

News from Around the Diocese

Gift marks friendship

At Sunday Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Battambang on 20th January, a stained glass panel by local artist Paul Quail was handed over in memory of Bishop Michael and Fr Ben Grist.

The gift is to be a lasting mark of the friendship between the people and the dioceses of East Anglia and Battambang.

Fr Mark Hackeson concelebrated with

Vicar General Fr Totet Banyal sj at the Mass. Several people from North Walsham, Aylsham, Great Yarmouth and Poringland were able to join the local community at the celebration.

At the end of the Mass incense was offered in prayer for the repose of both Bishop Michael and Fr Ben their pictures having been prominently placed near the Altar.



Sarah Shippey presents the panel to the Chairwoman of the Parish Council and the community at prayer, left

Family life coordinator

The Diocese is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Marriage and Family Life Coordinator, filling the role left vacant since last year when Edwina Griffin moved away from East Anglia.

A parishioner of the Cathedral parish, Juliet Belderbos joins us just in time to coordinate the Celebration Mass for Marriage and Family Life. Married with three young children, Juliet and her husband first attended the Mass in 2010.

“We received a certificate from Bishop Michael to mark our 10th wedding anniversary,” she said.

“It was such an uplifting event and lovely to celebrate with people who had come from all over the diocese. The event becomes more popular every year and I hope we will welcome even more couples and families this June.”

Please contact Juliet by emailing mflc.eastanglia@yahoo.co.uk



Rose Mingay and Sharon Ellis

Rose retires after 22 years at Tribunal

When Rose Mingay was interviewed for the position of tribunal secretary just over 22 years ago, she was asked if she could type and fend off difficult and sensitive phonecalls.

Well, the job has evolved since then! Father Simon Blakesley arrived soon after she did, and together they dealt with approximately 700 cases.

Rose has now retired but Fr Simon is staying of course.

She said: “It has been an interesting and rewarding experience. No two days have been the same, so the job has definitely not been boring. The best part is when you can give good news and it’s even better when it happens at Christmas.

“The work of the Tribunal needs to be better publicised so that more people are offered hope after the traumatic process of divorce. Everyone can come to the Tribunal, and they will always be given the time to explain their situation and offered advice on how to proceed.

“I must say that my job has been made so much easier by the unstinting work done by the Lay Auditors, a team of people who have been prepared to travel all over the diocese in order to interview witnesses.

“I will miss all my colleagues, but will be keeping in touch. I will continue to work for the Tribunal as a Lay Auditor. Let’s hope I can practice what I have preached over the years. “Sharon Ellis is taking over from me and has had six months learning the ropes, and I leave the Tribunal in her very capable hands.”

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 renovating the Taybeh Old People’s Centre.

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 (Taybeh Centre)

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 Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the tax amount claimed by all the Charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) to whom I have donated in that tax year.

Only tax arising from Income or Capital Gains applies to Gift Aid. Other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.

Signed.....

Date.....

Please send to:

‘Building Bridges’, 21 Upgate, Poringland,
Norwich, NR14 7SH
Registered charity no. 278742

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies

Are you looking for an opportunity to learn about and discuss theology? Are you involved in teaching or leadership in a Catholic school? Are you thinking about helping with catechesis in your parish?

Why not come to hear from some participants, find out more and sample some teaching?

Taster Sessions

Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, CAMBRIDGE

Thursday June 6th - Two options: 16.00 or 18.30

Contact: ald36@cam.ac.uk, 01223 741040

Narthex at St John’s Cathedral, NORWICH

Saturday June 29th 10.30-13.00

Contact: smathewson@ndhs.org.uk, 01603 627783

St Mary’s Parish Hall, Woodbridge Road, IPSWICH

Saturday, July 13th 10.30-13.00

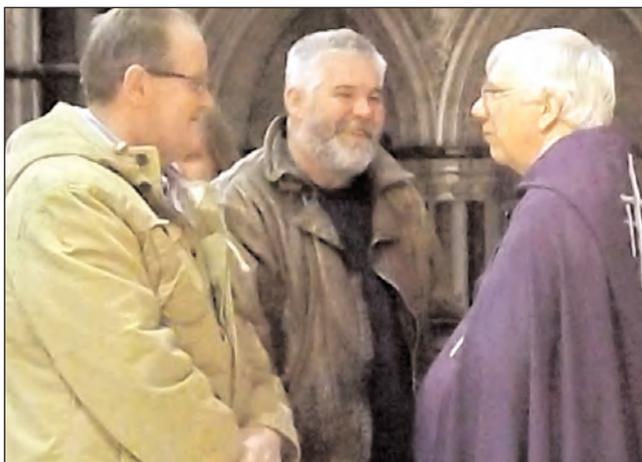
Contact: smathewson@ndhs.org.uk, 01603 627783

We look forward to welcoming you for tea, theology and good conversation!

The CCRS provides a range of theological learning to develop leaders in Catholic communities, taught on weekends in lively and challenging small groups.

Journey in Faith - an assessment by Fr David Jennings

Following on from his time as Parish Priest of All Souls, Peterborough, and during a sabbatical year, Fr David undertook in-depth research into the process of bringing people into the Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) also known as ABC (About Being Catholic), or Journey in Faith. Here, Fr David gives an early draft summary of the work so far.



Diocesan Administrator Fr David Bagstaff meets Catechumens and sponsors at the Rite of Election

Three groups were approached to take part in this survey – the Parish clergy, and through this Diocesan paper, the people who had been received into the church over the last 10 years, and those who may have left. 33 of the 50 parishes took part in the questionnaire and 64 individuals made a response.

Overview of Responses

Among the clergy there was an overwhelming sense that their respective parishes were part of a ‘Pilgrim Church – on the journey together’. This reflects the Vatican II model of Church (Vision of Paul VI) and echoes the General Directory for catechesis which states that ‘faith is presented as a journey towards maturity, and to a deeper relationship with God’.

It became evident that while the RCIA is primarily intended for use with the unbaptised, Christians from other denominations and returning Catholics also made use of the Programme. This raised the question of the need for a better strategy at some point in the process, to differentiate between those unbaptised people coming into the Church at the Easter Vigil and those from other Christian traditions, already baptised, being received into full communion at some other point on their journey.



In general, the RCIA Programme is followed, in varying degrees, across the diocese. Good use is made of the Rite of Election, which is appreciated by all who take part, and the Easter Vigil itself. There was some uncertainty about the Scrutinies on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent; it would appear that either the inability to understand their significance or a reluctance to use ‘sin’ language made the Rites less appealing.

The Mystagogy, celebrated in the post-Easter period raised some additional questions. Whilst the Mystagogy period appears to have been unsuccessful for a number of parishes, nonetheless, it receives a significant number of positive responses from participants.

This suggests that it should be looked at more constructively with a view to offering a way forward and promoting its proper place within the RCIA Programme. There was a real desire expressed from many quarters for the need to cement new members into the ordinary life of the parish through engagement and commitment, and for this to sustain them in the long term.

This is especially so as it is evidenced from responses that a number of people who undertook the programme and fully joined their parish community drop off the radar after a few years. Among the clergy, this raised real and genuine concern; however, there exists an obvious tension of wanting, on one hand, to approach the lapsed from the RCIA Programme whilst, on the other, respecting people’s right to freedom of choice and privacy.

Throughout the questionnaire, there was a genuine desire to see people become involved in the life of the parish either through a commitment to its liturgical life, such as the ministry of welcome, reader, music, etc., or pastoral/social involvement with social concern groups, such as SVP, KSC, CWL, Helping Hands or Pax Christi. Some form of annual reunion with all those involved in the RCIA programme was also to be encouraged.

As most parishes followed an academic model in presenting the RCIA material, i.e. September to Easter. This raised significant comment regarding the consequent shortness of the programme with an insufficient pre-catechumenate stage. This was followed with counsel to avoid the concept that coming into the Church was merely the need to acquire sufficient ‘Catholic’ information rather than an experience of God as lived and communicated through the Catholic Church.

However, that said, the majority of those received into the Church welcomed the presence and input of the clergy, the accuracy of the information received and its straightforwardness. The faith-sharing that took place and the witness of those leading the programme were all a source of inspiration.

The final part of the survey, and perhaps the most difficult to explore, dealt with the question ‘Why do people leave the Church after undertaking the RCIA Programme?’

A number of suggestions were put forward including a lack of understanding of the commitment involved, an insufficient discernment process and the spirit of indifference exhibited towards new members by the parish community.

Alan Jamieson, in his book ‘Chrysalis’, identifies *five* main reasons why people leave a Faith Community; they are: **Disenchantment** - “This wasn’t the community I thought I was joining”; **Disillusionment** - “What have I joined? (especially, in a secular age)”; **Disengagement** – Evident by withdrawing from activities; **Disidentification** - By wanting to belong somewhere other; and **Disorientation** - Expressed as “I don’t sit comfortably here anymore”.

Thinking Forward

As a result of the questionnaire responses and other data gathered in the course of the research, I perceive that a number of challenges face the Church. Hopefully as a Diocese we can begin to address them by asking:

- How do we strengthen the identity of the Christian within the Community?
- How do Christians make sense of the world through the eyes of Faith, especially when other ideologies are clamouring for our attention?
- How do we begin to perceive what really is important, in terms of our core values?
- How can each parish become a Transformational Centre of Learning?

Fr David Jennings

The Final Report will be available later in the year after the new bishop has authorized its publication.



Still time to book for pilgrimage to Rome



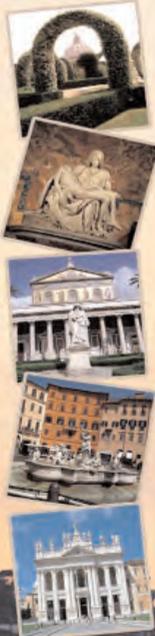
YEAR OF FAITH 2012 2013



DIocese of East Anglia
‘Year of Faith’
Pilgrimage to
ROME
16th - 20th September 2013

£699 PER PERSON

For further details and a full itinerary please contact Pax Travel Ltd




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Tel: 020 7485 3003 Fax: 020 7485 3006 E-mail: info@paxtravel.co.uk
www.paxtravel.co.uk



DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

Notre Dame 150 year history plea

In October 2014 Notre Dame High School in Norwich will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the arrival of a group of nuns to set up the school.

Over the next 12 months the school will be planning how to celebrate this very important milestone.

Deputy head Neil Cully said one aim was to write and publish an illustrated History of Notre Dame High School which will be available for purchase.

“As part of this project we would like to collect as much evidence as we can. The evidence may be in written form or in the form of photos and pictures which can be sent to us.

“What we don’t use within the history book itself we hope to include in our own archive, to store for future generations.

“Personal stories and recollections are often the most vivid and informative



A classroom set up by the nuns from the order of Notre Dame de Namurs staff and students. We are happy to begin receiving any material you may wish to submit from now on.”

“We will be advertising and promoting this project to the wider local community of former students, parents and staff of our school in the near future and encouraging people to submit contributions.”

This invitation is also extended to all current members of the school community and that includes parents,

Materials can be sent to by post addressed to Neil Cully, Deputy Head, Notre Dame High School, Surrey Street, Norwich NR1 3PB.

A dedicated email address has also been set up for the project on historyofnd@ndhs.org.uk

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Invitation to new school opening celebration

Two schools in Norwich are to close at the end of the summer term.

St John’s Infant and St Thomas More Junior will open as a new school called St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School.

It will be opening on the St Thomas More site hopefully celebrated in style!

If you are a past pupil, parent or member of staff, or in any way linked to either school, and would like to be invited to events planned to mark the occasion, please contact either/both schools by email: reception@st-thomasmore.norfolk.sch.uk or office@st-johns.norfolk.sch.uk or by phone: 01603 441484 (STM) or 01603 626025.

French Week celebration



St Edmund’s Primary at Bury celebrated a French Week with activities such as tricycle and scooter Tour de France races in the playground, making a 3D scene of Our Lady of Lourdes apparition, creating impressionist and pointillist Seurat-inspired pictures. They also made their own Asterix comic books and every class took turns in organising a French café for families to visit. The older children took the opportunity to start a correspondence with Ombrosa International School, based in Lyon, as one of their teacher’s was visiting. A Year 8 choir from St Louis Middle School gave a rendition of “Va sur ton chemin” from the 2005 film The Chorus.

Sporting prowess

Children in KS2 at St Felix School are keeping the Olympic Legacy alive with some sterling sports performances.

The Key Stage 2 football team from Year 5 and 6 ahead the Haverhill and District Schools league with five victories and scoring 39 goals while only conceding four so far this season.

The basketball team qualified to represent Haverhill in a county qualifier in their first season of competition.

Despite very strong opposition they were commended for sporting attitude.

The Tag Rugby Team coached at PE lessons have progressed to a county competition after coming second in a tournament at Castle Manor Academy.



Year Nine at the Sacred Heart School in Swaffham performed scenes from Romeo and Juliet as part of the senior school’s ‘Bard in the Barn’ 2013 programme. One student wrote: “Shakespeare brought out my inner thespian. I felt as if the stage made us all; it broke no one.

“We all shone. Romeo and Juliet gave me a real chance to enjoy Shakespeare’s words through my own expression and actions.”

Support for Zambian student

St Mary’s Primary in Lowestoft held a superhero day to raise money for sponsored Zambian student Salasini Chutu.

It costs £75 a year to go to St Francis Secondary, one of the best

in Zambia and the school raised enough for another 2 years! He is very grateful and appreciates the support by striving to be the best in his class and writes letters to describe his achievements.



Stories written by 33 students from St Mary’s School in Cambridge are included in Around the World in 80 Words – Adventurous Authors. The students from Years 7 to 9, entered the Young Writers’ Competition for children and their stories had to be about 80 words.

They wrote about a variety of places with titles such as Whispering Palms, Mexico, a country of sight, Kenyan Carnival, Soon to be Paradise, A Scottish Picture and African Spirit.

Helen Garrett, Head of English, said: “The students enjoyed the challenge of creating a story or evoking an atmosphere within a fairly tight word limit, aiming to capture what was most important to them about places they know or imagine.

“It is exciting to have so many selected for publication and to know that a copy of the book will be sent to the British Library.”

Some of the students are pictured above.

Ambassadors for RE praised

Five year 9 pupils at St Bede’s Inter-church School, Cambridge, have successfully become Young Ambassadors for RE. They will hold the title for one year and will be responsible for promoting the importance of RE in education at both a local and national level.

School congratulations go to Ellie Archdeacon, Ben Ashwood, Ashley Burr, Jasmine Habacon and Lydia Hamilton-Rimmer who could go to Westminster in June 2013 to discuss the matter with Members of Parliament.

The RE Council for England and Wales selected the students because they were impressed with their application and response to the question, Why Should We Learn About Others’ Beliefs?

Choir wins festival junior cup

Twelve pupils from St Benet’s Primary in Beccles, led by volunteer musical director Hilary Wells, won the Junior Cup competing against choirs from Norfolk and Suffolk in the annual St Andrew’s Festival.

This festival in its 43rd year, is affiliated to the British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech of which Her Majesty the Queen is Patron.

The choir sang three pieces: As the deer pants, Castle in a cloud and Spread a little happiness.

The Junior Choir Cup was presented by festival co-ordinator Tom Foster in front of the whole school.

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



Council celebrates its 50th meeting

In September 2003, a group of young people gathered at Bishop Michael's house for the newly formed 'Diocesan Youth Council'.

Their main job was to plan diocesan events and pilgrimages for young people, with the help of Bishop Michael and the then newly appointed Director of Youth Service, Hamish MacQueen.

In March they had their 50th meeting at which some of the young people who had been at the first meeting were present as well as many more recent members.

To celebrate, they had a special Mass and a meal together.

Hamish said: "It may seem a little self



indulgent to celebrate having 50 meetings but we're really celebrating everything that has been achieved through those meetings.

"All our events and pilgrimages (see 'Key Events') over the last nine and a half years have been planned by the Diocesan Youth

Council and their commitment is second to none. The fact that some people who were at the first meeting are still very involved is fantastic.

"For many of the older members, it was also a chance to thank God for Bishop Michael and all he had done. Bishop Michael had been to all but one meeting (he missed one when Leeds were playing!) before he died, even meeting around his bed in the later stages of his illness."

The Diocesan Youth Council continues to be active and loves new members! To join you need to be confirmed and under 21. Meetings are on Sunday afternoons five times a year (plus an overnight retreat in September) and end with Mass and Pizza.

Contact the Diocesan Youth Office if you are interested in joining.

Key Events for 2013

May 6

Walk to Walsingham

A sponsored walk to Walsingham joining with the Diocesan Pilgrimage

June 29 - 30

Ignite Youth Festival

Live music, talks and much more in our main event of the year. For Year 9 upwards.

July 16 - 30

World Youth Day Pilgrimage

Joining millions of other young people in Rio for Mass with Pope Francis.

July 26 - 29

World Youth Day at Home

With guest speakers, catechesis, live bands and a satellite link up to Rio. For those who can't make it to Rio, this is the next best thing. Held in Aylesford Priory, Kent but transport will be arranged from East Anglia. For those age 16+.

August 3 - 12

Young Adults Pilgrimage to Taizé.

Our annual pilgrimage to Taizé. For those aged 17+.

August 23 - 30

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Young People aged 17+ welcome.

August 22 - 26

Youth 2000 Prayer Festival

Joining Youth 2000 for their annual prayer festival in Walsingham. For those age 16+.

August 23 - 26

Diocesan Summer Camp

Faith, Fun and Food in the heart of the Norfolk countryside. For those age 8 - 14.

For more information on all the above events see www.catholiceastanglia.org/youth



Br Paolo from the Taizé Community leads the Lent evening of prayer around the Cross



Br Paolo leads Lent prayer

During Lent, our Cathedral welcomed Br Paolo from the Taizé Community to host an evening of Prayer around the Cross.

Before the prayer time, Br Paolo met with over 40 young people in the Narthex to tell them more about Taizé and explore how they can find silence in their busy lives.

Then it was into the Cathedral for Taizé prayer with beautiful music provided by the Cathedral music group.

"It was a privilege to have Br Paolo with us and wonderful to see over 40 young people from Anglican as well as Catholic churches come to pray together, which beautifully reflected the truly ecumenical nature of Taizé," Hamish MacQueen said.

If you are age 17 - 29, why not join us in this year's pilgrimage to Taizé from August 3rd - 12th.

Details and online booking at www.catholiceastanglia.org/youth. Bookings must be made by 31 May.

IGNITE

Celebrating the Year of Faith

Live Mime
Talks
Music
Love
Hope Alive
Eucharist
Faith
Reconciliation
Inspiration
Prayer
Vocation
Sports

- Live music from Mobo Award winner: **Guvna B, Pete Wygnaski and Suzanne Russell**
- Talks from Author and TV personality: **Fr. Christopher Jamison**
- Mime from the Internationally acclaimed: **Steve Murray**
- Taizé Prayer

Year 9 to young adult
29th - 30th June 2013
Sacred Heart School
Swaffham

A Catholic festival that
welcomes young people from all
traditions and backgrounds.

Organised by the Diocesan Youth
Service of East Anglia.

For more information and
bookings go to:
www.ignitefestival.co.uk **IGNITE**



St John the Baptist Cathedral was packed for the Chrism Mass - an annual diocesan highlight



Diocesan director of music Stephen Dean leads the singing during the Chrism Mass



Some of the congregation that came from parishes across the diocese, above and right, while the deacons are pictured alongside the choir, below



Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Antonio Mennini comes to the altar for the Chrism Mass at St John the Baptist Cathedral on the Wednesday of Holy Week

Archbishop Antonio Mennini celebrates Chrism Mass Apostolic Nuncio shares bishop appointment hope

Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Antonio Mennini who celebrated the Chrism Mass made it clear he shared the wishes of the people of East Anglia for a new bishop in the near future.

He said he had visited East Anglia soon after taking up his appointment as Nuncio to visit Bishop Michael in the last few months of his life.

He had also returned for the Bishop's funeral Mass and was impressed by the depth of love of people for their bishop.

Speaking after the Chrism Mass the Nuncio said: "I hope that the Diocese will soon receive a new bishop. It has been good to meet the priests, and I know that they will continue to give an example of mutual understanding, love and forgiveness.

"As Pope Benedict said at the beginning of Lent, one of the few books which people will read is the book of our life. Engaging with people's hopes and aspirations is so important.

"We see in Jesus that the love of God never abandons us."

He said the Chrism Mass "was beautiful - it was lovely to hear the singing, which was a real demonstration of the inner unity of the community here.

"St Augustine said that when people sing they pray twice, and this was evident at the Mass."

In his homily Archbishop Mennini said: "As the

Representative of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, it is good, simply to be with you to share this time of prayer and thanksgiving.

"I particularly wish to thank Father David Bagstaff, the Diocesan Administrator, for allowing me to be with you today. To my brother priests, deacons and all my sisters and brothers gathered here, I thank you most sincerely for your presence and for your welcome.

"This year, of course, we are celebrating the Year of Faith, and we are also experiencing a new beginning, with the election of Pope Francis and, I hope fairly soon, a new Bishop for this Diocese. At this time I also commend our Pope-Emeritus, Benedict XVI to your prayers.

"Today, we think particularly about the priesthood, diaconate and the sacraments. We, the ordained, are called to renew our ordination promises and to re-dedicate ourselves to the service of Jesus Christ and His people.

"Yet, we do not do this in isolation, for, together with the lay faithful and religious, we make up the 'Living Stones' which form the Church, the mystical Body of Christ and we know very well that we all rely on one another.

"We are gathered here in this eminent celebration of the Chrism Mass, which brings the Church in East Anglia together around one altar, one bishop, his priests and deacons and the faithful.

"I repeat that we hope and pray that the appointment of your Bishop will be made soon."

After priests, deacons and the congregation had renewed their commitment the oils were brought

forward for consecration.

Mary Clark, a district nurse, brought forward the Oil of the Sick accompanied by Caitlin Bainbridge a Notre Dame High School student who hopes to train to be doctor.

This Oil will be used to anoint the sick in accordance with the teaching of St James that the sick to send for the priest who come and pray over them and anoint them with oil.

Aloysius Ojore and Mary Watkins who represent the Margaret Beaufort Institute in Cambridge 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, Deacon Henry Whisenant and Rowena Harvey with her sponsor Iain Harvey brought forward the Oil of Chrism for consecration. To this the Nuncio added sweet-smelling balsam from the Holy Land before consecrating it to be used at Ordinations of Bishops and Priests, Confirmations and the consecration of churches and altars.

This was used to anoint Rowena on the forehead at her Confirmation in Newmarket at Easter. It will also be used to anoint Deacon Henry's hands when he is ordained Priest at the Cathedral at 12noon on Saturday 6 July. Please make a note of this important occasion for the Diocese and come and join the celebration.

This year, we hope, it will also be used at the consecration of a new bishop if he is not already a bishop. One of his first tasks will be to use the Oil to consecrate a number of new churches.



District nurse Mary Clark carried the Oil of the Sick to the altar accompanied by student Caitlin Bainbridge, left, while Aloysius Ojore and Mary Watkins, right, brought forward the Oil of Catechumens. Below, with the Oil of Chrism are Deacon Henry Whisenant, Rowena Harvey and Iain Harvey.



Archbishop Antonio Mennini mixes balsam into the Oil of Chrism, left, the oils, above, and, below some of the people who help the congregation inside the Cathedral

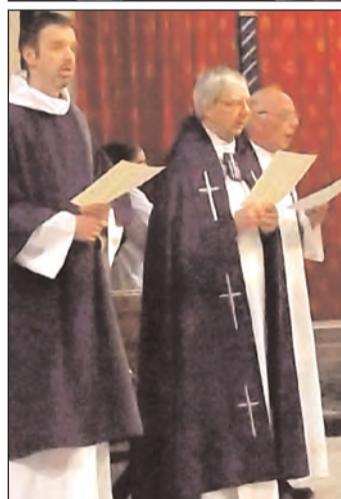


NEWS

from

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

Rite of Election pictures



Catecumens, Candidates, sponsors and families from parishes across the Diocese of East Anglia came to St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich for the Rite of Election on the first Sunday in Lent to begin the final phase of their journey into the Catholic Church. Deacon Andrew Eburne, Fr David Bagstaff and Fr James Walsh are pictured left.



Diocesan Administrator Fr David Bagstaff meets many of the people who came to the Rite of Election, above. Top - signing the Book of Life and below the Candidates and congregation.



Fr Michael in Jamaica

Jamaica is not all sun, sea, sand and rum punch!

Fr Michael Johnstone found this in January when he went to spend two weeks as a volunteer with the Missionaries of the Poor on the island.

He was based in Kingston, the capital, which is a city of about a million people and where unemployment is reckoned to be about 80%.

Old Kingston, known locally as the Ghetto is a vast inner city area of dilapidated, unpainted, rusted tin-roofed house.

There are numerous vacant plots filled with debris or temporary shacks.

Broken rubbish-strewn pavements and pot-holed streets are normal.

The inhabitants scratch a living – if they can – harassed by drug-dealers and gun-toting gangs of predators.

This is where the Missionaries of the Poor “give joyful love to the least of their brethren,” Fr Michael said.

The Community was founded in 1981 after a fire in an old peoples’ home killed over 150 of the residents.

Fr Richard Ho Lung, a Chinese Jamaican Jesuit priest, was so horrified that he was moved to persuade his



Fr Michael looking after deprived people in Jamaica and witnessing the work of the missionaries



order to found a community that would be dedicated to the service of the poor.

The brothers now number more than 500.

Living up to their charism as



Missionaries of the Poor they have homes for the disadvantaged in the Philippines, India, Indonesia, East Africa and Haiti as well as five in Kingston itself.

Early Christmas collection for Honduras

Christmas is planned early at the parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel and St Peter in March.

Parcels wrapped in Christmas paper were already mounting up in the church throughout January.

Some are practical goods labelled pasta or boots while others are more mysterious gifts carrying instructions such as “for a girl or boy aged 10 years old”.

The parish is making the collection is for the annual Children of Honduras Trust appeal. In February they were loaded and taken away by the trust’s volunteer drivers.

They will arrive much later in the year in Honduras and the deliveries will centre round the Valley of the Angels Orphanage in Guanacaste.

Steve Bretherton, from the parish, said: “A pair of black shoes, or jeans, will often be the difference between a child being able to attend school or not.

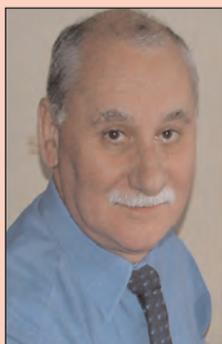
“We hope that our practical support will help poor families and give them more cause to gladly celebrate the



birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Parishioners and friends of Our Lady of Good Counsel are pictured loading the Christmas gifts to help the Children of Honduras Trust as they begin their

long journey to Honduras. The group who helped collect the gifts include Rod and Cath Logan and Deacon Martin Wells.

Picture by Ian Gooderham



Ways to contact the editor

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

Please give documents a descriptive name rather than just labelled diocesan article or news.

The current newspaper can be read online now at <http://www.bellcourtltd.co.uk/>

Send material to Patrick Byrne The Editor, Our Diocesan Family, The White House, 21 Upgate, Poringland, Norfolk NR14 7SH.

Tel: 01603 627409 and email: patrick.byrne5@virginmedia.com

Deadlines: Our Diocesan Family is bi-monthly and printed early in the month before publication.

Material this time must arrive by 28 May for the JULY 2013 issue.

BUILDING BRIDGES in Cambodia

Choom reap soo-a! We've been visiting the family!

January and February were important months for our Diocesan twinning with the Apostolic Prefecture of Battambang with a number of visits from East Anglia to Cambodia. These visits are important in building up and sustaining a real sense of relationship with our twin diocese, just as are the visits to East Anglia made by clergy, such as Fr Pedro Gomez whose visit was reported in the January edition of *Our Diocesan Family*, the visit of young teachers to Bury St Edmunds planned for later this year, and the presence of Fr Stephanus and two of his parishioners from Siem Reap at the ordination of Henry Whisenant to the Priesthood this coming July.

It is also an opportunity to visit those projects being supported financially and in other ways by East Anglia and to report back on progress with first-hand knowledge.

During this last year, the Diocesan Project was to provide the necessary funding for the partial re-building of the Church at Nikum which was succumbing to termite activity. Large holes had appeared in the wood and bamboo walls which had been consumed by the termites. They had also attacked the supporting beams and so the whole building was leaning to one side!



Evidence of termite presence in 2012

Thanks to the generosity of people throughout the Diocese who together donated £4,150 to this project, the lower levels of the walls have been replaced with brick and render and the window shutters replaced to make the building water-tight in the rainy season. The whole building has taken on a new lease of life and is once again 'fit for purpose' at the heart of the local community, a place for the worthy celebration of Mass, for catechesis and other community functions. Fr Manoj, and the community are delighted with the results of the work, and most grateful for the friendship and support from East Anglia.



Fr Manoj with grateful parishioners – note the new walls that have been built and the waterproof shutters over the windows. 2013

Fr Franco and Cristina, a worker with an Italian NGO New Humanity, are based in Kompong Chhnannng, on the Tonle Sap River. Together they reach out to families of children with learning difficulties. A number of Day Centres have been set up which provide badly needed support for the disabled and their families.



Cristina explains the make-shift, but effective sensory room at the old Day Centre. 2012

In Kompong Chhnannng itself, the Day Centre was based in a rented house which was ill-suited for disabled children, with one basic shower-room, toilet and kitchen. Despite this the centre provided care and education and a 'sensory room' had been constructed out of coloured blankets. Clearly a purpose-built centre was necessary to provide adequate accommodation and facilities if the project was to survive and to flourish. Ian Boast from Great Yarmouth said: "It was great this year to see a brand new Day Centre nearing completion within the parish compound. It will provide fantastic new facilities, increased capacity and ensure a future for the project when the NGO eventually moves on. The \$60,000 needed to construct the Centre came from Catholics in Hong Kong, but a further £6,250 has been donated by donors in East Anglia to provide the necessary equipment. Hopefully next year, we will be able to see to equipment in use."



New Day Centre nearing completion in 2013

The annual visit of parishioners from North Walsham to their twin parish of Svay Sisophon followed an action-packed programme for each of the six days they were there. Katie and Bob Maidment write: "We admired the new hostel for boys, now complete and partly financed by our parish: the church selects students from the poorest rural families to live at the hostel so they can attend high school - something they would not otherwise be able to do."



Students outside the new hostel in Svay Sisophon

The parish of Svay Sisophon are also making a long term commitment to sustainable farming, benefiting both church and local communities. Katie said: "We saw the four farms, including the new land at Dai Lo Village, partly paid for with funds from our parish in East Anglia."



Corn harvested on one of the farms

A number of parishes provided small, but much needed gifts, to be given directly to people during the various visits to communities throughout the Prefecture. Toothbrushes and toothpaste from Great Yarmouth parish, white school shirts and writing and drawing equipment from Poringland parish, and white school shirts and toiletries from North Walsham parish were warmly welcomed.



Toothbrushes from Great Yarmouth to the Kindergarten class at Sheatiel

Katie Maidment said: "The toiletries we took out with us were warmly welcomed: half went to the student hostel at the church and half to the Sisters of the Sacred Heart at Poipet [also in the parish] who work in the villages around this very rough border town 25 miles from Sisophon. The church centre at Poipe is developing rapidly with a very good quality kindergarten, a new house for the Sisters and the prospect of a new church in the near future.

A special place for most East Anglians who visit Battambang is always the Arrupe Centre and its associated hostels for children and young people who have either suffered from Polio or else lost limbs as a result of landmine explosions. The courage, joy and life of these young people is always an inspiration, and the work of the Prefecture in providing not only medical care, but a home, education and inclusion in all aspects of the life of the community leaves a lasting impression.



Booklet will celebrate all that's good in Diocese of East Anglia

It is planned to produce a small booklet to share and celebrate the good things that make up the Diocesan Family in East Anglia.

Dr Dilys Wadman, leading the project, said "We have some ideas about what we might include, but the people in the parishes are sure to give lots more.

"We do not want to overlook anything

that would be an example or inspiration to others.

"This will not be news of one-off events, of the kind you would send in for the Diocesan newspaper, but could be something which appears very simple and obvious but it may be only your parish which is doing it!

"Please have a look at the questions below and, if there is something you would like to share with us, send us information about it. We cannot promise to include everything in the

booklet, but we would be very interested to hear about what is happening.

"In your view, what does your parish do really well?

"What makes you proud of your parish community?

"What new things have started in your parish over the last two years?

"What would you like to share with others about your parish?"

Please send your responses with photos to Dr Dilys Wadman at: dco@east-angliadiocese.org.uk

Mass at St George's marks 50th anniversary



The 50th anniversary Mass for the 17th Norwich Scout Group based at St George's parish was a great success with a church full of scouts, cubs, beavers, leaders, friends of the group and parishioners. The group is pictured above on parade and members took part in all parts of the service possible. Fr Peter Brown celebrated the Mass for which the group had made special preparations. Scout leader Gillian Hanley said some of the children

designed a special badge to celebrate the anniversary. "Many of the congregation joined us in the hall afterwards for refreshments and portions of a cake baked for the occasion. "We are still trying to locate any past members of the group and would ask that they contact myself Gillian Hanley on 01603 401850, or Diane Newson on 01603 401415 so we can invite them to a celebration party in June."

Annual Mass to celebrate marriage and family life

The 8th Annual Diocesan Celebration of Marriage and Family Life will take place on Saturday 22 June at 11am, at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Norwich.

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

Couples celebrating 1st, 5th, 10th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th and above, as well as those celebrating the birth of a baby since last year's celebration, will receive certificates.

New coordinator Juliet Belderbos said: "Everyone is invited to attend this now regular part of the diocesan celebrations that take place each year.

"It is fantastic to see our cathedral full of

families, so let us fill it from every parish in the diocese and really celebrate what it means to be part of our own families as well as members of the diocesan family.

"It is also a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and bear witness to the true nature of marriage.

"As light refreshments will be provided, you are asked to let us know if you wish to attend by telephoning the Diocesan Co-ordinator for Marriage and Family Life, on 01603 417355, or by e-mailing mflc.eastanglia@yahoo.co.uk

"This is essential if you wish to receive a certificate for a significant anniversary or a new baby, but everyone is encouraged to book in advance, with numbers attending. We look forward to seeing you there!"



Stephen Matthews has been appointed the new CAFOD diocesan manager for East Anglia. He has addressed poverty in east London with the Quakers, helped reform Parliament and has given young people a voice in the decisions that affect them. Taking over from John Malley, who has retired after seven years, Stephen looks forward to meeting volunteers, clergy and supporters in parishes and schools across our diocese.

You can read about Stephen as he introduces himself on CAFOD East Anglia's blogsite.

Pictured are Diocesan Administrator Fr David Bagstaff and Stephen Matthews.



Fr James Walsh and Deacon Ian Hatfield celebrated at a Mass for Healing at St George's in Norwich on the Monday of Holy Week.



Despite the coldest weather on record for April and clocks being advanced by one hour about thirty members of the various Christian communities in Acle gathered at 6am for a one hour Sunrise Service at the 12th century church of St. Mary's, Fishley. The congregation was made up of members of the Catholic community at Acle (part of Great Yarmouth parish), the local Anglican parish and Methodist community. The service was led jointly by Rev Peter Glanville (Catholic Deacon), Rev Martin Greeland (Methodist Minister) and Rev Stephen Cullis (Anglican Vicar of Acle).