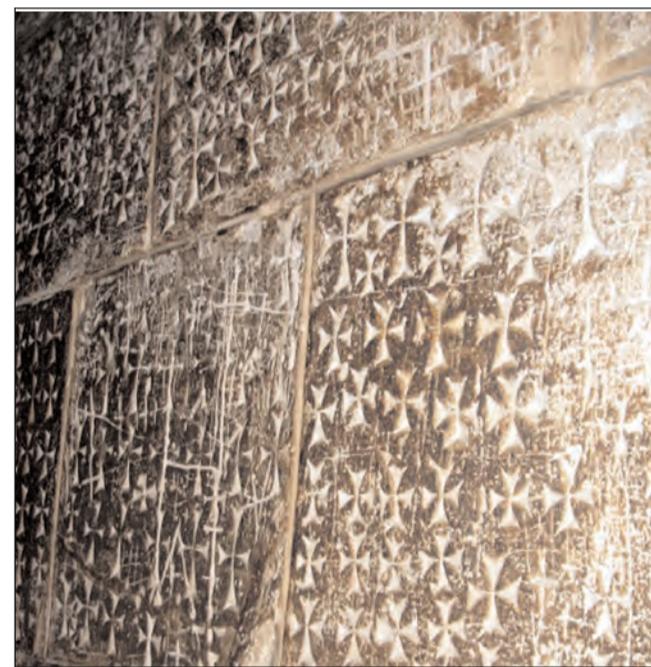
Destroyed again in 1009 by Caliph Hakem its required restoration was undertaken by a subsequent Emperor Constantine but on a much smaller scale. The offence of its destruction led directly to Pope Innocent’s call for the First Crusade. When the Crusaders eventually reached Jerusalem they extended the building adding their own embellishments which included the ambulatory linking the various chapels commemorating both events and artefacts from the Passion.

It is the Crusader church which remains to this day, although much of it hidden by ill thought out additions and appalling attempts at restoration over the centuries. A disastrous fire in 1808 was followed by equally disastrous rebuilding; an earthquake in 1927 left the building in need of substantial repair and the iron girders provided by the Royal Engineers still shore up the building to this day.

Not only is the Basilica “the most venerable sanctuary on earth”; but it’s stones are the most revered in so far as the history they have witnessed, the numbers of pilgrims – paupers and kings – who have passed by, the multitude of prayers uttered give the building a uniqueness which cannot be matched.

“If these disciples are silent, these very stones will cry out!” To visit this mess of a building will, on one level, disappoint; however on another level they speak of the greatest story ever told!

*(Fr. Paul Maddison)*



*The stones cry out, marked with signs of healing and blessing*



# Extension plans for Clare church

**The church at Clare Priory in Suffolk is to be extended at a cost of £1,158,000 because of serious overcrowding at regular celebrations of Mass.**

The existing church occupies the 13th century former infirmary to the original priory founded in 1248.

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

Fr Bernard Rolls OSA, prior and parish priest at Clare, said: "It has been discreetly positioned so that it will be subservient to the existing medieval building.

"The plans for the new extension follow careful analysis of the Clare Priory site as a whole as well as the medieval infirmary.

"They are the result of detailed consultations over the last 14 or 15 years with the local planning authority, English heritage and other interested bodies.

"The Augustinian community and members of the parish are very grateful to all those who have helped to bring the planning application to this stage,

"Clare Priory and its church are important monuments both in terms of the historic building stock of England and as the mother house of the Augustinian Order in the English-speaking world.

"A spokesman for English Heritage observed early on that it would be difficult to

imagine a more complex series of constraints affecting a church development anywhere in the country.

"The Priory parish and friends have already raised £360,000 for the new building over the last 14 years, and this sum has been matched by funds from the Augustinian Province of England and Scotland.

"A parish fund-raising team is planning to produce the remaining £458,000 over the next three years."

Speaking on the day of the national Augustinian Pilgrimage to Clare Priory, Fr Bernard said the need for more space was even greater now than when the Clare Priory planning application was first submitted.

"When the Augustinian Order returned to Clare in 1953 after an absence of more than 400 years the medieval infirmary was converted on a limited budget to serve as a church for the friars and novices and for a small parish. It was not designed or adapted to fulfil its existing role.

"Over the years the number of visitors to the parish and the retreat centre has increased and we regularly have more than 130 people trying to squeeze into a church designed to seat 90.

"It is often standing room only at the back of the church and in the porch, and for special services such as weddings and funerals extra seating sometimes has to be provided on patio chairs outside the church.

"On Easter Sunday morning the church was full for the 8am Mass, and for the 10am people were having to stand outside."

**All the altar servers at St Benets in Beccles have now been enrolled in the Guild of St Stephen and one, Emily Lewis, holding a certificate, is celebrating 11 years service.**

Sacristan Mary Day said: "She was one of the last to make a First Communion at seven years old.

"As they have to be members of the Guild for 10 years to qualify for a silver medallion I made her a certificate to show our appreciation."



## Clare craft fair

Clare Priory is holding its annual craft fair on Saturday 9 to Sunday 11 July. Admission is £4 for adults and over 14s, £3 for seniors and free for accompanied children under 14. Strictly no dogs. There is free parking for visitors at Clare playing fields with a free park-and-ride service to and from Clare Priory. The Clare Priory Craft Fair is organised entirely by volunteers from the Mother of Good Counsel Parish at Clare Priory and all the proceeds go to good causes, including a number of local charities.

*An early morning ecumenical service was held at 5.30am on Easter Sunday in the Norfolk countryside.*

*The Reverend Martin Greenland, Rector of St Edmunds Church plus the Reverend Heather Sorrell, Minister of the Bridewell Methodist Church in the village of Acle, accompanied by Catholic Deacon Peter Glanville of St Mary's, Great Yarmouth led an ecumenical service at the 11th Century Church of St Mary's Fishley which is situated in the middle of farmland just outside Acle.*

*The service was attended by a 50 strong congregation of Methodists, Catholics and Church of England members, all reading from the service sheets by candle light, not really for any symbolic reasons, but because the church literally has no power supply. After the church service everybody filed outside to sing hymns as the sun rose.*



*An artist's impression of the extended church at Clare Priory*



## Faith work honoured by Muslims

Fr David Jennings from All Souls is pictured receiving an award from Peterborough's Muslim community in recognition and grateful thanks for his contribution to interfaith cohesion.

Fr David left the parish at the end of June to take a sabbatical year in which he will study in Canada and Jerusalem and carry out two projects for the diocese.

He said: "It has been an exciting time to have been in Peterborough over the last eight years.

"I have been blessed to have been able to work along side other Christian leaders, to explore more deeply the other faith communities and to see at first hand the dedication of the Peterborough City Council to wanting to improve the lives of its citizens.

"I shall miss this very much indeed."

During the year he has also agreed to undertake two research projects for the diocese. On a personal note, Fr David intends to improve his love of Italian and, if time permits, discover the mysteries of the game of golf!

A Farewell Mass was celebrated at Peterborough Cathedral to coincide with the Parish One Celebration.



*Fr Tony McSweeney celebrating the Healing Mass at St George's in Norwich which has now become a tradition for the parish at the beginning of Holy Week. In his homily Fr Tony said suffering came on to people unsought and unexpectedly in many cases and they do not understand why. But Fr Tony said just as the leper said to Jesus that he could cure him if the Lord wanted to all could hope to receive the same answer. Jesus said to the leper: "Of course I want to." Fr Tony demonstrated that healing was in the world through the experience of Lourdes where the church has accepted 69 claims of healing since 1858. "All of us need healing - some physically, emotionally or mentally and all have the right to ask."*

