

# OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY



The newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

FREE

May 2012



Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor celebrated the Chrism Mass on the Wednesday of Holy Week at St John the Baptist Cathedral which was packed to capacity. The full story and pictures are on the centre pages.

## Cardinal Cormac blesses the Holy Oils Cardinal celebrates Chrism Mass at St John's Cathedral

**C**ardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor came to St John the Baptist cathedral this year to celebrate the Chrism Mass on the Wednesday of Holy Week.

Fr David Bagstaff explained at the end of the Mass, that he and the College of Consultors had decided that the Chrism Mass should go ahead this year, despite being without a bishop of our own.

The last time that the Diocese was without a bishop, priests had travelled instead to Northampton Cathedral.

Fr David said: "On reflection we decided the Chrism Mass is such a central event of our diocesan life, that it should go ahead in the Cathedral in Norwich if we could get a bishop to come and preside.

"Cardinal Cormac was our first choice and he graciously accepted the invitation."

At the beginning of his homily Cardinal Cormac recalled that his previous two visits to the Cathedral had been to Bishop Michael's ordination as Bishop and to his

Funeral.

"Bishop Michael then, you will understand, is very much in my thoughts this evening," he said and paid tribute to him.

He also alluded to rumours that had been circulating, that he had come to announce the name of our new bishop.

This he said he could not do – because he did not know – but he held the diocese in his prayers.

Following his homily, in which he exhorted the priests to "stay close to Christ", drawing near to Him in daily prayer and reflection on the Scriptures, the Cardinal asked priests, deacons and the people of the Diocese of East Anglia to renew their commitment.

He concluded by asking them all to "work with your new bishop when he is appointed ... to bring the Good News of God's love to the people of East Anglia."

During the Offertory Procession, alongside the gifts of bread and wine, the oils were brought forward.

Anne Clark, an occupational therapist at Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital brought forward the Oil of the Sick accompanied by Mike Wiseman, a physiotherapist.

This Oil will be used to anoint the sick in accordance with the precept in the Letter of St James when he calls upon the sick to send for the priests who come and pray over them and anoint them with oil.

Linda and Colin Harper brought forward the Oil of Catechumens on behalf of those who were to receive the Sacrament of Baptism at Easter. This Oil is used as a sign of wisdom and strength that comes from God.

Finally, Confirmation Candidates from the Parish of St Philip Howard, Cambridge, brought forward the Oil of Chrism. To this Oil the Cardinal added sweet-smelling balsam from the Holy Land before consecrating it to be used at Confirmation, Ordination and in the Consecration of Churches and Altars.

This last Oil will be used in the consecration of our new bishop if he is not already a bishop, and in the consecration of the new churches in the diocese which will be one of his first duties.

The Cardinal, who is 80 this year, was impressed with the celebration, and the capacity numbers who had filled the Cathedral from all over our widely flung diocese.

*Remember the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham is on Monday 7 May and the theme is Mary, Mother of the Poor.*

### *Family life and marriage day*

The 7th annual Diocesan Celebration of Marriage and Family Life will take place on Saturday 23 June at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich.

since last year's celebration, will receive certificates. The Diocesan Administrator will celebrate the special thanksgiving Mass at 11am for those couples married during the last year, celebrating the birth of a new baby, or simply celebrating being married. Certificates will be given to those couple marking 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 etc years of marriage. A reception in the Narthex will follow.

Please inform Edwina Griffin, Diocesan Co-ordinator for Marriage and Family Life, on 0203 0930474, or by e-mail to by the 8th June if you wish to attend, especially if you will be receiving a certificate.

### *Calling all grandparents*

Our Lady's Shrine in Walsingham will be the venue for the 10th annual Grandparents Pilgrimage on July 22 when Bishop John Hine will be celebrating.

The day begins with the 12pm Mass after which FunForce will be putting on activities that guarantee a fun packed afternoon! There will also be a children's liturgy where children are encouraged to bring a prayer dedicated to their grandparents. The day is not only a great day out for all the family but also an opportunity to thank your grandparents.

For more information please contact Edwina Griffin, Marriage and Family Life Co-ordinator for the Diocese on 0203 0930474. Although there is no need to book it is important to contact the shrine or Edwina if you are considering bringing a coach.

### **Prayer for Diamond Jubilee**

Each parish is asked that on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, Sunday 3rd June, to celebrate a Mass which will include prayers to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

During this Mass, the first reading is replaced by 1 Kings 3:11-14 and the following prayer, which has been approved by the bishops of England and Wales, is used after the **Post Communion Prayer and before the final blessing**

*V. O Lord, save Elizabeth, our Queen.*

*R. And hear us on the day we call upon you.*

*V. O Lord, hear my prayer.*

*R. And let my cry come before you.*

*V. The Lord be with you.*

*R. And with your spirit*

*Almighty God, we pray,*

*that your servant Elizabeth, our Queen,*

*who, by your providence has received the governance of this realm,*

*may continue to grow in every virtue,*

*that, imbued with your heavenly grace,*

*she may be preserved from all that is harmful and evil*

*and, being blessed with your favour*

*may, with her consort and the royal family,*

*come at last into your presence,*

*through him who is the way, the truth and the life*

*and who lives and reigns with you*

*in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God,*

*for ever and ever. AMEN.*

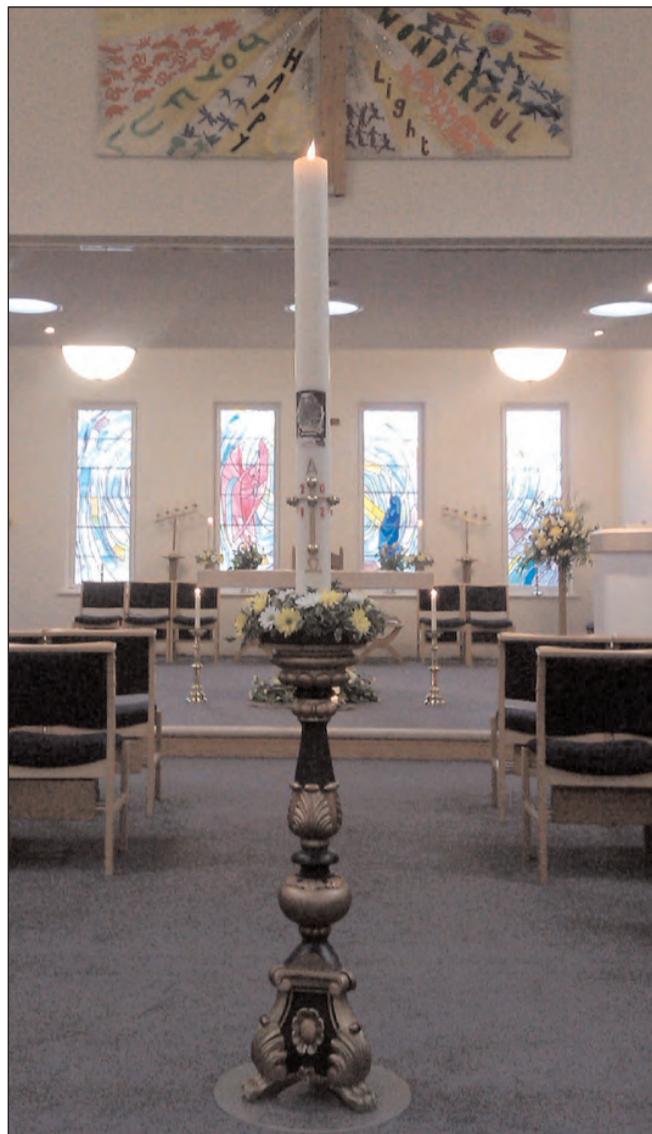
As a diocese we will send official congratulations to the Queen to mark her Diamond Jubilee.

A number of people from around the diocese will no doubt have been invited to the various Royal Garden Parties and your parish may be hosting a local event.

Please do send in news and pictures for a future issue of Our Diocesan Family.



# NEWS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE Signs of Hope



*The Paschal Candle representing the Risen Christ, our Hope*

Fr David Bagstaff, our Diocesan Administrator, reflecting on Holy Week and Easter identified great signs of hope. "When generally the Media are keen to highlight the negative aspects of Christianity (*and I think it is fair to say especially Catholicism*), it is even more important for us to look for, and to celebrate, positive expressions of faith and there are plenty of them.

"It has been so encouraging to pick up from conversations with priests and people during these past few weeks that the attendances at Holy Week Services and on Easter Sunday were so good and in many cases up on last year and that the effort and time put in by so many in preparation for the Triduum liturgies was appreciated by parishioners across the diocese.

"The great numbers at the Chrism Mass on the Wednesday of Holy Week was also a wonderful sign of hope and an expression of the diocese wanting to come together to renew its commitment and to be a part of the blessing of the Holy Oils which will be used for the Sacraments in our parishes during the next twelve months."



*Pope Benedict XVI breathes onto the Oil of Chrism at the Chrism mass in Rome*

True, as throughout her long history, the Church today is faced with challenges. In the face of these she needs to seek renewal and embrace change, whilst at the same time remaining steadfast and faithful to the faith that we have received from the Apostles. In East Anglia, as elsewhere, we are faced with the prospect of fewer priests serving in our parishes.

'Clustering' and 'merging' have become inescapable words at so many of our gatherings in the parish, the deanery and at diocesan level. For many, these words have not remained simply that, but have become a reality, with the sometimes painful changes to our established routine of worship and social life.

And yet our communities, in face of uncertainty, remain vibrant and hopeful, seeking ways to maintain the life of their community and remain at the service of the wider community of which they are a part.

Some parishes are looking to the future in new and larger buildings. Fr David notes this as yet another sign of hope. 'Another tremendous sign of Hope and encouragement in the diocese at this present time is that the building of three new Catholic Churches will be completed by the autumn – Haverhill (*already completed and in use*); Clare and Diss.



*The new Catholic Parish Church at Diss nearing completion*

When many places are witnessing the closure of churches (*sadly, often because of demographic changes*) we have seen the expansion of numbers and the need to extend or replace much smaller and in many cases temporary church buildings. One of the first tasks of our new bishop will be to officially open and consecrate these new places of worship – that is surely something we can be rightly proud of and truly celebrate as a diocese.'



*St. Felix Catholic Church in Haverhill*

The extension of the Cathedral in Norwich, providing a place of welcome, hospitality and a venue for so many activities is a powerful witness to the city of Norwich and the whole of the Diocese of the vibrancy of the Catholic Church in our counties, and the wish of the Catholic community to take its place with other faith and non-faith bodies in the life of the region.

"Whilst the Cathedral Narthex and our new parish churches are large building projects, there are also many other smaller building programmes taking places around the diocese both regarding our churches and our schools – all are signs of Hope and an expression of our confidence in being the Catholic Community in East Anglia,' says Fr David.



Children and young people are central to the life of our Diocese, with our Schools and the Diocesan Youth Service fulfilling a pivotal role. In the changing demography of our region, the Catholic schools fulfil a vital task in bringing together the diverse communities and celebrating the rich cultural diversity that is now a feature of our population.

Consistently high standards of academic achievement and a real commitment to developing the whole person, spiritually, socially and morally enable us to see our young people as ambassadors of hope. Recently two of our High Schools won a special commendation in the National Church Schools Awards.

The Church School Awards which were established by Emmaus Recruitment and are supported by the Church of England's National Society, The Scottish Catholic Education Service, Methodist Children & Youth, the Catholic Association of Teachers, Schools and Colleges (CATSC), Northern Ireland's Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS), aid and development organisations including CAFOD, Christian Aid, World Action in Methodist Schools, World Aims and many other supporters.

They are designed to promote the fantastic and vital work done in the areas of community cohesion and global citizenship and are an opportunity for everyone involved in Christian education to celebrate the unique and vital work that students, teachers, governors and staff do for their local communities, for our country and throughout the world.

Congratulations go to Notre Dame High School, Norwich who were regional winners, and St John Fisher High School, Peterborough who were awarded a special commendation. Well done, to them both.

Vocations are also another area in which we may discern signs of hope. Nine years ago, East Anglia had no men in training for the Priesthood. In the intervening years, we have had three ordinations with Frs. Michael, Luke and Pádraig now bringing a more youthful look to parishes in Peterborough, Norwich and Ipswich respectively. There are more men in seminary and others actively seeking God's will for them.



*Fr Michael Collis (ordained 2010) exchanges the Peace with the newly ordained Fr Pádraig Hawkins (10<sup>th</sup> July 2011)*

These and other such signs of hope are a positive witness to the world around us that faith is far from dead. Whoever our new bishop may be, he will find a Diocese alive and aglow with the light of the Risen Lord, ready to be sent out afresh to spread the Good News.

# THE CHANGING FACE OF PILGRIMAGE

by Fr Alan Williams SM

Last September the directors of Europe's national Marian Shrines met in Walsingham. We experienced glorious East Anglian weather and also managed to visit both the cathedrals in Norwich sustained by a wonderful lunch in the Narthex at St John's!

The central theme of our discussions was the role of shrines in evangelization- how we do it and how we might do it better. At a meeting of Marian Shrine directors some years ago Pope John Paul II had given very direct advice. He said: "Lose no opportunity to preach the Gospel!" More recently the president of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travellers said simply: "The main objective of pilgrimages to a Shrine is now evangelization."

A common experience at all our Shrines seemed to be that **shrines and pilgrimages are growing in popularity**. This was the case at major shrines such as Lourdes, Knock and Fatima as well as the smaller ones. At Walsingham last year our busiest day saw 12,000 pilgrims around the Shrine site! Fortunately most of our groups are more manageable - the North Norfolk countryside has its limits.

Shrines of Our Lady each have their unique history and spirit. Walsingham has always been the Shrine of the Annunciation. Amazingly Mary gave a total "Yes" to the Word of God. Our human experience is so often of failure and struggle but Mary gives us encouragement and hope.

In Walsingham we see the great variety that makes up the church. They include dioceses, parishes and Catholic organizations as well as many people who are not part of an "official" group. It is impossible to know the number of "religious tourists - people who come along informally to experience the place for themselves.

A particular contribution that shrines can make to the Church and the world is their **Openness to All**. Pope Benedict has recently talked of contemporary "pilgrims and religious tourists, some of who are in complicated human and spiritual situations, somewhat distant from living the faith and with a weak ecclesial affiliation". Hopefully at Walsingham and other shrines there is a welcome and a place for everybody.



Lucia Santos with her cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto to whom Our Lady of Fatima appeared and it founded a national shrine in Portugal



Pilgrims from all over the world come to the Dowry of Mary pilgrimage at Walsingham

Of course there is a daily routine at Walsingham. There are daily confessions before the twelve noon Pilgrim Mass and during the main season there is a programme of Eucharistic Adoration, processions and other services. There are also numerous chapels and other "sacred spaces" for those looking for peace in "England's Nazareth".

At our meeting we also talked of the personal religious experience of pilgrims. The Canadian Jesuit Bernard Lonergan once said that, "Living religion is conversion or it is nothing at all" - for many people a pilgrimage can have profound and lasting effects.

Each year at Walsingham our preaching and Liturgy is informed by a particular theme. This year our theme at Walsingham is **Mary, Mother of the Word and Mother of Joy**.

This is summed up by Pope Benedict who said: "This close relationship between God's Word and joy is evident in the Mother of God. The joy born of the Word can now expand to all those who, by faith, let themselves be changed by God's word..."

I turn to every man and woman, including those who have fallen away from the Church, who have left the faith or who have never heard the proclamation of salvation.



Fr Alan Williams at the Diocese of East Anglia pilgrimage to Walsingham

To everyone the Lord says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me" [Rev 3.20].

**Pope Benedict XVI [2010] The Word of God in the life and mission of the Church**



The shrine at Knock in the west of Ireland is proving popular for pilgrims from across the world

# DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

## St Albans studied Stations of Cross

**C**hildren at St Albans Catholic Primary school in Cambridge studied and reflected on the Stations of the Cross during Lent.

Each class has been learning about a specific station and some classes visited

Our Lady and English Martyrs church next to the school where they studied the 14 different stations.

Each class was also given their very own cross at the start of Lent, to decorate, write and share their thoughts about what they discussed and learned in class.

The children saw one of the crosses being made by the caretaker.

Head teacher Joe McCrossan said: "It was very loud and frightening but the children realised that the cross was used to crucify people in the time of Jesus and it was not a pleasant experience.

"All groups did a fantastic job on the crosses and they have been displayed throughout the school for everyone to see during Lent."

Parents also had their cross to decorate and this was set up in the playground at the beginning of Lent.

On the last day of term pupils, staff and parents carried their crosses into the church to the veneration of the cross service.

The crosses were situated outside the church on Hills Road during Holy Week as a reminder to Cambridge people.

Joe said: "The children are not worried if they get destroyed by the weather or are vandalised because they know they put a lot of effort, love and care into their work and are glad to celebrate this with everyone.

"We are developing a deeper understanding and empathy of the loss people must have endured when Jesus died on the cross."

The school is also sending cards to the twinned parish in Bir Zeit where the children are sharing their best wishes.

Written by Luke and Jimmy in year 6



*A quiz evening at Notre Dame High School in Norwich raised about £400 for their adopted charity Zambia 2012.*

*The title was Are You Smarter Than a 12 Year Old? and 19 teams of four or six members took part.*

*Notre Dame organisers said: "The money raised will help fund students going to Zambia and boost the community fund, which goes towards Zambian children's education and food.*

*"The money was raised from the selling of tickets and a raffle, and the bar - which was run by the constantly reliable PTFA."*

*Quiz master Toby Smith supported by Imogen Johnson and Jad Grainger are pictured.*



*Students from St Mary's School Cambridge, staged an eco-friendly fashion show, pictured above, to raise money to fund a pilgrimage to Lourdes.*

*Girls from all years designed and made outfits exclusively from environmentally friendly materials. The parade saw dresses made from plastic bags, rail tickets and magazine cuttings, hats made from newspapers, and an entire outfit fashioned from a map of the UK.*

*St Mary's students were taking part in the annual Lourdes Fundraising Fortnight to support the Glanfield Children's Group. These children with learning difficulties and chronic terminal illness are taken to Lourdes each August as part of the Catholic Association Pilgrimage.*



*Some of the crosses set out to remind people of the importance of Holy Week*

## Fateema fights against odds

A student, originally from Afghanistan and speaking only Farsi when she arrived in Britain with her brother in 2009 has grown in confidence and is looking forward to taking GCSE exams next year.

Ronan Quilty, press officer at St John Fisher High School in Peterborough wrote about Fateema and said: "Imagine being submersed into lessons where all other 29 students are speaking English!

"Fleeing the insurgency and poverty of Afghanistan Fateema has had a difficult young life.

"She has a chronic visual impairment and has spent a lot of time caring for her older brother Hussain who also has a visual impairment.

"He suffered serious head injuries in a car accident in Afghanistan where the lack of facilities and infrastructure made it difficult to cope," Ronan said.

When Fateema started at the school she was referred to appropriate medical professionals and later diagnosed with congenital retinal dystrophy and extreme photophobia.

"She has full statement of special educational needs," Ronan said.

"The schools links with the sensory support service have been invaluable in the support offered to young Fatima and her brother, who after a year at St John Fisher High School went onto Marchfields School where his needs could be fully met and is also doing very well.

"Fateema is extremely proud of her heritage and has inspired many students with slideshows and talks on our cultural focus day. She has become part of the fabric of school life.

"Despite her disability, Fateema has made substantial progress at our school. Her pleasant manner and bright optimism is an inspiration to all the students in our school."

Her family are supportive of Fateema, proud of her achievements, and keen to help her and make her happy.



*Fateema and Janet Grooms*

She wants to go to university.

Janet Grooms, Fateema's linked teaching assistant, said "Fateema is always a pleasure to work with she is always keen and eager to learn.

"When she arrived at the school she spoke very little English.

"She has worked extremely hard and now has an excellent command of English which has given her real access to the rest of the school curriculum.

"It gives us all great pleasure to see Fateema gain confidence and grow in our school community".

Fateema herself said "Since arriving at St John Fisher High School, I have learned to be confident in myself.

"My dream was to speak English and now I can speak English very well, so I am very happy.

"I really love all my teachers because they are always nice and polite to me.

"Being here is a great pleasure and I'm looking forward to next year when I'm in year 10 and studying for my GCSE's.

"I've Chosen to do Drama and French as my options. I'm really looking forward to this."

*Notre Dame*

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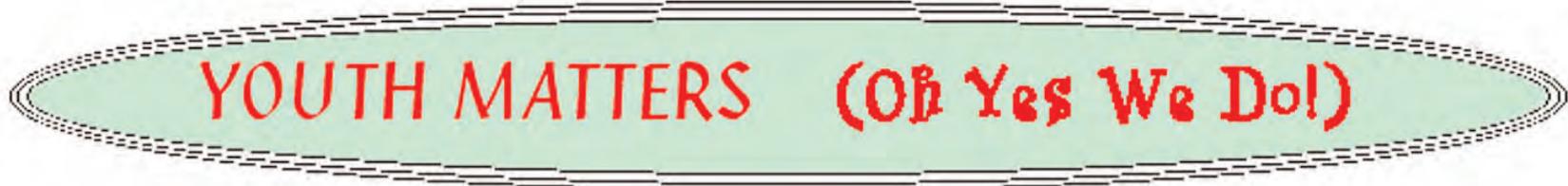


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Leave a message if no answer.



# Exploring priesthood, prophecy and kingship

**A** group of about 20 adults and young people involved in the 7Up youth group, from the parish of Our Lady and the English Martyrs (OLEM), Cambridge, went on retreat during the weekend of Palm Sunday to Ringsfield Hall.

This is a retreat centre in the Suffolk countryside.

Based around the theme, Priest, Prophet, King, the weekend offered the chance for periods of reflection and quiet, fun and laughter.

Hamish MacQueen, the director of the Diocesan Youth Service, presented a couple of sessions to set out the context for the retreat and create a sense of community, as well as providing overall guidance.

Then on Saturday, Sr Ann Swailes, chaplaincy assistant at Fisher House, Cambridge University's Catholic chaplaincy, joined them to lead sessions spread throughout the day.

She took the group through how all were priests, prophets, and kings through baptism.

Hannah O'Kane who was on the retreat and wrote the report, said: "We spent part of this all together, but also split up for some discussions."

"So in small groups, we talked about how we could fulfil the role of prophets in our daily lives."

"On Sunday morning, Rosemary Boyle, one of the adults who helped to found 7Up over a decade ago, led a session on prayer."

"We considered privately questions based around the Our Father, helping us to think about our hopes and our concerns, and so about the focus of our prayers."

"A testament to the group's appeal is that old members now at university and beyond often return to take part and run some of the activities."

These included a game involving racing around the ample grounds to complete specific challenges in a time limit, and a game sitting around the room working out if one of the group was secretly part of the mafia(!)

"So much fun was had! Some of those returning members also led night prayer each evening," Hamish added.

The weekend culminated with Mass on Palm Sunday, celebrated by Fr Kevin Grove, a young Holy Cross priest doing his PhD at Cambridge University, who joined the group for the day.

"We processed around the grounds to the small chapel, waving palm branches and the Passion was divided up so that every young person had a speaking part," Hamish said.

Fr Kevin preached inspiringly on the theme of the retreat, tying together what we had discussed and reflected on over the weekend.

Hamish said: "I thought I was going on the weekend to help run the retreat, but came away very much having been on retreat myself!"

"The reading of The Passion with such meaning is something I will never forget."

7Up is always happy to have new members, whether at OLEM or elsewhere, join our ranks. Please contact Rosemary Boyle

And if you don't live near Cambridge, is this something you could organise for young people in your parish or deanery? Contact Hamish for more information.



The group from OLEM who went on the weekend retreat, above, and, left, discussion with Sr Ann from Cambridge University chaplaincy. Taking part in some of the activities, below.



# Olympians tell youth to be confident in their faith



The huge gathering of young people were called to be 'saints' and confident Catholics



About 100 young people from East Anglia travelled to Wembley for the Flame Congress along with 12 Bishops, one Archbishop, numerous representatives from religious orders and the whole of Oscott seminary.

In total there were over 8,000 young people in the first event of its kind – a celebration of our faith with the Olympic themes of friendship, respect and excellence inspiring the day.

Hamish MacQueen said: "The buzz in Wembley arena was tangible from the moment the music started including the specially composed Flame Anthem."

In the first talk Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP told the young people to resist outside pressure and be yourselves.

"You are called to saints. A saint is a person who dares to be the unique person God created them to be," he said.

"The saint is the person who is free to be themselves because they belong to God."

He was then followed by the first group of Olympians to speak, including gold medal winner James Gardiner who spoke of the encouragement a nun gave him at his Catholic primary school.

Paralympian Steph Reid said: "We have a mighty God... I know that everyone of you has dreams and passions."

"Don't ignore them, they are good and God created you with them for a reason." Debbie Flood, who is competing in this year's Olympics said although she will be disappointed if she does not win gold she cannot take her medals with her when she dies.

"Win or lose in rowing, I am part of Jesus' team – and for me, that's a win in life," she said.

Another athlete, Abi Dima grew up in a slum in Kenya but through a CAFOD project he had found hope through sport and was now a national champion.

"This was a day about being Catholic in the fullest sense of the word and letting our faith permeate how we live our lives,"

Hamish said. "This couldn't have been more evident than hearing from Barry and Margaret Mizzen whose son was murdered."

"They asked people not to feel sorry for them but rather be determined to make a difference and 'never let go of your faith, be fired up for God'."

The talks were interspersed with music (including a Glee style medley of praise songs!) and drama.

One of the biggest cheers was for former Olympic speed skater, Sr Catherine Holum who declared: "Jesus is all you need" which increased the crowd's enthusiasm even more.

It was left to Fr Christopher Jamieson to take the crowd into a time of silence and reverence leading into exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

As Archbishop Vincent Nichols told the crowd in his address, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, the whole day came together.

**We're going on Pilgrimage!**

Taizé - August 2012  
Booking deadline May 31<sup>st</sup> 2012

World Youth Day Rio - July 2013  
Booking deadline May 1<sup>st</sup> 2012

**Are you coming with us?**  
See [www.catholicseastanglia.org/youth](http://www.catholicseastanglia.org/youth)

# Around the Diocese

## Pupils on retreat learned to pray making chaplaincy co-ordinator delighted

Matt Spiller, chaplaincy co-ordinator at St Benedict's High School in Bury St Edmunds likes to plan ahead and just as he was beginning to settle into a routine discovered Year 10 retreats were coming.

"I'll be honest: my heart didn't leap for joy," he said and he wrote down his experience and the aftermath.

Weeks later, when I was speaking to the form group that would be the first to take part in the (pretty compulsory) day it transpired that I was not alone in my feeling.

What unsettled me most about the day that we would embark upon together was that it was not just a "play games and work as a team to build a tower" type of day but it was focussing on prayer.

When I looked at the schedule I wondered if the students were up to it or whether I was simply asking too much. The retreat days were held at St Edmund's Church.

We used the newly refurbished yet still chillingly named crypt for a range of creative ways of praying, and the church itself to explore meditative silence.

People also spent time walking in

pairs—exploring how God can be found in the presence of another.

The evaluation forms that people filled in were overwhelmingly positive but I was still retaining a level of uncertainty. The proof of the pudding arrived when one of the retreat days had to be postponed due to a teacher's illness.

People were disappointed that the day had been delayed but since then

have been actively chasing me up on when the day was going to be.

This is quite a contrast from the day before the first retreat when people were asking "do we have to go? Can't we just go to normal lessons?"

It would seem word had got round; the days were great and people enjoyed themselves. But better than that; people prayed!

## 200 young people on road to Easter

A choir of over 200 Children from five East Anglian Catholic schools presented the Easter story in song, words and mime close to the end of term in March.

The performance was called The Road to Jerusalem and the Cathedral was packed as the five schools from the Notre Dame cluster joined together.

The director of the diocesan Schools Service Julie O'Connor said: "It was often moving and

often joyful. This was a memorable occasion and the first time so many Catholic schools had worked on a single project for many years. It was an occasion Bishop Michael would have loved, and the perfect way to begin Holy Week.

"A big Thank you to everyone involved.

The schools taking part were St John's Infant School, St Thomas More Middle School and Notre Dame High School from Norwich, St Mary's and St Augustine's Primary Schools in

Costessey and Gorleston.

The choir of well over 200 children were joined by an adult band made up of staff and the acting was presented by Notre Dame.

"The event tells the story of the seven days from Our Lord's entry into Jerusalem to the crucifixion.

"It is the first time for many years that our Catholic schools have got together in this way," Julie said.

## Two schools win church awards

Notre Dame High School in Norwich is the regional winner for the East in the Church School Awards established by Emmaus Recruitment.

St John Fisher High School, Peterborough were awarded a special commendation.

The awards are supported by the Church of England's National Society, The Scottish Catholic Education Service, Methodist Children & Youth, the Catholic Association of Teachers, Schools and Colleges (CATSC), and Northern Ireland's Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS).

Other support comes from aid and development organisations including CAFOD, Christian Aid, World Action in Methodist Schools, World Aims and many other supporters.

The awards are designed to promote the work done in the areas of community cohesion and global citizenship under the coalition government's BIG SOCIETY initiative.

## SVP volunteers call

The St Vincent de Paul Society is looking for volunteers to help co-ordinate a youth programme in the Diocese of East Anglia.

The society runs Youth SVP, which is open to all secondary schools and sixth forms, and SVP 1833 which is for young adults either at university or parish based.

A society spokesman said: "In the coming year Mini Vinnies will also be introduced in primary schools in participating dioceses.

"Development officers are needed to provide assistance with new startups and maintain contact with established group leaders.

"Full training will be given both in terms of the role and Vincentian ethos."

Further information on 0207 407 4644.

## J&P meet on water

**The diocesan Justice and Peace Commission are to hold their annual gathering at The Narthex in The Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich, from 11am to 3.30pm on Saturday September 15.**

This meeting is an opportunity to meet, to be inspired, pray and learn.

It has been held at Walsingham in the past.

This year the theme chosen is water - topical with the Cafod campaign, the international meeting in Rio and the drought across East Anglia.

Sarah Ebelewicz said this was a diocesan event and all were invited to attend as the subjects of water and drought are so important and topical.

"We're delighted that our keynote speaker is writer, filmmaker and broadcaster Mary Colwell who is also the environmental advisor to the Catholic bishops in England and Wales with a particular interest in the relationship between faith and the natural world," Sarah said.

"Mary is an experienced and well respected speaker who will inspire and challenge us.

"The day will also include time for discussion, presentations, lunch and will end with a liturgy.

"Be inspired, meet and share ideas, learn more and help to influence day to day use of water and the urgent need for sustainable water supplies for all wherever we live and how our faith and church teaching relates to these issues," she said.

"We're hoping to have contributions from a variety of organisations including Cafod, Anglian Water, WaterAid and the local authority.

"It's hoped also to have some activities for young people during the day we'd appreciate ideas of ages of children who may attend.

"Why not make a day of it and perhaps come with a group from your parish or an ecumenical or inter-faith group you belong to.

"A warm welcome awaits."

For more information please contact Sarah Ebelewicz tel 01603 506873. Email [scmebelewicz@hotmail.com](mailto:scmebelewicz@hotmail.com)

The event will be free but we will want people to register so we can plan for refreshments.



*About 50 members of the Roman Catholic, Methodist and Church of England community led by Deacon Peter Glanville, Rev Stephen Cullis and Rev Martin Greenland assembled at 5.45am on Easter Sunday outside the 12th Century church of St Mary's Fishley for an ecumenical dawn service. The church is a short walk out of Acle and has become an annual event held for the past 10 years. The service included prayers and hymns inside a candle-lit church as it has no electricity supply. Afterwards the congregation went outside into the grounds. The service ended with a rousing rendition of the hymn Jesus Christ is risen today and they then went to the nearby Methodist Church for breakfast.*

## Easy ways to contact the editor with news



Thanks to everyone who sends in material most of which is used but please send pictures as files and please do not include them inside documents.

**Please also give an documents you send a descriptive name - I get too many just labelled diocesan article or news.**

Pictures on a Word page or other documents as quality is impaired by up to 60% 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)

**Deadlines: Our Diocesan Family is bi-monthly and printed early in the month before publication. Material for must arrive by 25 June for the JULY 2012 issue.**



The figure of Jesus is seen clearly in the negative picture at the entrance to the exhibition

# Shroud of Turin creates wonder

The Shroud of Turin, hailed as the true burial cloth of Jesus, appeared at the Cathedral in March but only in exhibition form.

The actual cloth remains at Turin Cathedral in Italy but the exhibits, photographs, displays and explanations brought the story to life for many people.

Most Catholics and other Christians remain confident that the body of Jesus did indeed rest in the tomb after the crucifixion in the shroud despite claims by some scientists in the 1980s that carbon dating tests had proven it was a medieval fraud.

Since that time doubt has been cast upon the reliability of the tests and the question remains an open one.

Looking at the cloth in the cold light of day it is difficult to see the outline marks of the face and the body.

When photography allowed negative pictures to be produced, the full picture emerged of the flagellation, the marks of the

nails, the wound in the side, the thorns and the face of Jesus lying in the tomb.

The full horror and suffering of the crucifixion is there for all to see.

It also gave an insight into Jesus as a man of about 5ft 11ins (1.8m) tall and medium build.

The exhibition also outlined the researches of physicist and artist Dame Isabel Paczek who created a 3-D model of the body of Jesus from the impression left on the shroud.

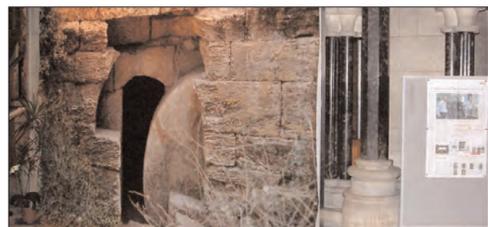
In her notes she said that the image was not distorted on the shroud which meant it was rigidly taught around the body.

It also meant a perfect image was produced and this inspired artists to paint the real face and body of Jesus.

Many people of all ages, school students and casual visitors came to St John the Baptist Cathedral to learn and wonder about the shroud and many went away with their faith boosted or with a sense of the extraordinary.



The detail on the shroud has allowed a detailed 3-D animation to be created and many painters have been inspired by this as shown above. The exhibition also depicted the tomb and also its detailed panels attracted many visitors



## NEWS from THE CATHEDRAL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST



Diocesan Administrator Fr David Bagstaff addresses Candidates, right, and Deacon Patrick Limacher at the Cathedral with some of those signing the Book of Life, above

# Parishes celebrate Rite of Election

People from parishes all over the Diocese of East Anglia came to the Cathedral on the first Sunday in Lent to celebrate the Rite of Election.

This was the last leg of their journey to become full members of the Catholic Church and they had all studied the faith by taking part in the RCIA programme that leads to reception at the Easter Vigil.

Diocesan Administrator Fr David Bagstaff welcomed as Catechumens and Candidates men, women and children as individuals and family groups who were making the important step in their lives.

"People from so many parishes were making public their faith and at Easter would join the Church through Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.

"Coming into the Church in 2012 requires more thought than a few years ago," Fr David said.

"There is more hostility and certainly more antipathy to those making a faith

commitment.

"The past few years have not been easy for the Catholic Church but the number seeking membership of the Church was the cause of great joy for the parishes and for the diocese as a whole.

"Becoming a member of the Catholic Church is being part of a faith community. Within that community, and sustained and encouraged by it, we develop personal relationships with Jesus, the Son of God and through Him are drawn into the very heart of the Trinity, God Himself," he said.



# Pictures from the Chrism Mass



The Cathedral was packed, right, for the Chrism Mass and the oils were brought to the altar with the communion gifts, above. The deacons are pictured top



The Cardinal blessed the Oil of Chrism, above, the Oil of the Sick, below, and the Oil of Catechumens, right



# Cathedral lighting project for more versatile and efficient system

Work has started to replace lighting in St John the Baptist Cathedral because many of the halogen and halide lamps are breaking down and the system, which was first installed about 18 years ago, has reached the end of its life.

The project to update the whole system is likely to take more than a year and cost £50,000. About £5,000 has already been raised.

Part of the new system has already been installed at the High Altar end of the nave, for the Stations of the Cross and Blessed Sacrament chapel.

LED lighting systems are to be installed as they use a fraction of the power of the existing lamps - 50 watts compared to 300 watts for the older system.

It is hoped this will be reflected in the overall cathedral electricity bill which is expected to fall by several thousands of

pounds once all the lights have been replaced.

Deacon Patrick Limacher is overseeing the new installation and said it would have a maintenance free working lifetime of more than 15 years.

"But individual lamps cost as much as £680 each. At present we are swapping old lamps for new using existing brackets.

"The new lamps are dark grey in colour and blend into the background much better but I hope in phase two of the project to have them mounted in the arches along the nave so they cannot be seen.

"Stage three will be to have a control system that can monitor lighting levels according to the time of day."

As the Cathedral becomes darker in the evening the power of the lighting will automatically increase and at the height of summer when the building is brighter they tone down.

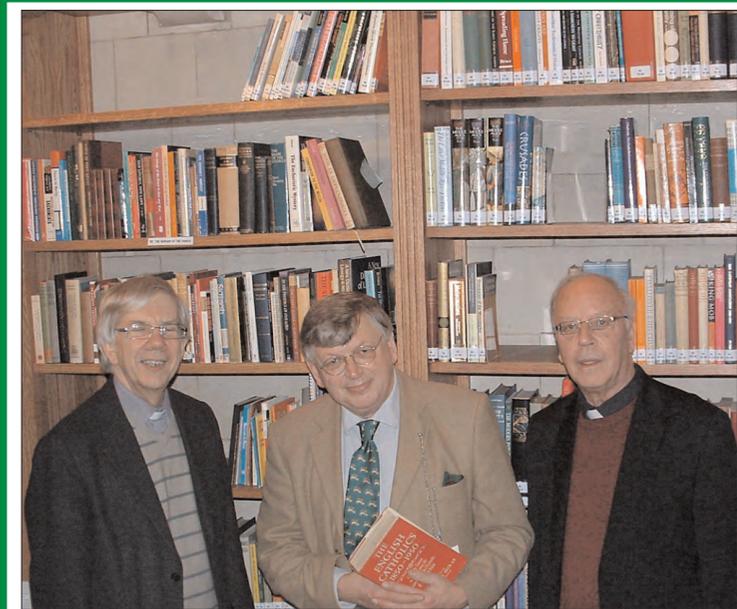
Deacon Patrick also wants more control to mood light particular areas of the Cathedral for events.

This includes the transepts, the baptistry, the High Altar, particular parts of the nave and so on.

"It would be spectacular for all the lights to come on in an instant at the Easter Vigil filling the Cathedral with bright light. "At present, some of the older lamps take up to 40 seconds to reach full power."

The Friends of the Cathedral of East Anglia have already made a significant contribution to the project but Fr James Walsh, the Cathedral Dean, hopes people across the whole diocese will help.

More details on the project and how to donate from Deacon Patrick Limacher on 01603 624615.



Diocesan Administrator Fr David Bagstaff, chief librarian Peter Thorn and Cathedral Dean Fr James Walsh

# Library officially open

Fr James Walsh, the dean of St John the Baptist Cathedral, cut a tape to open formally the Duckett Library.

Diocesan Administrator Fr David Bagstaff blessed the library and prayed for all that would use it.

Peter Thorn welcomed guests, parishioners and The Friends of the Cathedral of East Anglia who had contributed books, finance, equipment and shelves and thanked all who had helped to get the project off the ground so quickly.

The library is named in honour of Canon Richard Duckett who was rector at St John's

1876 - 1910. Librarian and committee chairman Peter Thorn said that the library was established as part of the recent renewal and extension of facilities. It has over 3,000 books and publications thanks to the generosity of parishioners and others.

"Subjects include biblical studies, theology, doctrine, catechetics, lives of the saints, pastoral issues, liturgy, church history, spirituality, biography, pilgrimage and religious art."

The library is now recruiting members and will be open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and after Sunday Masses.



Fr David Bagstaff blesses the library and prays for those who will use it. (Below) guests at the opening and (bottom) Fr James Walsh cuts a tape at the library



# BUILDING BRIDGES in Cambodia

During the past few weeks many groups from East Anglia have been to visit our twin Diocese in Cambodia. They have come from North Walsham, Ely and St Mary's in Ipswich. Two of our seminarians have done a placement there. Mgr Philip Shryane spent a couple of weeks in January covering the parish of St John in Siem Reap for weekday Mass while the priest had a short break and described life there. So we have plenty of news, memories and photos, more than will get into this issue.

Over the years our Diocese has supported a very small, isolated village called Ta Om on a number of occasions, building the first learning centre there in 2004 and again in 2007 we paid to put a new roof on the church.

Last year with help from other sources, they built a new learning centre providing classrooms for a kindergarten and accommodation for young people to have retreats and residential programmes. It is only recently that we have been able to take groups to Ta Om, the first part of the road is greatly improved, the second is still a dirt road, very bumpy, the Cambodians call it a free massage!

This year the group from Ely visited for the first time and saw the work our Diocese has been involved with. One of the great improvements is that through Planet Water and with help from a school in the US there is now clean water in the village.

Planet Water installed a water tower and the water drops down through a series of filters and comes out clean and drinkable from the taps at the bottom. It was a great joy to be there on the day it was switched on, such excitement at clean water coming from a tap!! But it will improve their life enormously. Have a look at their website at [www.planet-water.org](http://www.planet-water.org)

Just after Christmas Bishop Kike wrote to inform us what the Diocesan project would be for this year, 2012. It is to help rebuild the bamboo church of St Andrew in Nikum. We have helped before in this village, sending money to help level their plot of land and in 2007 we gave £15,000 towards the building



Fr Manoj inspects termite damage to bamboo church



Fr Mark Hackeson with the parish founder

## Parish life in Siem Reap by Mgr Philip Shryane



Spanish doctors entertain local children during the lunchtime break in surgery hours



Children at Ta Om whose lives are transformed by a supply of clean water

of their kindergarten. Fr Manoj, the parish priest, tells us a little of the history of the Church.

It all started in 1999 when two ladies who had been baptised in the refugee camp on the Thai border were repatriated to Nikum. At first they kept the faith very much to themselves and a few others, meeting in the home of one of the ladies.

Sometime later Fr Sohpal, a Khmer priest heard of this small community and began to visit, step by step he helped to found this community. In 2001 they built a small wooden chapel for Mass and to use for other activities, gradually it has grown and now has many children and young people in the Catechism classes.

On Sunday usually they have 40 to 50 people join them for the Mass. Early in March Fr Manoj accompanied Fr Mark Hackeson to the church and he has brought us some photos. Fr Manoj explained the bamboo and wood of which the church building was constructed is being eaten away by termites – a



Termite damage in the sacristy at St Andrew's church

common phenomenon in Cambodia. In places, the termite activity is clearly visible as they reduce the church to dust!" said Fr. Mark.

"In the sacristy almost an entire corner had disappeared completely, and in the side walls there were gaping holes. Fr. Manoj hopes to replace the bamboo and wood below the windows with brick which will last longer."

The church building and the adjacent kindergarten are well-used both by the Catholic community and the community at large. "The day I was there with Fr Manoj, a group of four volunteer Spanish doctors were giving a surgery for people from Nikum and the surrounding villages – providing healthcare and medication that is otherwise too expensive or totally lacking.

"They also entertained the children with some lively games and dancing during the break for lunch!"

So our Building Bridges project for this year is to help to rebuild this small Church, please do what you can to help.

### CAN YOU HELP?

Our two 'Building Bridges' projects this year are supporting Fr Manoj's work to rebuild the church of St Andrew in Nikum, and restoring the parish cemetery at Kerak 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 (Nikum church) .....

HOLY LAND (Kerak cemetery) .....

#### 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:  
'Building Bridges', 21 Uppgate, Poringland,  
Norwich, NR14 7SH  
Registered charity no. 278742

# Multi-church flower festival plan for Jubilee

**M**embers of the church of Our Lady Mother of God in Thorpe St Andrew near Norwich have invited members of eight other local faith communities to join them in a multi-church flower festival in September to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

For a number of years, members of this group of churches have met

together for prayer and Lent study groups.

In 2002 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee, the Catholic community joined with two churches in St Andrew's Anglican parish for a three-church flower festival.

Marie Drew from Our Lady Mother of God said: "This was very successful.

"But, it is believed that this is the first time ever that so many of the various denominations in the Thorpe and Heartsease area have worked together on such an project as this.

"The exciting thing about it is that

they all want it to be seen as a joint venture - working together!"

Displays will be mounted in four church buildings - Our Lady's, the Good Shepherd (part of Anglican St Andrew's parish), St Matthews in Thorpe Hamlet and the Witard Road Baptist church where flowers will be provided by the Heartsease Lane Methodists, St Francis's and two evangelical groups.

Marie said: "Mark the weekend date September 29 - 30 in your diary and come along to see this very special Diamond Jubilee celebration."



Members of the Norwich Catenian Circle were invited to join a trip by Notre Dame High School pupils to Zambia by guest speaker at their March meeting by Dan Greef who teaches history.

The school is taking 12 sixth formers to Lusaka, Zambia in July to educate students about life in Zambia by socialising with families of the parish in which they are staying.

Dan Greef also said that the exercise would help develop a sense of Christian spirituality by sharing worship with the Zambian parish community and they would be involved with various CAFOD projects.

The group has been raising funds to assist in paying their fares and to subsidise the projects on which they are working.

Dan extended an invitation to any Catenian member available and willing to join him on the trip and appealed for help in the form of prayers and financial assistance. He said: "I am very pleased to have made this link with our local Catenian Circle.

"We all belong to the wide Catholic Community and this liaison will hopefully enable us to envisage and expedite a common mission as witnesses of human dignity, continual education and a growing relationship with Our Lord."

Dan Greef and Peter Godfrey, president of Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association are pictured above.



The new chairman of the Walsingham Association is Peter Martin - the first holder of the office from the Diocese of East Anglia.

The Walsingham Association is a lay association bringing together nationally and locally all who have a devotion to Our Lady of Walsingham and its aims are to support the national shrine spiritually and financially while taking part in and encouraging pilgrimages.

Membership is about 3,000 with members in 50 Groups - there are eight branches in the diocese.

Peter Martin from King's Lynn said his aim was to visit as many parishes as possible during his time in the post. In the member's newsletter he said: "Being the first Norfolk man to hold this position and growing up in King's Lynn which was the First Shrine to Our Lady of Walsingham after the Reformation up 1934, my whole life has revolved around Our Lady of Walsingham.

"Walsingham is a wonderful place to come to and feel at peace. Please keep telling your parish priest and people that Walsingham is a very important place to come to."

## Book marks 250 years at Bury

This year St Edmund's Church in Bury St Edmunds commemorates 250 years since Mass was first celebrated there.

A small parish History Group has produced a booklet entitled **The Present from Our Past**.

St Edmund's is rich in history and has recently launched a £500,000 fund to restore the crypt, chapel and the present church built in 1837.

Many fundraising events have already been held including a town trail, talent show, a lunch provided by our Indian community, breakfast/coffee meetings and prize draws.

All profits from sales of the booklet will go to the restoration fund.

John Saunders said: "The booklet's 60 pages contain the effort and expertise of members of the Church History group.

"Parishioners and others contributed factual information. It tells of how Jesuit priests, in times when Catholic worship was illegal, supported the Catholic

## Prayer study day to deepen relationship

A Be Still Day of prayer where those taking part are called to "deepen their relationship with God" is to be held at the Narthex at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich on Saturday June 30.

The day will begin at 10am with an invitation to "Go into your inner room and close the door" after which there will be a talk on the practice of silent prayer.

One of then organisers Peter Kemp said: "I think, if we are honest, most of us would say that over the years we have found prayer difficult.

"It isn't that we don't pray because we do but we are far from convinced that we

community in the town by establishing a Chapel in Westgate Street in which Mass was first celebrated two and a half centuries ago, on 8 December 1762.

"Much of the booklet's material came from handwritten diaries kept by the Jesuits who remained in Bury until 1929.

"The subsequent period until 2012 has been researched by the Group with additions from people having connections with the Parish. The booklet's title reflects our gratitude to this gift from the past.

"A quality document printed by Michael Busson of Premier Printing, the booklet aims to appeal to all levels - Catholics and non-Catholics alike, and will be an interesting read for those interested in local history.

"The content includes important facts and figures plus some amusing anecdotes and the myths and legends of people buried in the Crypt. There are some illustrations and old photographs."

For more details phone 01284 754358.

really know how to pray.

"Many of us have searched through books, been on retreats and wished we could find the key to making what we have struggled with since our youth both easier and meaningful."

Sessions will provide guidance on methods of silent prayer also known as centering prayer, Christian meditation and the prayer of silence.

Advice will be given on making prayer part of daily life.

The cost is £10 collected on the day but more information can be obtained from Peter Kemp on 01603 502355.

## New arts and craft course starting up

A course on the craft of patchwork and quilting begins at St John the Baptist Cathedral on Wednesday 2 May from 11am to 3pm.

Organiser Barbara Scrutton said that it is a course for all who might be interested.

The 10-week long course both for complete beginners and for those who may have some experience.

Barbara said: "Maybe you have started a piece which you have been stuck on or there is something that you would like to

try. The course may help."

The cost is £50 and bring along a notebook, pencil, a selection of sewing needles, thimble and some different sewing cotton with any fabric.

This can be pure cotton patchwork, old garments like skirts, blouses or shirts or quilting pieces but all must be of a similar weight.

Cheques are payable to St John's Cathedral and further information from Barbara on 01603 458851.



A Mass and service for the sick was held at St George's in Norwich on the Monday of Holy Week. It was celebrated by Fr Tony McSweeney assisted by Deacon Ian Hatfield.



One of the features of this time of the year is the number of churches who produce Easter Gardens like the one above.