

OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY



The newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

FREE

September 2011

Diocesan farewell to Bishop Michael

About 2,000 people packed into St John's Cathedral in Norwich for the Funeral Mass for Bishop Michael led by Archbishop of Westminster Vincent Nichols.

People came from all parts of the diocese to pay their respects to the Bishop they had come to know and love.

He had worked tirelessly for them whilst suffering from prostate cancer and undergoing treatment for six years.

They had journeyed with him, 'living with dying'.

The last act of love and respect for the clergy, religious and laity of the Diocese was to pray for him alongside his mother and sister and the other friends he had made across Britain, across the religious spectrum and across the world.

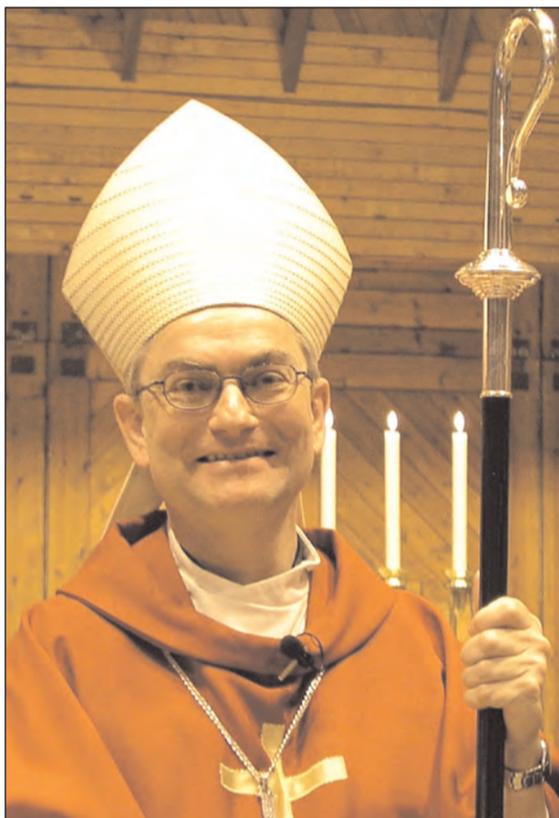
The diocesan twinnings with the Holy Land and Cambodia were reflected in those who attended his funeral. 120 priests, 20 deacons and 200 students and staff from Catholic schools across the Diocese participated.

The Pope was represented by his Nuncio to the United Kingdom, Archbishop Antonio Mennini, and Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor attended with 30 other Bishops from England and Wales.

Amongst the many messages received were one from Pope Benedict XVI who paid tribute to Bishop Michael's ministry in East Anglia and one from Cardinal Koch who heads the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity acknowledging his work in this area of the Church's life.

Monsignor Tony Rogers, one of Bishop Michael's Vicars General, gave a homily noting that the Bishop had expressly forbidden a eulogy.

He described the Bishop as a man who never ducked the difficult issues especially in preaching the Gospel in today's world.



Bishop Michael Evans



The Archbishop of Westminster Vincent Nichols leads the procession from the altar to the West Door of the Cathedral, above, and some of the young people who took part in the Funeral Mass, below, and members of the diocesan youth group who were going to see the Pope in Madrid, bottom



Tributes to a busy man who worked hard on behalf of the diocese

I will always picture Bishop Michael at his desk because every time I went to the White House that was where he was. Often when I had a request to make of him by telephone or email he replied promptly, from his desk I always presumed. He was a busy man and worked hard on behalf of the diocese but also had time to relax.

We often spoke of our shared obsession for television detective series such as Morse, Frost and latterly Lewis, although I thought it could have better been renamed Hathaway, after the detective sergeant who frequently took a leading role.

In one episode when Hathaway was about to resign over a getting involved with a person involved in a murder inquiry Lewis persuaded him to stay. He said that between them they made one very good

detective.

It was similar with Bishop Michael. He played a leading role in the production of the diocesan newspaper and between us we made one very good editor - Patrick Byrne.

Bernard Segrave Daly, chairman of the Commission for Social Concern, also paid tribute and said he was very supportive of their work and attended every AGM since his appointment. "We often doubled up the occasion by inviting him to commission a visitors' group.

"He seemed to recognize that for some people being involved in work of expressing love for our neighbour is the way some Catholics can best express their love for the Lord.

"He was particularly supportive to our recent Awareness Day for those suffering

from Dementia and their Carers.

"He had extraordinary courage in working on in his pastoral duties right up to the end and was there to greet us at Hyde Park on the Pope's visit after a very long and tiring day. I was hugely impressed that he gave his whole life in serving the Lord so generously.

"His recent interview on television was a very generous act of sharing his final journey with the world and teaching us that our final goal is heaven where we will meet our maker, his down to earth honesty was wonderful and so encouraging to us all. We thank God for such a humble man."

Fr Tony McSweeney at St George's in Norwich was taught by, the then Fr Michael Evans, at St John's Seminary in Womersley. He said: "Michael Evans - that

name rings a bell, I thought to myself when news of the appointment of our new bishop was announced.

"Michael Evans - one of the staff at St John's Seminary where I trained was of the same name - could it be, is it?"

"I was taken back 20 years. Theology lectures, essays, seminars, night prayer, other students: and I wasn't sure what I thought.

"Fr Michael Evans had spent many hours trying to drum some understanding of Christology, eucharistic theology, even (on occasions, angelology - but not often) and he was a very effective teacher. I was, in truth, delighted to welcome him to be my bishop. He had great energy and true pastoral insights and I will miss him hugely!"

THE BISHOP TEACHES

LIVING WATER: A life of prayer

Over the last few weeks of his life Bishop Michael added to our Diocesan Website a number of articles which you may find helpful.

They include articles on Catholic Methodist relations, some thoughts on the Sacrament of Confirmation and articles entitled 'Chalice or Cup?' and 'For all or for Many?' and 'At-one-ment', but there is also a long article on prayer which I reproduce here.

This is a much longer 'Bishop Teaches' page than usual, but please give some time to looking at this.

At the White House, where I live, there are many houseplants which I do my best to look after. Some need occasional watering but I have one that wilts and disappears almost immediately when I stop watering it.

We are having much the same problem at the moment across our country with a desperate need in most places for a great deal of rain. It is a reminder perhaps of our urgent need for the gift of living water from God, the living water which God offers to the Samaritan woman at the well and which she asks for from him (John 3).

Watering makes a great difference and brings a new vigour; almost immediately we see this particular plant revived and restored. St Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, sees something similar, when we stand in urgent needs of God's Spirit. His prayer is that, though the gift of the Spirit we are similarly revived and restored:

'This then, is what I pray, kneeling before the Father, from whom every family, whether spiritual or natural, takes its name: out of his infinite glory, may he give you the power through his Spirit for your hidden self to grow strong, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, you will with all the saints have strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; until, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge, you are filled with the utter fullness of God.'

It reminds us that everything in our Christian lives is about God's gift of love to us.

God's Gift to us

Sometimes God gives himself to us in a way which makes an immediate and radical difference to our lives. Sometimes it is simply God giving himself to us day by day in a way which gradually strengthens and transforms us.

I suppose many of us would like the kind of experience St. Paul had on the road to Damascus, or the rather mystical experience that C.S. Lewis describes when he meets God in the Chronicles of Narnia:

'Both the children were looking up into the lion's face as he spoke these words. And all at once (they never knew exactly how it happened) the face seemed to be a sea of tossing gold in which they were floating, and such a sweetness and power rolled about them and over them and entered into them that they felt they had never really been happy or wise or good, or even alive and awake, before.'

And the memory of that moment stayed with them always, so that as long as they both lived, if ever they were sad or afraid



or angry, the thought of all that golden goodness, and the feeling that it was still there, quite close, just around some corner or just behind some door, would come back and make them sure, deep down inside, that all was well.'

I think we should seek such experiences simply as a pure gift from God rather than something we come to expect.

God promises that he will give himself to us, in whatever way he decides. I think one of the greatest prayers, and certainly my favourite, is Psalm 62(63) in the Grail version, which we use often in the Catholic Church:

*O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.
so I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.*

*For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.
So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.*

*On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.*

There are many Psalms which express beautifully our longing and yearning for God, waiting for him, but again always as God's gift to us, rather than as something we should expect from him.

Much of it is expressed also in Jesus' teaching of the vine and the branches: without him we can do nothing and are nothing but with him everything is possible (John 15:1-17).

Relating to God in a personal way

One of the most powerful forms of prayer, which we reach in contemplative prayer, is the prayer of silence. We live in a very noisy world in which we try to fill almost every moment with noise and activity. For example, mobile phones, Ipods,

television and constant background music wherever we go.

We need to seek moments of real silence, difficult though that is for us in our modern world. We could learn much from the experience of Elijah where rather than finding God in the earthquake or the mighty wind, he finds him instead in the gentle breeze, in the quiet. (1 Kings 19:11-13) There is a deeper form of silence which God offers us in prayer.

It has been suggested that real silence, or at least the absence of sound of any kind, is in fact the very voice of God himself,

For example in Taizé at 2 o'clock in the morning, in the old Church, there seems to be an almost absolute silence,



Silent prayer in Taizé

The Oglala Sioux (a tribe of native Americans) have reminded us that:

'In the life of the Indian, there was only one inevitable duty – the duty of prayer... Each soul must meet the morning sun, the new sweet earth and the Great Silence alone.... If you ask him, 'What is silence?' he will answer, 'It is the Great Mystery. The holy silence is his voice!'

Blessed Mother Teresa wrote:

'We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence... The more we receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in our active life.... The essential thing is not what we say, but what God says to us and through us.'

Jesus taught us that however much time we spend in faithful service of others, our greatest calling is simply to be like Mary the sister of Lazarus who found the 'better part' simply by sitting at the feet of Jesus and being with him in quiet.

People often think that intercessory prayer, asking God for things, is the heart of prayer but it is much more than that. Simply *worshiping him* and *being with him* is more important. True worship and thanksgiving opens our hearts to receive all that God is waiting to offer us: we worship God in spirit and truth.

Intercessory prayer is good when we begin first by hallowing and worshiping God, when we ensure that it is always God's will that is done rather than our own, and when we allow God to reign in our lives and God's kingdom of justice and peace to be established. Intercessory prayer can be truly beautiful of course, but especially when it is seen as coming to God with others in our hearts, our minds and our love.

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through which God speaks to
us.

In his last blog on the diocesan website Bishop Michael paid tribute to the organisers of the Children's Pilgrimage to Walsingham and expressed his regret he was unable to attend.

He said: "I was delighted to hear that the pilgrimage was a great success, with much work put in especially by Chris Storman, Julie O'Connor and Frs Tony McSweeney, David Bagstaff and David Jennings.

"A celebration of Mass at Loddon recently involved all the Christian communities that make up the Church in Loddon. There was a good number of people marking the vitality of the local ecumenical project that I hope will continue.

"Later that week, we gathered at the Narthex in Norwich for the launch of the Art Alive Exhibition. Although I could see little of the exhibition itself, I was made aware particularly of the wonderful heritage we have in Norfolk of Rood Screens and Rood Beams.

"At the end of that same week, an occasion particularly full of joy was our now annual Celebration of Marriage and Family Life which celebrated together nearly 3,500 years of marriage.

"It was by far the biggest collection of jubilees so far, as well a large number of newly-weds and people celebrating the birth of new babies. One couple were Anna and Owen Scriven, whose wedding I attended at Poringland, and their new baby Phoebe."

On Pentecost Sunday Bishop Michael confirmed a big group of 46 young people at the Cathedral followed by our latest group of 12 adult confirmations at Walsingham later in the afternoon and they are pictured above. Confirmation was always central to his ministry.

The gardens at the White House were opened up for the annual Parish Fete and Bishop Michael said: "It was particularly good to have the Poringland Singers and the Loddon Silver Band as part of the event.

"The fete was opened by Louise Priest from the BBC who sings with the choir which rehearses each Tuesday in the church next to my house.

"A series of events focusing on the priesthood is also underway and began with the ordination of Fr Allen Brent and Fr David

Skeoch at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist for the Ordinariate of Our Lady Walsingham when Bishop Alan Hopes presided."

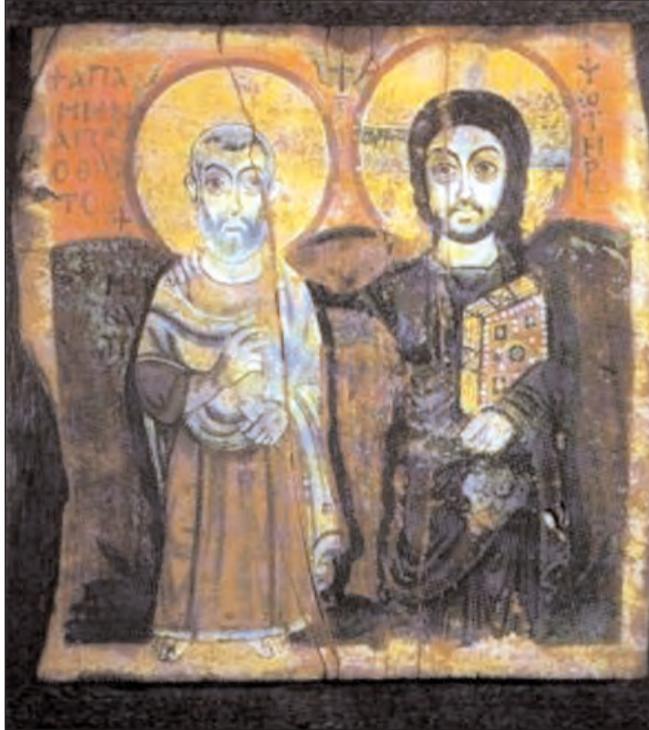
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Some of the chants of the Taizé community remind us that 'God can only give faithful love' and that we should 'welcome that love ever more deeply' into our lives.

Many of the prayers of the church are simply different versions of the well known 'Kyrie eleison' and 'Alleluia', with prayers for God's merciful love, and songs of Easter joy.

An ever Deeper 'Yes' to God

True prayer is a 'Yes' to God, indeed an ever deeper 'Yes' to his presence in our lives. We echo Mary's *Magnificat* where we join Mary in her joyful praise of God, recognising the greatness of God, and that we are dependant on God for everything in our lives.



One of my favourite icons, is this seventh century Coptic icon of Jesus and his friend. Jesus has his arm around the shoulder of his friend. The friend points towards Christ himself. It reminds us that prayer is above all our personal relationship with Christ.

There are many books and pamphlets which seem to be trying to provide techniques about how to pray, whereas we are really trying to help people enter an ever deeper relationship with the risen Christ and his Holy Spirit.

Much of prayer is summed up in the prayer of St. Richard of Chichester:

'Lord Jesus Christ, my redeemer, my brother and my friend, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly day by day.'

St. Paul teaches us that 'I live not now with my own life but with the life of Christ who lives in me' (Galatians 2:20).

Once again there is deep wisdom in the teaching of another native American, Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. She died in 1689 in Canada at the age of only 24, without any great achievements or at first any obvious impact on the world.

Whereas some of the 'Black Robes' (the Jesuit Priests and Martyrs) of her time were brutally martyred for their faith, life was sometimes made very difficult for Kateri, but she spent most of her time longing to be as close to God as possible.

She especially longed for her First Communion and to spend time in prayer, patiently looking after the sick, placing simple crosses in the forest as signs of God's love. Kateri's life was centred above all on adoration and worship of her Lord, much like St. Catherine after whom she was named.



Blessed Katri Tekakwitha

Psalm 138(139) begins with God searching our lives and being there for us no matter where we are: in other words as Jesus said, 'I am with you always, to the end of time.'

'O Lord, you search me and you know me, you know my resting and my rising, you discern my purpose from afar. You mark when I walk or lie down, all my ways lie open to you.

Before ever a word is on my tongue you know it, O Lord, through and through. Behind and before you besiege me. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, too high, beyond my reach.

O where can I go from your Spirit, or where can I flee from your face? If I climb the heavens, you are there. If I lie in the grave, you are there. If I take the wings of the dawn and dwell at the sea's furthest end, even there your hand would lead me, your right hand would hold me fast.'

Anthony Bloom, and the Chronicles of Narnia, sometimes remind us that God is no 'tame lion'. All too easily we can forget the greatness and awesome majesty of God.

God's Work of Art in us

We cannot speak about prayer without speaking also of the sacraments, above all of Baptism and Eucharist. In Baptism we are *immersed* into God not simply for that one special moment, but ideally we live every day *plunged into God's life and love*.

For many Christians the very heart of prayer is the Eucharist. This is our greatest prayer, the supreme act of worship and adoration, in which we offer to God all that we have, and are ready to give him thanks and praise, uniting our lives and all that we have to offer with Christ himself and his great Sacrifice.

For Catholics, our worship includes Eucharistic Adoration, in which our lives are laid open to Christ's presence in a powerful way which radiates and transforms us.

Prayer, above all, is inviting God to take us in his hands, like the potter with his clay: 'And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand'.

(Isaiah 64:7,8) As with any potter, God often tries to start afresh with his work of remaking and restoring us in his image but this is always *his* work. (Jeremiah 18:3-6)

This is prayer in its deepest and richest form, a living encounter with the God who is always with us, the God who invites us and joyfully desires us to enter into the *holy of holies* which is the wonder of his life.

It is the Holy Spirit, of course, who is the 'Living Water' that Jesus offers the Samaritan woman, and each of us. Archbishop Oscar Romero knew only too well what happens when that Spirit is absent from our lives:

'How arid we human beings are when the Holy Spirit is not in us! How cruel people become when animated not by God's Spirit but by the spirit of getting ahead in the world!'

....
Without God, humans are wild beasts. Without God, they are deserts. Their hearts have no blossom of love.....
(5 December 1977)



Archbishop Oscar Romero

Once again, Archbishop Romero understood only too well that prayer and struggle often belong together as do prayer and deep commitment to justice and peace and the coming of God's Kingdom; so that God's will becomes ever more deeply established in our world: his Kingdom comes and his will is done for us as his gift. It is only God's Spirit, and nothing else, which can renew, restore and refresh us.

We remember that adoration and prayer are always God's presence with us, the presence of the God who so loved the world that he sent his only Son, and the Risen Lord who asks each one of us again and again, 'Do you love me more than these others do?'

This is the wonder and beauty of God's love for us.

Jesus said; 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.'

John 4:13-15

+ Michael

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

St Louis Mass marks 40 years

Over 600 pupils, staff and governors from St Louis, gathered to celebrate Mass in St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, to mark the 40th Anniversary of the school and the retirement of head teacher Mrs Anne Mansfield at the end of the school term.

The Mass was celebrated by parish priest Fr Philip Shryane, and the local Catholic clergy.

Tributes were paid to Mrs Mansfield for her contribution to the school over the years and to the hard work of all the staff and pupils who were leaving.

Mrs. Mansfield said: "We are very grateful to the Dean and Cathedral Chapter for welcoming us. We wanted to be able to invite as many parents, staff, governors, parishioners and pupils who have been associated with St Louis over the past 40 years and needed a larger venue than the school or our local Catholic church."

This is the third occasion the school has held a Catholic Mass at St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

Dean, Dr Frances Ward said: "It was a pleasure to welcome St Louis School to the Cathedral for this service to celebrate all that the school has offered to education in Bury St Edmunds district as the school year ends.

"It is also a delight to worship together in this ecumenical service, joyful in friendship that Jesus Christ taught us to show the world."



St John Fisher High School in Peterborough moved away this year from a traditional athletics based sports day by engaging in cycling, tug-o-war (pictured above), ultimate frisbee, human table football, golf challenge, handball, dodgeball, volleyball and basketball shoot out.

The day began with an Olympics style opening ceremony with each of the four houses; Beverley, Cambridge, Rochester and Westminster parading a lap of the track wearing their colours, holding banners and beating drums.

This was accompanied by the Rochester Rockettes cheerleading team performing a routine to the Queen song We Will Rock You. Overall winners were Westminster House.

One of the parades is pictured below.



St John Fisher also swept the board at Peterborough's Young Peoples' Film Awards winning Golden Oscars and Silver Stars. Congratulations to George Abercrombie, Kornelijus Gaubys, Ali Moradi, Aqil Muhmood, Suhaib Haider and Rute Oliveria from 7BI. The school also won the Best Teacher Film for Miss Vivash's pop video Doing Homework All The Time. Finally the loudest cheers were for William Healy and James Martin for their animated film about alien robots invading earth which took the Best Animation category and then went on to win the overall Best Film award.

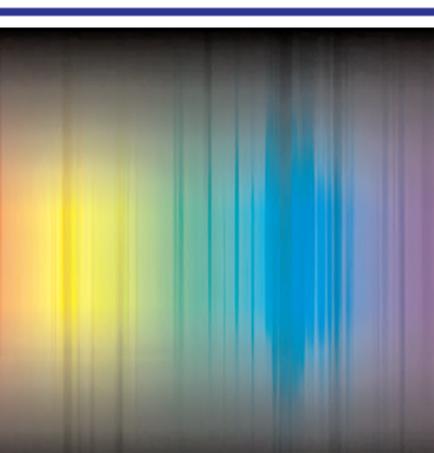
Enjoying food

St Thomas More in Peterborough celebrated International Week with tastes from around the world.

Parents cooked a range of dishes from each continent.

As a Food for Life School, St Thomas More places huge emphasis on their food culture.

With students representing lots of different cultures attending the school, a food festival was the



Four students from St Bede's Inter-church Secondary School, Cambridge were placed third in the Physics Heaven 2011 competition. Ten small experiments were carried out during the day followed by an investigation into balloon rockets. There were 26 schools competing and all were asked to prepare a presentation on their favourite experiment. The final was a very close call but the team was delighted that Splitting Light and the Colour Spectrum, their entry shown above, won them first place!



obvious choice for a celebration of International Week. The children were fascinated by the variety of foods and eager to try the dishes, as we see above.



Accolades for achievements

Notre Dame High School is the first school in Norfolk to be successfully reassessed for the Investors in Families national accreditation scheme.

Investors in Families has been established to recognise and promote the importance of family-friendly approaches, which many schools have already developed.

This Award acknowledges the partnership working between pupils, school and our families, and the wider community, which we work so hard to promote.

Dr Stephen Goymer (Head of Inclusion) led the work on preparing the portfolio.

He said: "We are very grateful for the assistance of so many staff, governors and, especially parents and pupils who provided evidence for the assessors.

"This included our programmes for positive parenting courses, involvement of students as partners in teacher training, a student-led eco-energy group and the development of Mindfulness In Schools as part of the Key Stage four curriculum.

After a visit to St Benet's Beccles and St Edmund's, Bungay, Dr Oona Stannard, chief executive of the Catholic Education Service, wrote a letter of thanks and said: "It was great to meet many of you, whether this was in the playground at breaktime or when I went round classrooms with Mrs Uragallo. You are very fortunate to be pupils of such a lovely Catholic school and in such nice areas.

"Seeing you at work has left me with many happy memories to help me to support Catholic education."

Counting pennies

St Laurence primary school in Cambridge is collecting pennies for charity and the aim is to get enough to lay a trail around the main building.

Staff felt they were constantly asking the children and their parents to raise or donate money towards various charities so needed a novel idea that everyone would feel they could contribute despite the economic crisis.

There was also a lesson to be learned from the exercise. The children were asked to calculate how far was it around the school buildings and how many pennies would this mean. Good experience in handling large numbers!

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!)

Bishop Michael remembered

by Hamish MacQueen

Diocesan Youth Service Director

One of the things that always amazed me about Bishop Michael was the amount of time he spent with young people.



Go karting Bishop Michael checks his scores

This included Youth Council meetings (over 40 in total), overnight retreats with camping in his garden, meeting youth groups and confirmation groups, and pilgrimages to Taizé, not to mention his involvement in schools.

Then there were the fun events such as taking part in Go karting and 'The Big One'. He just loved young people – and they loved him.

When I met other diocesan youth workers, it became apparent that the amount of time Bishop Michael spent with young people, how well he got to know them and his willingness to just 'hang out' with them was quite unique. As a Youth Service we were very privileged.

At the Papal visit vigil in Hyde Park, before the Pope arrived, every now and then the camera would pass Bishop Michael, as it did all the Bishops and his picture would appear on the large screens.

This was greeted with spontaneous cheers from our group of 70+ young people we had brought from East Anglia.

When this happened groups from other dioceses quietly sitting near us looked round curiously as if to say *Why are you cheering your Bishop?* I think that says it all.

Big One went on in memory of Bishop who enjoyed it too

Bishop Michael loved the youth event 'The Big One' and was determined to come this year even if it meant being driven round the field 'Pope mobile style'.

Sadly he died less than a week before. This presented the organisers with a dilemma - do we go ahead with it, even before his funeral?

After much discussion, it was unanimous that it is what Bishop Michael would have wanted and so the following email went out.

"Knowing Bishop Michael, he would have been quite irritated to think it was being cancelled because of him! He would have wanted it to go ahead, so we are!

"I would like to encourage you to come along to make it a celebration of his ministry with young people.

"Come to be with others who loved and respected him. Come and reminisce, laugh, chat and cry.

"If you don't feel like joining in the games, that's fine - just come to be together."

And people did come – not loads but enough to make it the celebration Bishop Michael would have wanted.

In contrast to the games, a quiet room was set up with a picture of Bishop Michael surrounded by candles and prayer cards with Taizé music playing.

People were invited to come and spend some time there, in thought and prayer, which many found very special.

After a very moving Mass celebrated by Fr Luke Goymour, the day ended with a barbecue and band playing.

As we went to press many young people were at the World Youth Day in Madrid that will be covered in detail in the next edition

Group walks in steps of Bishop at Taizé

This year saw another group of young people from East Anglia go on Pilgrimage to Taizé.

Some were returning while others were going for the first time. The attraction of Taizé is probably best summed up in an article Bishop Michael completed rewriting (originally written in 2002) a few days before he died. This was the final article he wrote.

Excerpts are below but you can read the whole article at www.catholiceastanglia.org

Bishop Michael wrote: "It is impossible to put a week at Taizé into words.

"Even the excellent videos and books catch only a glimpse of the reality.

"Taizé is a place of pilgrimage, of renewing encounter with the Risen Christ not only in the prayer but also in the groups, the food queues and the many new friendships formed.

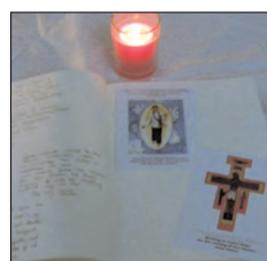
"The simplicity of Taizé helps pilgrims to focus on what really matters: God's love for us, our trustful love for God, and our communion with one another in the joy of the Holy Spirit, breathing together the air of the resurrection."



Taizé was one of Bishop Michael's favourite places - where he could combine a restful time and prayer with people whose company he really enjoyed



All the usual activities were enjoyed at the Big One an event Bishop Michael enjoyed greatly



A quiet was set up where the young people could recall their time with Bishop Michael and to sign a specially set out Book of Condolence and Recollection



Fr David is appointed Diocesan Administrator

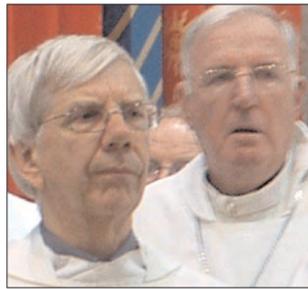
Fr David Bagstaff has been elected administrator to oversee the running of the diocese until a new bishop is appointed.

In accordance with Canon Law, the Diocesan College of Consultors, met on Sunday 17 July at the White House in Poringland to elect the new Diocesan Administrator.

The College of Consultors is effectively the Bishop's cabinet of senior priests of the Diocese including the Deans, Vicars General, Chancellor, Vicar Judicial and Vicar for Finance.

From amongst their number they elected Fr David Bagstaff as Diocesan Administrator. With their support he will be responsible for the Diocese.

As parish priest of North Walsham, Vocations Director and Dean for North Norfolk, Fr David is already a busy man, but will be spending two days a week at Poringland in addition to his many other tasks.



Fr David Bagstaff, centre, at Bishop Michael's Funeral Mass with Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor

He aims to be in the diocesan offices on Tuesday and Friday of each week, and can be contacted there on those days.

Please keep Father David in your prayers as he begins this onerous task, and the people of his parish who will 'lose' him for two days of each week.

Tributes to 'Canon Mac'

The funeral of one of the longest serving priests in the diocese was held in May and tributes were still pouring in several weeks later.

Canon Edward McBride, a priest for 68 years, laid down his reputation as administrator of the Cathedral of St John the Baptist and holds the reputation for saving the building when the lead roof became damaged and needed repairing.

He raised the money to have the work done and ensured the Cathedral would become the central stage for all the events that would unify the new diocese founded in 1976.

But there is much more to Canon Mac than the Cathedral. The priest born in Rosyth in 1919 came to East Anglia after ordination because he could not

get a post in Scotland.

The people here took the benefit as Fr Mac built a church in Halesworth, a parish hall in Gorleston, revived schools across the region and founded new ones.

This was the energy he later brought to St John the Baptist.

His last years were spent at St Joseph's in Sheringham and he died in April in hospital after a long illness.

Friends from the parishes he served and colleagues among the priesthood attended the Requiem Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael.

A longer obituary is expected to appear in the next edition of the Diocesan Yearbook and we just add our tribute here to a great and much loved priest.

Aylsham marks 50th year

The parishioners of St John of the Cross Catholic church in Aylsham gathered together on the 10 July to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the modern church. The Shephard family of Aylsham gave the community the land it now occupies on White Hart Street in 1899. The growth of the community required a bigger church and this was consecrated on the 13 August 1961. The day started with a Mass, concelebrated by Frs David Bagstaff and Peter Marsh, at which a new cross for the church roof was blessed.



Fr Padraig with some of his family who are sister-in-law Jennifer, brother Sean, sister Michelle, father Michael and mother Nuala in the packed Cathedral, left



Altar serving led Padraig to priesthood

Just after his ordination as a priest Padraig Hawkins went to the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital to visit Bishop Michael and to pray for a while with the one who had inspired him to become a priest.

Fr Padraig's parents came over from Ireland to the ordination and his family were together with him as he took his vows.

He said in a message contained in the service book for the day that he gave "humble and heartfelt thanks to Almighty God for having brought me to this day" and described his journey to ordination as "amazing".

St Philip Howard in Cambridge is his home parish and he paid tribute to parish priest Mgr Eugene Harkness for his support over the six years of his studies.

He also thanked his family who moved to Cambridge when he was nine months old and quickly became very involved in the parish.

"I became an altar server at age seven and did that for almost 18 years before finally going to seminary.

"I went to Nertherhall secondary school and also did my A levels at the Sixth form there.

"I had first thought about priesthood when I was seven and had become an altar server. "This idea was put to the back of my mind, however, as it was never talked about as a career option in school.

"Over the years it was the good examples of priesthood that I had been in contact with that kept me close to the church.

"A big influence was Pope John Paul II and the World Youth Days I went on in 2000, 2003 & 2005 with Pope Benedict.



Fr Mark Hackeson watches while Bishop Doyle prays over Fr Padraig

active member of the parish.

"The idea of priesthood had come back to me during the latter days of John Paul II, and it became the first and last thing I would think about each day, until one day I had no choice but to pick up the phone and talk to our vocations director about my sense of calling to the priesthood."

He thanked sincerely Bishop Michael "for his paternal care and support over the past six years and also for calling me to ordination".

Padraig recommends anyone, boy, girl, man or woman, to become more involved in the life of the Church. God calls us all to be involved.

"My advice would be to simply get more involved in any possible way in the life of the church.

"There is a big difference between simply coming to Mass on Sundays and being an



Chaplaincy study plan

Chaplaincy to People at Work Cambridgeshire, an organisation supported by Bishop Michael, is offering training modules for volunteers on Exploring Faith, Work and Economic Life, Towards a Theology of Work, Christians at Work and Prosperity with a Purpose.

Please contact: admin@workplacechaplaincy.org.uk or phone Canon Chris Savage 01223 276657/07788741489. Places may be limited but are open to clergy and laity.



The youth group in Taize are pictured here. Bishop Michael never took annual leave but a highlight of his year was the visit to Taize



One of Bishop Michael's favourite tasks was to preside at the annual day of celebration of marriage and family life. This year he felt well enough to come to St John the Baptist Cathedral and enjoyed one of the largest ever turn outs for this popular event.

People came from all over the diocese and among those receiving certificates were families with young children and this was a particular joy to Bishop Michael as the pictures show.



Growing celebration of marriage

The number of couples and their families who want to celebrate then joys of married life is growing every year.

When people from all over the diocese came to St John the Baptist Cathedral this year on Saturday 11 June the heard Bishop Michael recalling the God wanted to fill all the earth with his love.

They were celebrating the love and the challenges that enrich marriage and family life at the same time making their homes holy places.

In his homily, Bishop Michael referred to the address given by the Bishop of London to Prince Andrew and Katherine Middleton at the recent royal wedding.

Bishop Richard Chartres told the young couple that "All true love comes from God, is a gift from God, a sacred vocation from God".

Bishop Michael added that "That is true of those of you who have lived your married life for 50 or 60 years, but those of you also in your first year of marriage, as I know quite a few of you are, or have had your first baptism, your first baby recently"

He referred to the joy of seeing newly baptised babies becoming a part of the life of the Church.

He said that St Paul tells us that "We are clothed with the wonder of God's love; God comes to clothe us with His righteousness, with His love, with His goodness".

Bishop Michael acknowledged that living a Christian life, the married life, is not easy, but that, although "we know only too well the ups and downs, the challenges and the difficulties, we continue through that to be faithful to that wonderful vocation, to be an example to others".

Those present celebrating significant anniversaries this year (first, anything ending in 5 or 0 and all those over 60 years) received a certificate after the Mass, as did eight families

celebrating the birth of a child in the last year.

Bishop Michael congratulated them all personally by shaking their hands before photographs were taken.

After Mass, refreshments were provided in the Narthex, with a large celebration cake being cut by a couple celebrating 60 years and one celebrating the birth of a baby this year.

Mary Clark, Diocesan Co-ordinator for Marriage & Family Life, said that there were more married couples and families attending the celebration each year, and the proportion of young families is growing, with a record number of babies this year.

"The celebration is also becoming more of a family event, rather than just for those celebrating milestone anniversaries, as some couples invited more than 10 guests to help them celebrate this year."



People of all ages now attend the annual day of celebration for married life and its continuation will be a great legacy for Bishop Michael. Cutting the celebration cake, above, and one of the young couples, below



BUILDING BRIDGES in Cambodia

News from Kompong Chhnang



I was delighted recently to hear from Fr Franco in Kompong Chhnang with news of our two local projects which Fr Franco has been guiding forward.

At Eastertime, Fr Franco and Sister Regina went by boat to visit the families living in the floating homes, they visited 18 Catholic households and several Buddhist families welcomed them into their homes as well.



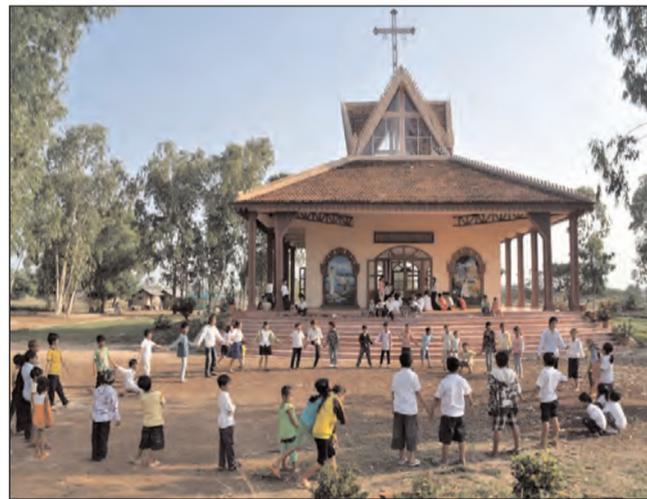
Sister Regina

At the Mary, Mother of Peace Social Centre, the opportunity has arisen to buy the piece of land in front of the centre, thus preventing it being surrounded by housing.

The land is at present owned by the military and Fr Franco is currently working his way through the long process of permissions and paperwork to purchase the land and then to fence it with funds sent from our diocese.



Looking across the vacant land in front of the centre



Children outside the Church at Kompong Chhnang

At the Church Compound, they are searching for the best way of serving the children with various disabilities.

Fr Franco has a particular commitment to working with children with learning difficulties, this is not something often given focus in Cambodia at the moment, but it is very important and is a powerful sign of the Gospel.

Fr Franco is planning to move the centre for the disabled into the church compound at the end of this year. This will go into the house currently occupied by the office.

What is needed is a covered playground for them and for other activities of the community.

This will comprise a multi-purpose area with facilities for the disabled, a kitchen and a store room.

Plans have been drawn up for this and Fr Franco is planning to use some of the money from our diocese for this project.

CAN YOU HELP?

Our two 'Building Bridges' projects this year are supporting Fr Franco's work for the children of Kompong Chhnang, and providing 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.....

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, etc)

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 (Kompong Chhnang)

HOLY LAND (Al-Wahadneh)

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



Fr Philip Shryane blesses the new crypt at St Edmund's and the parish enjoy their new amenity open for functions

New crypt open at Bury

A large cross section of parishioners gathered in the newly refurbished crypt of St Edmund's Church in Bury St Edmunds on a Friday evening early in June for the official opening and blessing by Fr Philip Shryane.

Fr Philip explained that the crypt had started life as the damp course of the church and, although it was fine in that role there was a real problem in using it for social activities.

He mentioned that some of the people present had worked on the previous refurbishment of the crypt and they had done a very good job as volunteers with limited resources.

Their work had enabled the crypt to be used for many years but now the damp was affecting the electrical circuits and the time was right to bring the facility up

to date and to make it a suitable centre for a lively and busy parish.

Many people have contributed to the success of the new crypt and Fr Philip offered thanks to all.

He thanked Steve Whisenant for the original designs from which the parish had selected the present one and Miles Steeden who had drawn up the plan from the chosen design.

He paid tribute to Harvey Frost and all his men and subcontractors who had done a good job and coped with the necessity of fitting in with weekday services, and to Andrew Todd who had acted as project manager, giving many hours of his time to keep an eye on progress.

Finally, thanks was due to members of the Club, especially Yvonne, Lorraine and Steve, and others who had helped move furniture in and out and who, together with a team of cleaners, had got the building ready for use.

John Laphorne, chairman of the parish council, expressed thanks to Fr Philip on behalf of all parishioners for

starting the whole project and for making it happen.

John hoped the parish would regard the crypt as the default setting for personal and public social events: the first place to be considered for family parties and get together.

Fr Philip said words of blessing for all those who would be using the crypt in any capacity and for those who had worked on it.

A prayer was also said for Bishop Michael and a liberal sprinkling of Holy Water, which was the prelude to the opening of the bar and a free drink for everyone present. The new parish facility is bigger and lighter and free from the smell of damp.

There is a new bar and well equipped kitchen at one end and a large wall-mounted TV at the other.

Although there is still some work to do on furniture and equipment, it is now ready for use by all especially for functions - please contact the parish office for details.

Communities together at one Mass celebration



Parishioners of all ages came to One Sunday Mass at a single venue - the Suffolk Showground in Ipswich. Musicians learned to play together and all parishioners got to know one another



The ample grounds were welcomed for a shared leisure time after the Mass celebrated by Fr David Paul with Canon Michael Hazell and assisted by Deacon Paul Brighton



St Mary's in Ipswich with the Church of The Holy Family and St Michael in Kesgrave held a One Mass Sunday in July at the Trinity Park Conference Centre at the Suffolk Showground.

The aim was to put the Mass at the very heart of parish life; while fostering the sense of us being one parish and to help get to know other parishioners who may not attend the "usual Mass".

The Mass was celebrated by Fr David Paul, Canon Michael Hazell and assisted by Deacon Christopher Brighton.

In a normal weekend there are five Sunday Masses in the two churches. At One Mass Sunday there is just one for all.

A venue other than one of the churches in the parish was used in order to accommodate the large numbers. Each of the normal five Masses on Saturday evening and Sunday has almost full churches.

The centre had ample parking, a large comfortable, flexible space that can seat up to 1,000 people with good sound and loop hearing system.

Transport was organised for those that needed it.

Eleanor Bradley, parish secretary at St Mary's said: "Before Mass began the chair of the parish council, Marie Roberts welcomed everyone, explained a few points about what might be different from normal Sundays and encouraged

everyone to say hello to those around them.

"Getting to know each other was helped by everyone wearing name labels - it really helped to put names to faces.

"Welcomers from all five Masses worked together to ensure that parishioners knew what facilities the venue offered.

"About 35 musicians and singers from the different Masses supported the congregation in singing. Altar servers who normally serve at one church served together.

"Lay Ministers of the Eucharist from both churches enabled the distribution of the Blessed Sacrament.

"Only two readers were required but the prayers of intercession were led by a variety of parishioners.

"After Mass teas and coffees were served and people were encouraged to stay for a picnic lunch in the grounds outside.

"Children had the space to run about and play in a safe environment. Parishioners also had the chance to view a display of the various groups.

"These included the sacristy team, the Battambang Group, musicians, Mums and Tots, Children's Liturgy and many more.

"This was the second year that the parish has held One Mass Sunday."

Support for retired priests

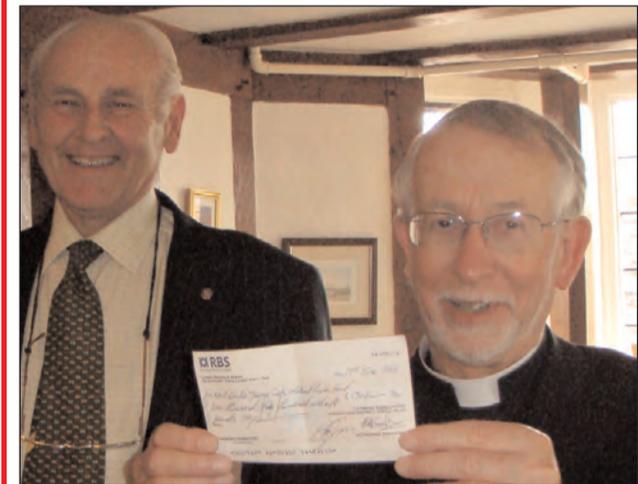
Norwich Catenians marked this year's president's Sunday lunch event with a contribution to a diocesan fund for sick and retired priests.

The event was hosted in Sheringham by the current president, Peter Godfrey, and the immediate past president of the circle, Paul Bruning presented a cheque for £1,300 to Fr Denys Lloyd, chairman of The East Anglia Diocesan Dependent Priests Fund.

This was the charity chosen by Paul to support during his year of office.

The money was raised via raffles which take place after the monthly circle dinners which are held on the last Friday of every month.

From September onwards these will be meatless on account of the reintroduction of abstinence rules.



Fr Denys gratefully receives the cheque and would welcome more contributions to the fund



Father Gordon Williamson of St Mary's in Great Yarmouth presenting a cheque for £366 to Sandra Standage of the parish branch of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. The money was raised by Tony Baker of Norwich Catenian Association who holds an annual concert which usually attracts about 80 people and is aimed at raising funds for various charities. This year's nominated charity was the SVP.



This year's garden party at St George's in Norwich raised nearly £1800 for local charities. It is the parish's biggest annual fundraising event and among those to benefit is the air ambulance. A big fundraiser is Fr Tony McSweeney's bottle tombola

