

# OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY



The newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

FREE

January 2014

## Whole diocese joins together in celebration

**The whole diocese took part in the three-day celebration to mark the end of the Year of Faith and start of the New Evangelisation.**

About 1,000 young people from 30 Catholic schools across the Diocese of East Anglia came to St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich to celebrate their own Mass and bear witness to the Catholic faith by taking back to their fellow pupils candles to symbolise the Light of Life to be lit at events such as assemblies and services.

A highlight of the celebrations in Norwich was a torchlight Procession of Witness through the streets of the city to the Catholic Cathedral.

It is believed to have been the first procession of the Blessed Sacrament that the city had seen since 1926 and began with a Service of Prayer in the grounds of Norwich Castle.

Bishop led off the procession of about 500 people following the Blessed Sacrament under a canopy which was the gift of Gwendolen, Duchess of Norfolk, the wife of the founder of the Cathedral, Henry Fitzalen-Howard, 15th Duke of Norfolk.

People in the procession walked in silent reflection. Many passers by in the streets stopped to wonder at the spectacle.

An overnight vigil of prayer and reflection was held later at the Cathedral and the Diocesan Youth Council helped to organise it and many of their members took part. Parishes sent people to pray before the Blessed Sacrament during the nighttime vigil which ended with Benediction.

Even at 3am on Saturday morning there were still 150 people at prayer in the Cathedral.

A packed Cathedral then welcomed people from across Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Peterborough and Suffolk to celebrate a Diocesan Mass of Thanksgiving.

Bishop Alan said the 18 months, when the faith of Catholics was the focus of the Church, was "a time for rediscovering the joy of faith - the freedom and hope that knowing Christ and his message brings to our lives".

Representatives from the parishes received a candle to take back to their communities as a link to the celebration and as the centre piece of an act of commitment made on the Sunday at Masses. The candle would be lit during Mass and parish services in future.

The Diocesan Mass of Thanksgiving began a new period of evangelisation - sharing the Gospel and its message of God's love for all people peace, justice and hope.

It ended with an act of commissioning for Catholics across East Anglia to share their faith with others.

The candle taken back to each community is a sign of the Light of Christ which is to be shared, Bishop Alan said.

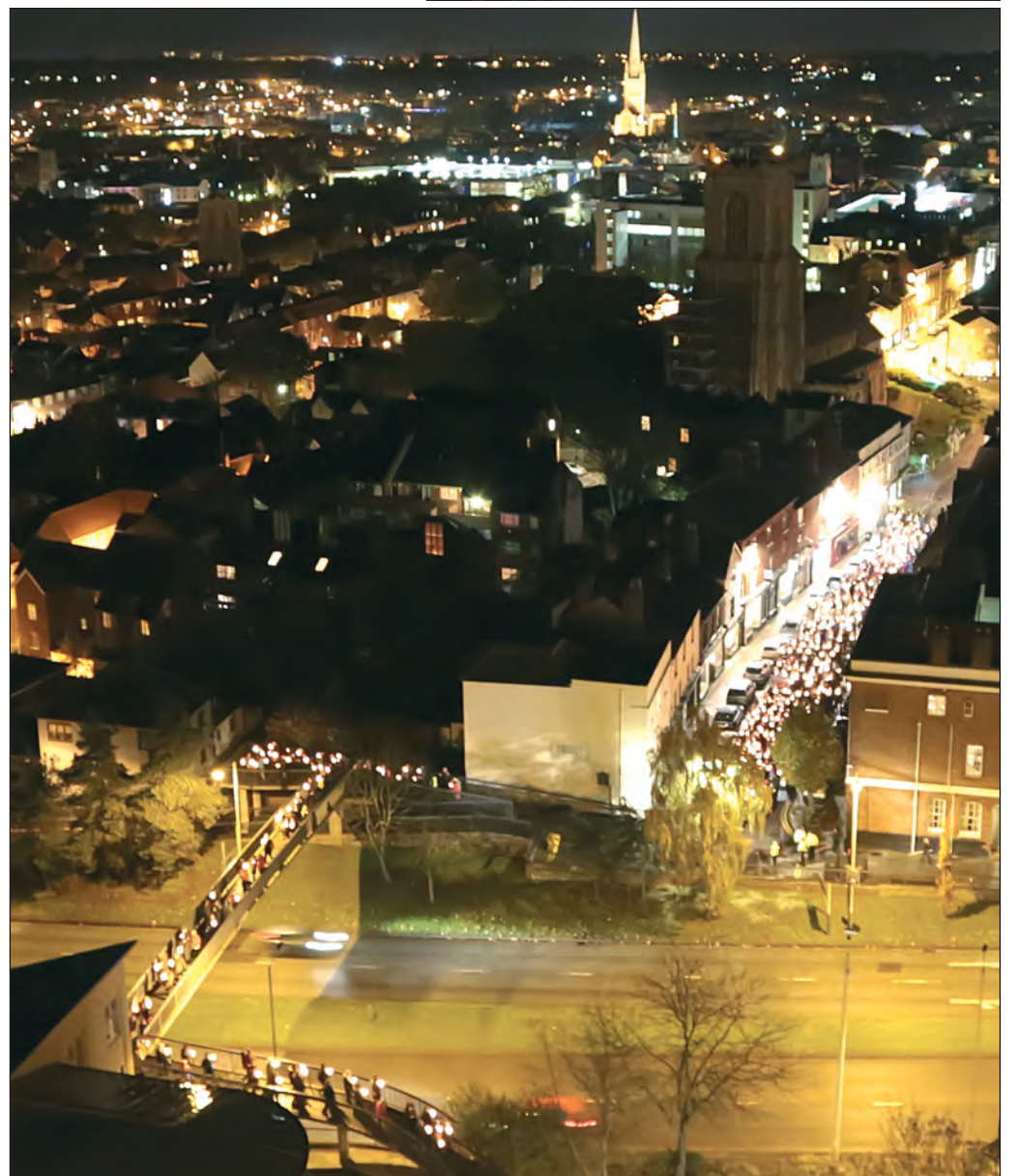
**MORE INSIDE: Bishop Alan's homily - Page 3, Three-day celebration - Pages 6 and 7, Youth Council - Pages 8 and 9**



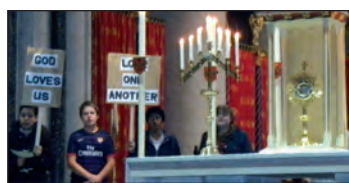
*Young pupils, above, receive candles that they took back to their schools across the diocese as a symbol of the Light of Christ to shine for others and the torchlight procession sets out, far right.*



*Right an aerial view of Norwich taken by photographer Paul Hurst of the Blessed Sacrament procession that walked in silence and torchlight across Norwich city centre in witness to the Catholic faith.*



*Some of the young people who spent Friday night and the early hours of Saturday in vigil, below, and next to that the congregation for the Diocesan Thanksgiving Mass to mark the end of the Year of Faith, centre, and people from the parishes receiving a candle to take back to the communities.*



**A Happy and Holy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to all Our Readers**

**Advertisement**

**News from communities and parishes around the Diocese of East Anglia**

**Priests move to new parishes**

Fr Richard White has moved to Brandon and Mildenhall as Parish Priest and Fr Joseph Welch, an Oratorian from Oxford to be Priest-in-Residence at St George's in Norwich.

Bishop Alan said: "I am grateful to Fr Dick for taking up the reigns of full-time ministry again.

"Fr Joseph Welch will be resident at St. George's for a period of time into 2014.

"I am sure he will be made welcome and I am most grateful for his assistance."

From 6 January 2014, Fr Sean Connolly will move to Norwich to be Priest-in-Charge at St George's, Fr Paul Maddison will be Priest-in-Charge at Wisbech

and March, Fr Padraig Hawkins will become the Bishop's Private Secretary and Priest-in-Charge at Poringland and Loddon.

Fr Mark Hackeson has been given a six month sabbatical but will remain resident at the Lodge. He will be out of the Diocese for most of the period until he is given a new pastoral appointment in the summer.

Fr Padraig will be resident at The White House.

Bishop Alan said: "I am most grateful to all the clergy above for their ministry in their current appointments and for their generosity in embracing the challenges of their new roles.

"Please keep them in your prayers."



Bishop Alan received a bouquet from Tom Sabus at the Kerala celebration in Norwich

**Kerala culture celebrated**

Bishop Alan officially opened the Kerala Catholic community's charity event at Hellesdon High School in Norwich and the vote of thanks given by Fr Laurie Locke with the first raffle ticket drawn by Fr Mathew George.

Visitors and guests were entertained with an Indian dance performed by Deepa Nelson, Dana John, Alisha Xavier and Alina Antony.



**Catenians entertain local clergy and religious**



Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association entertained local priests, religious and deacons at its annual Clergy Night at the Park Farm Hotel, Hethersett.

Grace before and after the meal was prayed by Fr James Walsh, a speech of welcome was delivered by the Circle President Pio Altarelli and Abbot Charles Fitzgerald - Lombard made the response.

Pictured are Fr Michael Ryan, Pio Altarelli, Fr Stephen Blair, Abbot Charles Fitzgerald - Lombard, Dom Martin Gorman, Fr James Walsh, Fr David Ward, Deacon Andrew Eburne (UEA Chaplain), Fr Padraig Hawkins, Fr Roger Spencer, Fr Mathew George.



Sr Teresa, the Loreto nun, far left, and her mission to the poor, left. Above pictured in Albanian costume as a young woman and her motto "The heart of Jesus is my first love". Right a picture of how people remember her.



**Blessed Teresa of Calcutta's story of faith seen by thousands**

Thousands of people were able to see the large exhibition of the life of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich thanks to the large number of events during the Autumn.

The displays gave witness to the great faith of Mother Teresa of the Poor who herself proclaimed: "By blood, I am Albanian. By citizenship, an Indian. By faith, I am a Catholic nun. As to my calling, I belong to the world.

"As to my heart, I belong entirely to the Heart of Jesus."

The exhibition traced the most important part of her life from the time she was born on 26 August 1910 at Skopje, the youngest of the children born to Nikola and Drane Bojaxhiu.

She was baptised Gonxha Agnes and her father's sudden death when she was about eight left in the family in financial straits.

Her religious formation was assisted by the Jesuit parish of the Sacred Heart in which she was much involved as she grew up.

At the age of 18 Gonxha left her home to join the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, known as the Sisters of Loreto, in Ireland. There she received the name Sr Mary Teresa

after St Thérèse of Lisieux.

With a burning desire for the missions she arrived in Calcutta on 6 January 1929. After making her First Profession of Vows in May 1931, Sr Teresa was assigned to the Loreto Entally community in Calcutta and taught at St Mary's School for girls.

On 24 May 1937, Sr Teresa made her Final Profession of Vows, becoming, as she said, the "spouse of Jesus" for "all eternity".

On 10 September 1946 during the train ride from Calcutta to Darjeeling for her annual retreat, Mother Teresa received her "inspiration," her "call within a call".

On that day, in a way she would never explain, Jesus' thirst for love and for souls took hold of her heart and the desire to satiate His thirst became the driving force of her life.

He revealed His pain at the neglect of the poor, His sorrow at their ignorance of Him and His longing for their love.

He asked Mother Teresa to establish a religious community, the Missionaries of Charity, dedicated to the service of the poorest of the poor.

Nearly two years of testing and discernment passed before Mother Teresa received permission to begin.

On 17 August 1948, she dressed for the first time in a white, blue-bordered sari and passed through the gates of her beloved Loreto convent to enter the world of the poor.

After a short course with the Medical Mission Sisters in Patna, Mother Teresa returned to Calcutta and found temporary lodging with the Little Sisters of the Poor.

On 21 December she went for the first time to the slums. She visited families, washed the sores of some children, cared for an old man lying sick on the road and nursed a woman dying of hunger and TB. S

On 7 October 1950 the new congregation of the Missionaries of Charity was officially established in the Archdiocese of Calcutta. By the early 1960s, Mother Teresa began to send her Sisters to other parts of India.

The Decree of Praise granted to the Congregation by Pope Paul VI in February 1965 encouraged her to open a house in Venezuela. It was soon followed by foundations in Rome and Tanzania and, eventually, on every continent. Starting in 1980 and continuing through the 1990s, Mother Teresa opened houses in almost all of the communist countries, including the former Soviet Union, Albania and Cuba.

Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity Brothers in 1963, in 1976 the contemplative branch of the Sisters, in 1979 the Contemplative Brothers, and in 1984 the Missionaries of Charity Fathers.

In answer to the requests of many priests, in 1981 Mother Teresa also began the Corpus Christi Movement for Priests as a "little way of holiness" for those who desire to share in her charism and spirit.

By 1997, Mother Teresa's Sisters numbered nearly 4,000 members and were established in 610 foundations in 123 countries of the world. In March 1997 she blessed her newly-elected successor as Superior General of the Missionaries of Charity and then made one more trip abroad.

After meeting Pope John Paul II for the last time, she returned to Calcutta and spent her final weeks receiving visitors and instructing her Sisters.

She was given the honour of a state funeral by the Government of India and her body was buried in the Mother House of the Missionaries of Charity.

Her tomb quickly became a place of pilgrimage and prayer for people of all faiths, rich and poor alike.

# ERA OF THE NEW EVANGELISATION

## *Bishop Alan's homily at the Diocesan Mass*

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ, the weekend of Christ the King marked the completion of the Year of Faith, given to us by Pope Benedict. It has been a great blessing for the Church in so many ways and that is why today we came together as the Diocesan Family with gratitude in our hearts to celebrate the Holy Mass. It was just over one year ago when Pope Benedict initiated this year. It was to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council and the 20th of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church one of the great fruits of the Council.

Pope Benedict said that this should be a time for the Church to recapture the joy of believing – the joy of being a Christian. This year was not intended to be an intellectual exercise alone – it was intended that we should encounter the Lord Jesus Christ anew – for the Christian Faith first and foremost is WHO we believe in and not WHAT we believe in. I hope that, as a Diocese, this year has indeed re-invigorated that sense of joy and has given us a fresh encounter with Jesus Christ, as each parish has reflected on the treasures of our Catholic Faith.

This Year of Faith, however, is not intended to be an end in itself. It was Pope Benedict's hope that this year should lead quite naturally into the era of the new evangelisation. So in the coming years the whole of the Catholic Church will be discovering and putting into place new ways in which we can hand on the faith to the next generation in a world which has changed so dramatically over these past fifty years:

Many baptised people have drifted away from the Church and no longer practice their faith; there is an indifference towards the Christian faith which regards it as irrelevant for human life. How do we reawaken the seed of faith in the hearts and minds of today's society. How do we proclaim to them that Jesus Christ is the Way that leads us to the Truth about our existence, the truth that leads us to the fullness of life, even to eternal life? That is something that must be shared with the world – for it is crucial for the whole of human living and thinking.

First, we practising Christians must show that we live out in our lives what we believe in our hearts. The missionary work of the Church of the Apostles was so successful because pagans saw them live their faith - see how they love one another. They were living lives of generosity, of sharing, of communion. That led people to question why Christians lived that way. What was it that they were so convinced by that it made such a difference to their lives. This must be at the heart of the new evangelisation – first we need to be evangelised ourselves for only then can we be witnesses who make the Gospel visible by our lives as well as by our words – lives and words that have been touched by our own encounter with Jesus Christ.

Second, we must evangelise our own parish communities. We must become welcoming communities in which all will find a home. We must become parish families of true unity and love which will attract and convert those who cross the threshold of faith or are looking to do so. We must become parish families that are not just content with attending Mass on Sundays but seek to play a significant part in the life of our local communities – and particularly seeking out those who are in trouble, the lonely, the ones who are forgotten about by society, the hungry and the homeless. God's love and mercy are not for the select few but for the whole of humanity. What we do through our parish's outreach can say so much without ever preaching the Gospel. As S Francis said: preach the Gospel and if necessary use words.

Third, we need to go out to meet others. We must not become so cocooned in our parish communities that we fail to reach out to those who have lost their faith or the deep meaning to life, or those who do not think as we do, or have another faith. Jesus Christ came into the world with the message of eternal life. Through the Church, through you and me, he invites all to Come and see and to discover the love and mercy that God has for every single human being. It is our Baptismal vocation to become Christ's witnesses in the world: Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News. Those words are heard once again in our own day and each of us must respond. We must not be afraid to do so for Jesus reminds us that: I will be with you until the end of time. His presence will give us the strength and courage that we need for the new evangelisation.

As a Diocese, we will work as part of the universal Church for the New Evangelisation. Whatever our pastoral plan will involve, it must be absolutely focussed on Jesus Christ, on our encounter with him and his love and mercy. It must also demonstrate our love for our brothers and sisters as much as he has loved us. We must seek the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit as we look to go forward into the era of the New Evangelisation.

Let us entrust our future mission into the hands of our Lord who will work alongside us. And let us commend ourselves to the prayers of Mary that we may be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. May she pray for us to be faithful to our Baptismal mission that we might become true witnesses for Christ, proclaiming the Gospel to the whole world.



*The packed Cathedral for the Diocesan Mass, above, and, the torchlight procession, below*



## Bishop's Christmas message

Dear Friends,

One of the most beautiful and most familiar part of S Luke's Gospel is the story of the moment when Mary received her vocation to motherhood. It is a moment we recall three times a day as the Church calls us to pray the Angelus. In that prayer we use the very words used by the angel Gabriel: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

The context of this story is utterly ordinary. Like mothers before and after Mary, she is filled with wonder together with fear and anxiety. But this event, however, is far from ordinary. For in this moment, God is carrying out a new act of creation and is making a new beginning in his world.

Jesus is not simply another birth of another baby boy. By the same Holy Spirit that hovered over primeval darkness before the moment of creation, God now overshadows Mary and the power of the Most High came upon her.

Not only is God creating something wholly new – he Himself is actually entering his creation and in Jesus Christ was made man. This is an entirely new, unique and powerful act. This is the most incredible truth that we celebrate at Christmas – God becomes man and is seen in the tiny and vulnerable form of a human baby.

The Incarnation, (God coming among us as man), reassures us that far from being completely unknowable and inaccessible, God is actually present in the whole of creation and especially in all human life, filling all things and us with his love and mercy.

God is present in the joy and happiness of our lives; God is present in the sorrows and challenges of our lives; God is present when things go wrong in our lives; God is present in the lives of the most needy - the poor, the marginalised, the rejected, the lonely and the fearful.

This is the Christmas message, and thus the Church's message – a message of life and hope for our world.

God is present in all human life – so the Church must also be present in all human life. We must not be afraid to witness to God's love and mercy which came down to us at Christmas. This is the new evangelism – that wherever we are, as Catholics we must always witness to the truth of the Person of Jesus Christ and offer the Gospel to the world in a new and dynamic way.

I wish you all a blessed and joyful Christmas season and a peaceful and hope-filled new Year. May we have the strength and courage to witness to that love and mercy of Jesus Christ which we have encountered in our own lives with all those whom God brings in to our lives.

**Bishop Alan Hopes**

NEWS

from

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

Meeting headmaster



Two former pupils, both now retired, talking through old times with their former headmaster at a meeting of the Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association. Long standing Catenian Frank Devaney, a retired headmaster, is pictured with former pupils Pio Altarelli, president of the circle, a retired head of the motor vehicle department of Norwich City College and Roger Hayes, recently enrolled in the circle, a retired Norfolk Probation Service officer. Frank had been appointed head of St Edmund's Catholic Secondary School, Gorleston, Norfolk in 1962 and Pio and Roger had been among his first intake of students. Both Pio and Roger expressed extreme gratitude to Frank for his firm but fair guidance. Pio said he was particularly grateful to the former head for his help in developing his sporting interests, especially in the area of boxing at which Pio reached a high standard.

Advertisement

Friends' membership call

The Friends of the Cathedral are to consider replacing the existing Cathedra, the bishop's seat, at a cost of up to £10,000.

The friends held its annual general meeting after Bishop Alan celebrated 11am Mass on Sunday 20 October.

It was celebrated for all members of the Friends, both past and present. Those who died in the past year were individually named in the bidding prayers.

After Mass, the Friends met in the Norfolk Room of the Cathedral Narthex for the AGM and luncheon.

Chairman Brian Lewis welcomed thanked Bishop Alan for agreeing to become president.

Bishop Alan thanked the Friends for their mission work and for their support of the Cathedral. He also spoke of the need to increase membership.

The principle matter arising from the minutes of the last annual meeting was the need to reform the Constitution, which can be pursued more diligently now we have a bishop.

Treasurer Brian Dowler noted the fall in income due to fewer members, the loss of subscriptions and the fact no legacies were received in the past year.

Brian Lewis reported that the new Cathedral guide funded by the Friends is a great success and that the removal of the screens enclosing St. Joseph's chapel had enabled the stained glass windows to be fully appreciated.

He also talked about changes which the committee were considering, such as raising the annual subscription fee to £20 for new members.

"Potential benefits for all members could include special pews for diocesan events and discounts in the shop and refectory," he said.

He reminded members they already had a discount for using the columbarium for their ashes.

Fr James Walsh thanked the Friends for their support in enhancing and improving the Cathedral.

He said he would like the Friends to consider providing the Sanctuary with a new Cathedra, costing £8,000 to £10,000, to continue its reordering.

Brian said that the Friends looked forward to working with the new Cathedral Trust.

St Nicholas Fair raises £1,500 for charities

The arrival of St Nicholas on his white horse in the garden at St John the Baptist Cathedral thrilled the many children and adults who had turned out to greet him on a chilly December evening.

The focus of this year's St Nicholas Fair was very much on the children of St John's parish and all the youngsters received a gift.

Grown-ups meanwhile had the opportunity to enjoy the festive spirit over some mulled wine and to visit the stalls of parish groups offering bargains for Christmas presents.

In a few hectic hours more than £1500 was raised for charitable purposes by the parish community.



St Nicholas arrived with his horse to the delight of all



In a few hours the St Nicholas Fair brought in £1,500 for use by the parish charities.

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/>

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

Material must arrive by 31 January for the MARCH 2014 issue.



# DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

## Brave charity walkers

Students and staff of Notre Dame High School in Norwich braved autumnal conditions to do their annual sponsored walk.

They walked to Whitlingham Broad and after a pit stop to refuel on cakes, found the strength to work their way back up to school.

However, the challenge did not stop there, they then had to collect money from their sponsors.

They hope to beat last year's total of £15,000 for charities chosen by the students including CAFOD, HCPT, Addenbrook's Hospital, Nelson's Journey and the Meningitis Trust.

At a special end of term Mass, celebrated by Bishop Alan after the newspaper went to press, cheques were due to be presented to each of the charities and the final total revealed.

In return the charities were to explain how the money raised will help those in need - a powerful message in how to put faith into action, the student organisers said.



## Faith candle arrives

The Year of Faith candle presented at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich at the end of a diocesan schools' Mass on Friday 22 November, was received at St Mary's Primary, Lowestoft, followed by a procession of the class candles. The candle is to be used at school events and Year 6 students Kassie King and Joshua Richeda carried it into school and were received by the deputy head Mrs K Marchant.

## Help for those without gifts

The children and families at St Felix School, Haverhill, filled dozens of decorated shoe boxes with a variety of gifts to be sent as Christmas surprises to children who would not otherwise receive a gift.

The 79 boxes donated will be combined with others collected by St Felix Church to be distributed to those in greatest need.

"The children, as always, were really enthusiastic about the Shoebox Appeal" said head teacher Clare Robinson.

"This is a wonderful example of how we can really make a difference and we are reminded of the words of St Mark "you shall love your neighbour as yourself".



## Winners of prayer competition

Two pupils at Notre Dame High School in Norwich received prizes in the Knights of St Columba National Prayer competition 2013.

The task was to write a prayer on the theme 'The Journey of Faith'.

Joseph Williams and Zuzanna Halicka were awarded 2nd & 3rd prizes in the East Anglia Provincial competition.

They are pictured with Christopher Brooks and Wlodek Szerba of the East Anglia Province of the Knight of St Columba.



## Centenary marked

The Britten Centenary Celebration Concert by St Mary's Independent School in Cambridge at the church of OLEM, pictured, raised over £650 for the Philippines Typhoon Appeal.

It was held on the feast day of St Cecilia, 22 November which was also the English composer Benjamin Britten's 100th birthday.

A concert of his sacred choral music featured over 180 singers and the school was treated to performances from Years 5 and 6 Chamber Choir, Year 7 Choir, Cantore and Allegro, as well as the school's Community Choir of parents, teachers and friends.

The junior choir and choral scholars from the church of St Mary, the Virgin, Saffron Walden, also performed.

## Performing skills

Students at Sacred Heart School in Swaffham and pupils recently had the opportunity to showcase their talents.

All pupils took part in the house music festival, organised and run by year 11 pupils. Some were beginners and others seasoned performers but all demonstrated their singing or dancing skills but Windsor emerged as overall winners in a fierce competition.

Senior and junior choirs, under the leadership of Jane Harvey, also had the honour of performing at the Remembrance Service and concert in Swaffham.



# Advertisement



Pupils and staff from 30 schools from across the Diocese

### Pupils invited to be heroic

About 1,000 pupils, representing all ages, from 30 catholic primary, secondary and high schools across East Anglia came to St John the Baptist Cathedral for Mass on Friday lunchtime on 22 November.

Their colourful school uniforms created a rainbow effect down the nave of the cathedral as it appeared that every available space had been filled.

The music they generated resonated throughout the Mass celebrated by Bishop Alan along with many of the priests who serve as chaplains to the schools and are involved in their community life.

The delight and joy on the bishop's face became widely apparent as he listened to the pupils reading the lessons and leading the bidding prayers.

He also had two messages for each of the pupils at the Mass to take back to their school and share with their fellow students.

One was encapsulated in his homily when he invited them to become heroes of their faith.

He held up two Catholic figures as role models - one from history and the other from today's world.

He chose the diocesan patron St Edmund, the martyred King of England, who when captured by pagan Vikings chose to die by arrows while roped to a tree rather than abandon his faith in God.

Bishop Alan then spoke of Blessed Mother Theresa of Calcutta who devoted her life from the early days of her vocation as a nun to the poor and helpless in India.

Her courage and compassion were drawn from the example of Christ. Bishop Alan said: "With God's grace, if you keep close to Christ and his church, you too can become heroes of faith - making the world a more just and joyful place in which to live."

The second message was encoded in a candle which each school was to take back with them to be a sign of Christ's Light in the world.

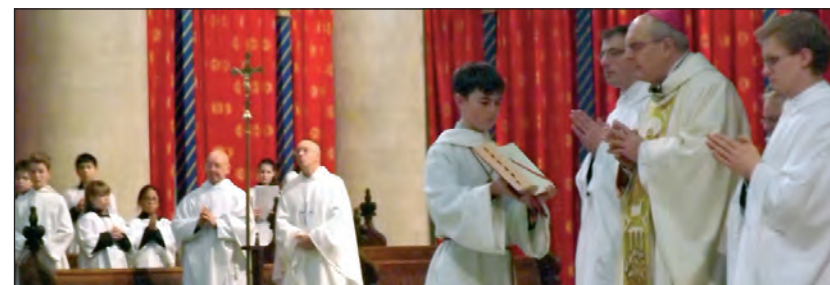
It was to be lit at school assemblies, services and major events as a sign to others of their faith.

Mass was followed by a lunch when many pupils from different schools met and friendships were made.

Some older secondary pupils also stayed later and joined the torchlight procession and the overnight vigil of prayer and reflection.



Bishop Alan prays with pupils who would take candles back to schools



Bishop Alan with Fr Padraig Hawkins and Fr Henry Whisenant at the Mass and below the pupils who read the bidding prayers



Clergy, religious and people from all parts of East Anglia come together to welcome a new era or evangelism where their faith will shine out for all to see like the candles they received at the Diocesan Mass



## Diocese together in celebration

Saturday was the day when the Diocese of East Anglia came together to celebrate all that had been achieved during the Year of Faith.

The three-day celebrations may have marked the end of the year called by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI but it also heralded a new period of Evangelisation nominated by Pope Francis.

It was going to be a new era of challenge for

Catholics and at St John the Baptist cathedral its dawn saw Bishop Alan draw the overnight vigil to a close with benediction and preparations began for a Mass of Thanksgiving.

The cathedral was filled to capacity for a third time as parishioners travelled from every corner of the diocese to take part. The bishop reminded them that the Year of Faith had been the spring board for the New Evangelisation.

"We must let Christ touch and transform our

personal lives so that our actions are in tune with the faith we profess.

"We must let that same Christ touch our parishes and communities so that they are evermore welcoming places in which those seeking hope and reconciliation can meet Christ.

"Finally we must go out and share the Light of Christ with others. That is the mission of the whole church, bishop, clergy, religious and lay people."

At the end the Mass representatives from the 150

parishes and communities collect candles which they carried out in front of Bishop Alan.

An icon crucifix painted by young people during the vigil was carried in the procession as the first stage of a pilgrimage that would take it around the parishes of the diocese during 2014.

On the Sunday each parish welcomed its new candle which would be lit during Masses and other services as a reminder and symbol of the Year of Faith and their commitment to Evangelisation.



Cathedral was packed with people from all parts of East Anglia marking the beginning of the New Evangelisation over the three-day celebration and Chris Duarte leading the choir at the Diocesan Mass

## Hundreds take part in Eucharistic procession across Norwich

Hundreds of Catholics processed in silence through the city centre streets of Norwich led by the Blessed Sacrament carried in rotation by Bishop Alan and several priests and deacons.

It was the first time a Blessed Sacrament procession had graced the streets since 1926, Deacon Patrick Limacher, from St John the Baptist Cathedral, told the assembling crowd in Norwich Castle gardens.

On Castle Hill short service of dedication was celebrated in which those taking part were asked to reflect on their faith and also the people of Norwich while praying as they walked.

The procession stepped out onto Castle Meadow, a thoroughfare normally reserved for buses, coaches and taxis. Those waiting at bus stops or passing through the centre of the city were amazed to see so many

Catholics walking in silence. The procession went down the tiny Opie Street on to London Street a major pedestrianised shopping area and on to the Back of the Inns before turning into Davy Place to get to Gentleman's Walk and the Norwich Market area.

A short climb up the Haymarket brought the procession before two iconic city centre structures - the Forum, containing the central library, restaurants and the BBC, and St Peter Mancroft Church.

Passing City Hall and the Bethel Street central police station it was difficult to keep out of mind the various community officers, constables and other ranks that had helped the Eucharistic procession.

Walking towards St Giles church the procession was preparing to cross its most difficult obstacle the Grapes Hill dual carriageway accessible only

over a small bridge able to take three people abreast.

The police and cathedral marshals had prepared a plan to let the procession over in small groups but it was an operation which threatened to slow the progress already made of reaching the cathedral before 10pm.

The plan worked and the groups in good order achieved their objective with time to spare. However, it did cause a little consternation in traffic using the Unthank Road in front of the Cathedral as it was held up.

Eventually, the walkers and those who came for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, filled up the cathedral again to capacity.

After a period of silent reflection and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament the long overnight vigil began led for the most part by young people of the Diocese of East Anglia.



Hundreds of Catholics gathered on Castle Hill in front of the historic castle that dominates Norwich city centre to prepare to walk in silent procession through its streets on a Friday night in November. Those residents of Norwich who saw the Eucharistic Procession looked on in amazement and wonder. The walkers passed iconic buildings and churches as they prayed and reflected on their faith before reaching their Cathedral for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.



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

Advertisements



University of East Anglia students walked with their own banner in the torchlight procession and a lot of other young people took part in the vigil activities and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



**Key Events 2014**  
 For more details please check [www.catholiceastanglia.org/youth](http://www.catholiceastanglia.org/youth)

**May 5**  
**Pilgrimage to Walsingham**  
 A walk to Walsingham joining with the Diocesan Pilgrimage for Mass.

**May 31 - June 1**  
**Celebrate East Anglia**  
 Faith filled weekend for all the family.

**July 5 - 6**  
**Ignite Youth Festival**  
 Our main event of the year.

**July (date tbc)**  
**Young Adults Pilgrimage to Taizé.**  
 Our annual pilgrimage to Taizé in France.

**18 – 25 August**  
**Pilgrimage to Lourdes**  
 Joining the Diocesan Pilgrimage.

**4 – 9 August**  
**New Dawn Conference**  
 A national family conference in Walsingham.

**21 – 25 August**  
**Youth 2000 Festival**  
 National prayer festival in Walsingham.

**25 – 28 August**  
**Diocesan Summer Camp**  
 Faith, food and fun in the heart of the Norfolk countryside.

**The Diocesan Youth Office,**  
**The White House, 21 Ugate,**  
**Porringland, Norwich, Norfolk**  
**NR14 7SH Tel: (01508) 494833**  
**Mobile: (0781) 2004934**  
**Email:**  
**[dys@east-angliadiocese.org.uk](mailto:dys@east-angliadiocese.org.uk)**

Leave a message if no answer.

**Diversity of worship at vigil**

After the torchlight procession, the celebrations to mark the close of the Year of Faith continued with an all night vigil before the Blessed Sacrament in the Cathedral of St John the Baptist.

People prayed all night and, on the hour, different groups of young people from each deanery led a short reflection.

"They were amazing. I loved the diversity which really showed the universality of the church," Hamish MacQueen, who helped organise the vigil, said.

"Some read poems and bible readings, others led prayers; one group did a liturgical dance; another group marched from the back of the cathedral proclaiming their faith 'We believe in God etc.', complete with 'demonstration placards'!

"Several young people also talked about their own personal faith journey. It was really inspiring, or as one person put it 'seeing all those young people gave me hope,'" Hamish said.

Meanwhile throughout the night the Narthex was abuzz with a programme of

activities exploring the theme 'Heroes of Faith'.

"Young people from different deaneries would come and go throughout the night and some young people stayed all night.

"While we encouraged them to pray before the Blessed Sacrament as much as they could, we ran a programme in the Narthex 'designed to keep you awake'.

"Amongst other things, we had talks, discussion groups and film clips looking at what is a hero and how we are all called to be heroes of faith. Keeping awake was also helped by copious amounts of tea and biscuits!" Hamish said.

One of the main projects was the creation of an Icon of the Cross, which many young people contributed to painting throughout the night.

This was brought up at the Offertory in the closing Mass and will make its way around the parishes to be received by young people, as a focus for prayer and mission - encouraging people in their role in the New Evangelisation.

Special thanks went to the Diocesan Youth Council, Fr Luke Goymour, Sr Barbara Brent, Sr Jane Louise from the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, the Narthex staff, and all young people who came and took part.



The icon that will make its way round the parishes in the coming year, left, and some of the young people at one of the discussion groups held during the vigil, above

# YOUTH MATTERS (Oh Yes We Do!)

## More vigil pictures and comment



Young people maintained a vigil of prayer throughout the night, top, while others took part in learning and discussion groups, above, but some grabbed a few hours sleep where they could as they were conscious it was going to be a busy day on Saturday



**World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow, Poland – home of Blessed Pope John Paul**  
Surely it's too early to be thinking about WYD 2016 already?  
  
Well yes it is... except to say, there will definitely be a diocesan group going! For those aged 16+.  
  
More information after Easter.

# YOUTH MATTERS (Oh Yes We Do!)

### What people said

*We will take our place among fellow-citizens of the world.  
We will witness to the truth of the Gospel in the name of Jesus Christ.  
We will live our lives in such a way as to make holy all human life.  
We are called by God to be instruments of his peace.*

#### From the Introduction given at 1am by Bury Deanery young people

*Thank you so much for inviting me, I didn't expect to get anything but I'm so grateful for what God gave me.*

**Jordan, Year 10 student**

## Gospel and Dr Who

The Youth Council put on a series of events and discussions during the afternoon after the Diocesan Schools Mass and for the overnight vigil at St John the Baptist Cathedral.

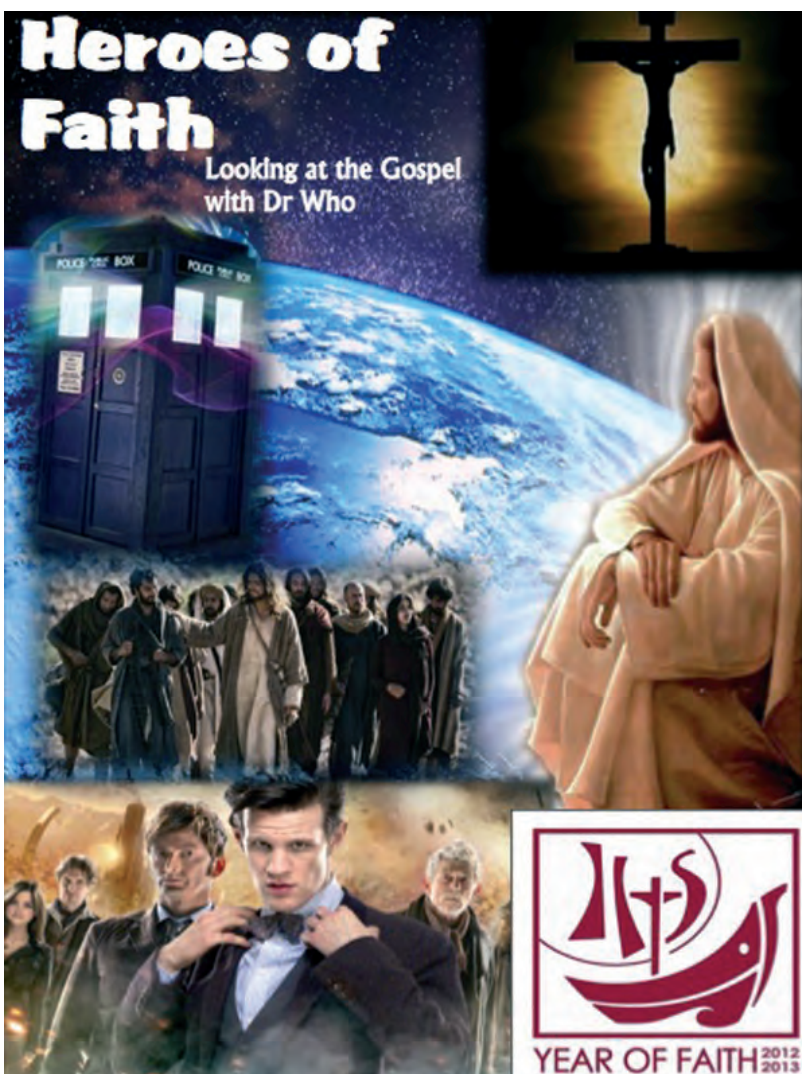
The main theme for the afternoon session with schools and the night vigil was "Heroes of Faith".

Looking at the person of Jesus, Saints and fictional super heroes, it soon became apparent they share many of the same qualities - love for humanity, courage, determination and self giving to the point of willing to sacrifice themselves - to name a few of these heroic qualities.

Dr. Who and Superman also have striking parallels to Christ in that they all came to earth from elsewhere to save humanity.

"We can learn a lot from exploring our faith in this way, and the resource below may be something a youth group or confirmation group could use," Hamish MacQueen said.

Heroes of Faith – Looking at the Gospel with Dr Who written by our own diocesan priest Fr Luke Goymour is available from [www.iconministries.net](http://www.iconministries.net)



# NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE



Some of the pilgrims looking around the new church at Diss

## Pilgrimage to new churches

**M**ore than 100 visitors from Brandon and Mildenhall, Bury St Edmunds, Clare, Haverhill, Newmarket, Stowmarket, Hadleigh with Sudbury and Thetford – set out with people from Diss on a “pilgrim’s crawl” to see the three new churches in the St Edmunds Deanery.

New churches at Diss, Clare and Haverhill are very different in their design and settings but met a common need - to replace buildings that were bursting at the seams.

Fr Simon Blakesley – now at Newmarket – led Morning Prayer and talked about the new church at Diss completed last summer.

Visitors from Stowmarket were particularly interested to see the stained glass panels, which had been in their church before it was extended in the 1970s.

The cross, suspended over the sanctuary, had been used for many years in the town’s Good Friday Walk of Witness, before being fitted with a figure of Christ from the chapel at RAF Marham.

At Clare Priory parishioners had for many years attended mass in a scheduled ancient monument: the infirmary to the original priory founded in 1248.

Their new church was a contemporary design alongside and linked to the infirmary.

“We had to maintain the footprint of the ancient building for all time,” said parishioner Tony Sheppard.

“And the new building had to stand in its own

right – it couldn’t be a pastiche, it had to be a modern building.

“We discovered that after the dissolution a barn door had been knocked through on one side of the infirmary and then filled in in Victorian times. So English Heritage said we could put arches in there.”

New parish priest, Father Paul Flynn, welcomed everyone to Mass, saying: “As we worship together, we find strength in the bond of unity.”

The third and final leg of the tour took the group to Haverhill where, following an all-night prayer vigil, the parish received a major boost to its fundraising when, along with other churches in the town, it received £100,000 from local Salvation Army member, the late Wally Plumb.

Like Diss, the parish had managed for 50 years in a ‘temporary’ building.

In Diss, the congregation moved temporarily to the town’s United Reformed Church to make way for a housing development on the old church site.

In Haverhill the congregation continued to use the old building until the week before the new one was ready.

“We extinguished the sanctuary lamp, carried the Blessed Sacrament across the building site and lit the lamp again in the new church,” said parish priest, Fr Michael Teader, after Evening Prayer.

“We brought over the benches, the Stations of the Cross, and so on – we wanted continuation from the old building.”

After Evening Prayer, with the Three Churches Crawl at an end, everyone made their way home to their respective parishes, inspired by what they had seen and by the fellowship they had experienced.

## First birthday for Ipswich Family Group

The parish hall at St Mary’s and Holy Family, Ipswich, was decked out with streamers and bunting for the first birthday of its Family Group.

Parishioner John Cassidy said: “Music played as nearly 100 parishioners - ages 2 to 92 - arrived on Saturday afternoon 9 November.

“Tables were festooned with imaginative cooking, baking, and confectionary. Parents rushed their children back from rugby practice and ballet lessons. Senior parishioners altered their schedules. Our clergy freed their diaries.”

The centrepiece of the festivities was an iced birthday cake, with just one candle to mark the founding last year.

Family Groups were founded in 1972 by Fr Peter Mc Grath from the Passionist Order.

“I wasn’t trying to start up a movement,” Fr Peter told John. “I just wanted to create togetherness, a community in my own little parish on the outskirts of Sydney.”

The groups now have over 100,000 people actively involved in 400 parishes, in seven countries throughout the world.

In the Diocese of East Anglia, there is one other group at Halesworth in the parish of Southwold.

## Celebration of town diversity

Our Lady and St Charles Church and the Rosmini Centre together held a Faith and Food Extravaganza in November for 120 people representing most of the ethnic and cultural groups in Wisbech.

The event began with Fr Sean Connolly celebrating Mass with Mgr Tony Philpott, Fr Mathew George from Thetford, Fr John Minn from Peterborough and Deacon Michael Jordan.

The congregation was addressed by the Mayor Samantha Hoey who expressed her delight at being invited to join in a celebration of the diversity in the town.

She made a point, reinforced by Mgr Tony that people should see in diversity a strength for a community.

“I work with people from Eastern Europe, count them among my friends and have difficulty understanding the resentment some locals feel,” she said.

Mgr Philpott spoke firstly in English, then Portuguese and finally in Polish to make the point that faiths are about inclusiveness and solidarity.

If they fail to proclaim this message they fail.

The intercessions at Mass were read in Portuguese, Filipino and English.



*Two new members took final promises as Secular Discalced Carmelites during their regional meeting at Quidenham Carmelite Monastery in October. Members from across East Anglia who attended, pictured above, belong to groups at Walsingham, Peterborough and Quidenham. The celebrant at mass was Fr Matt Blake, the Provincial Delegate to the order, welcomed Secular Carmelites who were entering a further stage of their journey and spoke of the order’s charism of contemplative prayer and its significance for today’s church.*

*National president of the order Jane Nicholson noted that there has recently been a surge of interest in Carmelite spirituality and that numbers of Secular Carmelites in the Diocese of East Anglia have nearly trebled over the past decade.*

*Groups discussed the year-long national celebrations leading up to the 500th anniversary of the birth of St Teresa of Avila, the order’s founder, in 2015. Some expressed hopes that events planned for the diocese will encourage further awareness of the place of prayer in the life of the church leading to the establishment of further groups of Secular Discalced Carmelites.*

*Churches, individuals and groups interested in finding out more about the Discalced Carmelite Order in East Anglia should contact: Jane Nicholson, OCDS, on 01485 570082.*



Celebrating 30 years of Marriage Care at Peterborough

## Celebration of marriage

Peterborough Centre of Marriage Care has celebrated 30 years since its inaugural meeting on the 5 November 1983. Kathleen Chambers and Mick O’Connor, two original members, were able to attend together with other past and present friends, supporters and centre personnel.

The parish Mass at St Luke’s church concelebrated by Fr John Warrington, a previous centre chaplain, who had traveled especially for the evening from his present parish in Ipswich, started the proceedings.

Chief executive Mark Molden was also able to make this his first visit to Peterborough centre and shared in the

celebrations along with Sr Nuala Lynch, a member for many years, who had traveled especially from London. Sisters from March also came along to support the event including Sr Dorothy Creighton, who worked in the parish.

Parishioners and invited guests enjoyed a buffet and Rosemary Gadsby, head of centre, cut the anniversary cake with Mark.

Mark thanked all the members of Peterborough Centre for their commitment and support to Marriage Care and wished them a very joyful and happy evening marking this special occasion.

# BUILDING BRIDGES in Cambodia

## *Traditional way of celebrating the Feast of Our Lady's Assumption into heaven*

**Marie-Madeleine Kenning gives us a glimpse into a Cambodian Catholic tradition on the feast of the Assumption when priests go into people's homes to pray the rosary and bless the house.**

I look across the room at the white robed figure sitting on a low stool with his head bowed. The only sound in the room is the whirring of electric fans. A roomful of people in prayer sitting on the floor in the traditional Cambodian fashion.

I am filled with a sense of awe. Awe, a word I do not normally use. A feeling I am not sure I've felt before. This is the third house we have been to this afternoon, the priest, a group of around 20 parishioners of various ages, and I.

It is the feast of the Assumption, when it is the local custom for priests to go and bless parishioners' houses. All the visits have followed the same pattern: welcome by the family, recitation of the rosary, sprinkling of water through the house, and finally some simple refreshments.

I say the prayers in English or French and find keeping in step quite a challenge, although I seem to be getting the hang of it, now that I am used to the chanting and able to spot the word Mary.

Our first stop was a house in the countryside, so we piled into one of the parish's pick up trucks, some in the cab, the others standing or sitting in the back. Many houses in rural areas are made of wood, but this turned out to be a fairly solid building, probably brick, with a covered patio, very useful in the heat, and a lovely garden.

It is the rainy season and there are puddles everywhere, which proves quite a problem as we thread our way, on foot this time, through a maze of muddy dust tracks to the second house, a modest two room single storey affair not far from the church. The houses are packed close together. People live cheek by jowl here.

At one point, the lane becomes impassable, so we cut through someone's house. The occupants, sitting on what looks like low tables and chatting, in all likelihood for want of anything else to do, do not seem to mind. From time to time, we are assailed by the smell of urine, probably from some nearby toilets, which I suspect to be not much more than a hole in the ground. It is not a pleasant walk.

The host greets us and shows us into her bedroom, in which there is a bed and a large statue of the Virgin Mary. I am invited to sit on the bed. The room is too small for all of us, so most people sit on the floor outside. The significance of their presence will only strike me later.

However poor, this is someone's home and to be here is to give support, a symbol of community. I notice an old lady looking on from the bedroom doorway. I am confused. I know that the host was orphaned during the Pol Pot years and does not have a family. I enquire: 'who is this?' It is someone that had nowhere to stay so she has taken her in



*A shrine to Our Lady and the Holy Family which is a feature of many homes*

and allows her to share the house.

You cannot but be taken aback by such generosity, and this is not an isolated example. One of the ladies I have met takes care of a man with one leg and has given him a corner of her small plot to build a hut on.

As our host hands me a can of drink, I think of how it should be the other way round. I should be the one doing the giving. Except, of course, that things are as they are meant to be, and all I can do is accept and appreciate.

The third ceremony is drawing to a close. I see someone leave the room and come back with a bunch of red roses, one for each of us. How nice! Is this an alternative to the refreshments? But one of the parishioners is making her way on her knees towards the priest and handing him her flower. Then a second, and a third, follow suit, until it becomes obvious that I am going to have to part with my rose. As I kneel in front of him, the priest whispers: 'Do you know why they are doing this?' 'No' I reply. 'It is my anniversary. I have been a priest for nine years'.

I look across at the white robed figure. A priest with his people. A quintessential moment. This is the life he has chosen, this man, who is not even from these parts. Sometimes the enormity of the gift takes your breath away.

**Marie-Madeleine Kenning**



*The Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady is celebrated at home and in processions across Cambodia*

## CAN YOU HELP?

Our two 'Building Bridges' projects this year are renovating the Taybeh Old People's Centre in the Holy Land and a new project for Cambodia which is yet to be announced.

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 (yet to be announced) .....

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

**Full page ad**



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Holy Christmas  
and a  
Prosperous  
New Year to all  
Our Readers***