



**What can Catholics learn from Covid-19 pandemic – page 6**



**Ignite Festival returns with light, sound and teenagers – page 6**



**Posthumous award for heroic nurse Estrella – page 10**

# Meeting concludes first stage on Synodal Pathway

**The Synodal Pathway is “the most all-encompassing invitation issued to the Church”, Bishop Alan Hopes told a gathering in Norwich of parish representatives and deans on Saturday May 14.**

■ The meeting marked the conclusion of the first stage of the Synodal Pathway process within the Diocese of East Anglia, and was held at St John’s Cathedral in Norwich, led by Bishop Alan and the Diocesan Synodal core team.

During the day, Deacon Huw Williams and Angela Wilson, of the Diocesan Synodal core team, presented a synthesis of the responses which have been received from around the diocese. In all, 1031 responses to a series of questions came in online. This represents approximately 11% of those attending Mass within the Diocese of East Anglia.

In addition, 24 parishes (46% of parishes), submitted “whole parish” summaries following parish meetings. Further reports were received from Caritas East Anglia and other groups such as Justice and Peace Cambridge, and a number of hard-copy individual responses were submitted by post.

Deacon Huw said that he was pleased with the rate of response, which is around what would be expected from this type of survey. He was particularly grateful to people who had helped others who did not have internet access, as not being online had emerged as one factor preventing a greater response.

Angela Wilson said that she had read every response twice before identifying themes. She had prayed for guidance from the Holy Spirit and then summarised the key points. “Many are feeling isolated after the pandemic,” she said, “and many are asking for guidance from the Church.”

One important theme she highlighted was the desire among many Catholics to work more closely with Christians from other denominations. Also, opportunities were needed outside Mass for newcomers and explorers to learn about the Church. She finished with a quotation from St Catherine of Sienna: “All the way to heaven is heaven, because Jesus said, ‘I



Synodal Pathway delegates with Bishop Alan at St John’s Cathedral. Picture by Keith Morris. See more pictures at: [flic.kr/s/aHBqjzPUgK](https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjzPUgK)

am the Way.”

Following the presentation of the synthesis, there were discussions in deanery groups, and then the groups gathered again for a Mass in the Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Alan.

After lunch Bishop Alan spoke to delegates about the process so far and the way forward.

He said: “I want to stress that this is a dynamism of mutual listening carried out at all levels of the Church, involving all the people of God. It is not about gathering opinions – this is not a survey but about listening to the Holy Spirit. We are there to speak and to listen, not to lobby or vote. It was a brave step to take, given the diversity of the Catholic world, with its different cultures, but single faith.

“In the parishes of the diocese, individuals and groups have participated in discussion and in online responses to the most all-encompassing invitation issued to the Church, certainly in our lifetime,

and probably ever before in the history of the Church.

“I know that while a few were hesitant or even sceptical of the process, those who did participate, did so with enthusiasm and hope, truly trusting that Pope Francis really does want a real no-holds-barred snapshot of the twenty-first century Catholic Church.

“The process in our parishes has taken place as we have emerged from a lockdown, which has had its own impact on the life of our church. But from grassroots to the global picture, we pray earnestly that what we have been involved in will truly have contributed to the present and future life of the Body of Christ – always the same, but always needing to reflect on its life and mission.

“On the face of it, people might be tempted to think ‘we’ve done our bit so all we can do now is wait and see what happens.’ I want to suggest that is the last thing we should be contemplating. It is

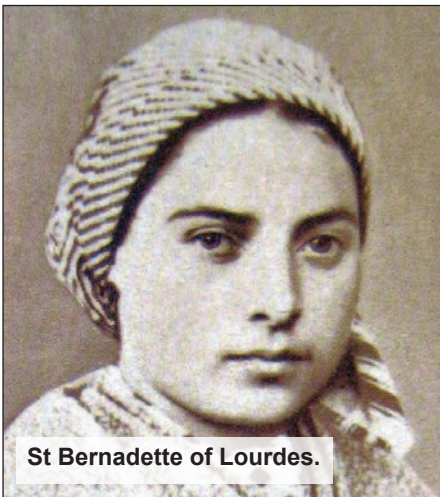
quite clear that in many of our parishes there has been a wonderful opportunity, particularly where there has been discussion and feedback to the parish, for continuing reflection, not only on our individual life of faith, but on the spiritual life and growth of the communities to which we belong.

“We don’t have to wait for documentation from Rome, to be putting into practice some of the outcomes of our deliberations.”

“As always, whenever we feel that things could be better, we have the option of leaving others to get on with the task in hand or be part of the process ourselves.”

“Everybody had hopes and dreams and some have fears and anxieties. Unless and until we learn to talk to and listen to one another, those will remain. Above all the process to date, and for the future, is about respect for one another and trust in God’s loving providence,” concluded Bishop Alan.





St Bernadette of Lourdes.

## St Bernadette relics set for East Anglia

■ The relics of St Bernadette, whose visions of Our Lady are closely associated with the French shrine at Lourdes, will be visiting the Diocese of East Anglia later this year.

St Bernadette was born in Lourdes in 1844, the eldest of nine children, into a humble family which had fallen into poverty. She was frail and received the last rites three times during her childhood.

In 1858, when she was 14, she was out with her sister and a friend gathering firewood when she heard the sound of a rushing wind and received what the Church recognises as her first vision of Our Lady.

In the vision, Bernadette was asked to tell the people to repent of their sins, and to tell the priests to build a chapel and invite the people to come and to pray.

The relics, which include a section of rib and pieces of hair, will be at St John's Cathedral in Norwich from 11:30am on Thursday October 13 until 9am on Saturday October 15 and then at Our Lady and the English Martyrs in Cambridge from 12 noon on Saturday October 15 until 9am on Sunday October 16.

Lourdes is especially connected with healing, and those in need of healing are invited to visit the relics while they are in East Anglia.

**Catholic East Anglia**

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Articles and photographs for the next edition are very welcome and should be sent to the editor, ideally via email, by Monday, June 6.

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## Lynn church to mark 125th anniversary

■ Our Lady of the Annunciation in King's Lynn is soon to mark the 125th anniversary of its foundation and of the restoration of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Bishop Alan Hopes will be celebrating a Mass in King's Lynn at 12 noon on Friday June 10 to mark the historic anniversary.

The year 1897 was when Pope Leo XIII made a prophecy concerning Our Lady's Shrine, initially restored in King's Lynn Mission, which at that time included Walsingham.

As Pope Leo signed the rescript for the Restoration of Our Lady's Shrine he said, "When England goes back to Walsingham, Our Lady will come back to England."

A newsletter from the Shrine in Walsingham comments on the significance of his words: "The presence of Our Lady of Walsingham invites us all to meditate on the missionary role of Our Lady of Walsingham for the re-evangelisation and conversion of England."

"Catholic England is yet to truly awaken to this call. Many thousands during the



Dowry Tour of Our Lady of Walsingham greeted Our Blessed Mother of Walsingham in the various English Catholic cathedrals, and hundreds of thousands have gone on pilgrimage to her hallowed Shrine in Walsingham. What remains is for all Catholics of all parishes in England, Mary's Dowry to acknowledge her and the great calling upon them as Catholics of England, Mary's Dowry.

"For it is only when Catholics awaken and become holy that we can hope for the conversion of the entire Realm."

In February Our Lady of the

Annunciation in King's Lynn celebrated the anniversary of what is known as the 'Rescript'. In 1897, at the request of Fr Philip Fletcher, Master of the Guild of Our Lady of Walsingham and Fr George Wrigglesworth, Rector of King's Lynn, Pope Leo XIII gave permission for the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, which had been destroyed in 1538, to be restored in the Church of the King's Lynn Mission, which at that time included Walsingham. The anniversary was celebrated with a Latin Mass celebrated by Fr Henry Whisenant and tea in the Wrigglesworth room.

To continue the commemorations there will be a ticketed wine and cheese evening on Friday June 3 beginning at 6pm. This will be followed by a flower festival from 12 noon to 6pm from June 4 to 10.

On Sunday June 10 the choir of St Austin's Wakefield on tour of Norfolk will sing plainchant at the 11.30am Mass. On June 12 there will be a garden party from 2.30pm to 4.30pm at London Road with the King's Lynn town band, with tea, stalls and games for all the family.

# Bishop inducts Fr Antony at St Neots

**Fr Antony Arockiam was inducted as parish priest of St Joseph's Catholic Church, St Neots, on Tuesday April 26 by Bishop Alan Hopes.**

■ During the Induction service and Mass, Bishop Alan reminded parishioners and Fr Antony of their responsibility together to promote the mission of Our Lord.

St Neots is a rapidly growing community, with many young and diverse families settling in the new housing areas currently being built on the outskirts of the town. It is our role as Catholics to reach out to them and show them God's love, said the Bishop.

Bishop Alan also called on the parishioners to pledge their full support to Fr Antony in his mission. There is plenty of work for all, both practical and spiritual.

The Bishop and Fr Antony were joined in the celebration of the Mass by Rev Canon David Bagstaff, Vicar General and Parish Priest of St Edmunds, Bury St Edmunds, where Fr Antony recently spent a few months as Assistant Priest.

Fr Paul Peter Alphonse CMF from the



Bishop Alan Hopes inducts Fr Antony Arockiam to St Joseph's in St Neots.

Claretian Community at St Hugh's, Buckden and Fr Arockia Seelan, Parish Priest of The Sacred Heart and St Oswald, Peterborough, also took part in the Mass, which was attended by many faithful parishioners.

After Mass, Bishop Alan warmly greeted each parishioner as they left the church. Many expressed their gratitude

that he had made the long journey from Norwich and offered him their prayers of love and support in his work.

Parish Secretary, Theresa Madden, said: "It was a most uplifting occasion, giving parishioners the opportunity to reflect on how they are all part of God's plan and how they can – and must – contribute."



# Ecumenical celebration of Abbey's 1000 years



Pictured above, are the celebrations at the original site of the Abbey of St Edmund and Bishop Martin Seeley and Bishop Alan Hopes inside St Edmundsbury Cathedral (right).

**Benedictine monks joined Catholic and Anglican parishioners in an historic ecumenical celebration of 1000 years of the Abbey of St Edmund on May 14-15, with Bishop Alan Hopes and Anglican Bishop Martin Seeley taking part. Historian John Saunders reports.**



■ Abbey 1000 is the umbrella name for events being held in Bury St Edmunds to commemorate 1000 years since the founding of the Benedictine Abbey of St Edmund which was dissolved in 1539.

Although the celebrations were planned for 2020, Covid-19 caused delay but led to the planning of a wider programme of events.

The founding monks in 1020 came from Hulme (Norfolk) and Ely and these journeys were retraced by pilgrims who walked from there to St Edmundsbury Cathedral, arriving at the start of a weekend titled 'Abiding Wisdom', a convention which sought to explore the wisdom of St Benedict for 21st century living.

Abiding Wisdom brought together around 100 people including Catholic and Anglican monks and nuns, some of whom had travelled from Belgium. In brilliant sunshine they were able to undertake a heritage tour with nuggets of information being supplied by Bury Tour Guides. They were also able to view the steel sculpture of a giant monk (7'6" tall) designed and made by local people, surrounded by mosaics crafted by school pupils depicting the life of St Edmund.

Delegates were able to experience workshops and to later view an online address

from Rowan Williams.

The Sunday of Abiding Wisdom provided a day that will be etched in history. The Catholic churches in Bury St Edmunds and Lawshall closed their doors and parishioners instead attended St Edmundsbury Cathedral where Mass was celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes. His Anglican counterpart Bishop Martin Seeley preached on the inspiration provided to us by St Benedict. This unique occasion was shared by a congregation in excess of 300 and definitely fulfilled one of the aims of Abbey 1000 in bringing communities together in a climate of friendship.

After a short break, Sung Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop Martin, this time with Bishop Alan preaching, once again highlighting the significance of St Benedict. The Cathedral was well attended by its own parishioners who were joined by Catholics who had remained for both services.

Guests were able to view an exhibition of seven Abbey manuscripts in the Treasury, on loan from Pembroke College, Cambridge. It is the first occasion since the Abbey's dissolution that the manuscripts have returned to their place of origin and they reflect the brilliance of the monks' handwriting and illustration.

They will remain until early June 2022 and are well-worth seeing.

The weekend concluded with Sung Vespers in the Cathedral attended by clergy, civic dignitaries and a congregation in excess of 200 following which they processed through the Abbey Gate to the site of the Abbey's crypt. There an address was given by The Rt Rev Geoffrey Scott, Abbot of Douai Abbey, focusing on the spiritual importance of past monastic times and the importance of St Edmund who was the patron Saint of England until St George was designated in 1348.

Those who attended the weekend's events expressed their praise for the way in which Anglican and Catholic communities had united in bringing parishioners and visitors together.

Summing up this historic occasion, Canon David Bagstaff said: "There was a great feeling of togetherness throughout the weekend and a true sense of connection with those countless Christian pilgrims who have gone before us; but also a sense of responsibility and urgency to continue to hand on the Christian faith in this present time for those who will follow us. What a tremendous weekend – it was worth waiting the extra two years!"

More Abbey 1000 events can be viewed at [www.burystedmunds.co.uk/abbey-1000](http://www.burystedmunds.co.uk/abbey-1000)

## news in brief

### Invitation to join Marriage and Family Life celebration

■ Bishop Alan Hopes is inviting all married people in the Diocese of East Anglia to bring their families and celebrate at the annual Marriage and Family Life Mass on June 18 at 11.30am at St John's Cathedral in Norwich.

Those who are celebrating significant anniversaries (one year, five years and every multiple of five years thereafter) will receive a certificate and a blessing from the Bishop, but all are welcome to attend.

If you would like to register for a certificate please use the online form at: [www.rcdea.org.uk/marriage-mass-registration](http://www.rcdea.org.uk/marriage-mass-registration) Certificates will be posted after the Mass.

There will be tea and cake provided in the Cathedral Narthex after the Mass. A collection will be taken at the Mass for those who wish to help the Marriage and Family Life Commission in their work.

For more information please contact Bonnie Lander Johnson on email: [mflic.eastanglia@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:mflic.eastanglia@rcdea.org.uk).

### Ipswich holds second vigil for Ukraine

■ Sixty days after the start of hostilities, Ipswich held a second vigil for Ukraine with a Ukrainian setting of Kyrie Eleison.

The event was organised by the recently formed Together for Ipswich, which has representatives of almost all the denominations and free churches present in the town.

Fr Paul Spellman, of St Mary Magdalen church, led prayers for aid agencies working in Ukraine. The event was well advertised in his church and in St Mary's; clergy and good numbers from both churches attended along with several parishioners from other Catholic parishes in the town. Stella Maris chaplain Julian Wong brought a flag which was used for the event.

The vigil included an hour of prayers, Scripture reading and Christian music, as people clustered around the steps of the Town Hall. Representatives of Anglican, Methodist and free churches also led prayers, as well as Ukrainians living in Ipswich, and several young people. A choir accompanied the event and taught those present a Ukrainian setting of Kyrie Eleison, which the group sang as a response to bidding prayers.

The vigil took place on Monday April 25. At the close of the vigil, the bells of town centre St Mary le Tower Anglican Church rang for about half an hour.

### A night at the opera

■ Thirty six members of Norfolk Circle of the Catenian Association accompanied by wives, and led by its president Francis Harmer, enjoyed an evening at the Mad-dermarket Theatre on Thursday May 5. They saw The Pirates of Penzance with Circle member Richard McGreevy, as a member of the cast.



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### Our Lady of Fidelity



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The Catenian Association welcomes new members to our international social network of Catholic men committed to friendship, family and Faith.

Our local Circles are active throughout the U.K., Ireland, Australia, Malta, India, Bangladesh, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Our Circles in the U.K. raised over £250,000 in the past year for local charities as well as supporting the Association's two in-house charities; the Benevolent Fund which supports members and their families and the Bursary Fund which sponsors young persons in projects contributing to wider society at home and abroad.

Our Circles meet monthly and arrange activities both for members and their families: meals together, barbecues, picnics alongside visits to theatre and music and sporting events are all popular.

Golf societies throughout the Association join together in a National Golf Championship week every year and the Catenian Caravan and Camping Fellowship have a popular range of special events.

If you join the Catenians you will find it is the basis of many lifetime friendships.

To find your local Circle please contact our provincial membership Officer Paul Thompson on [p\\_s\\_thompson9@hotmail.com](mailto:p_s_thompson9@hotmail.com)

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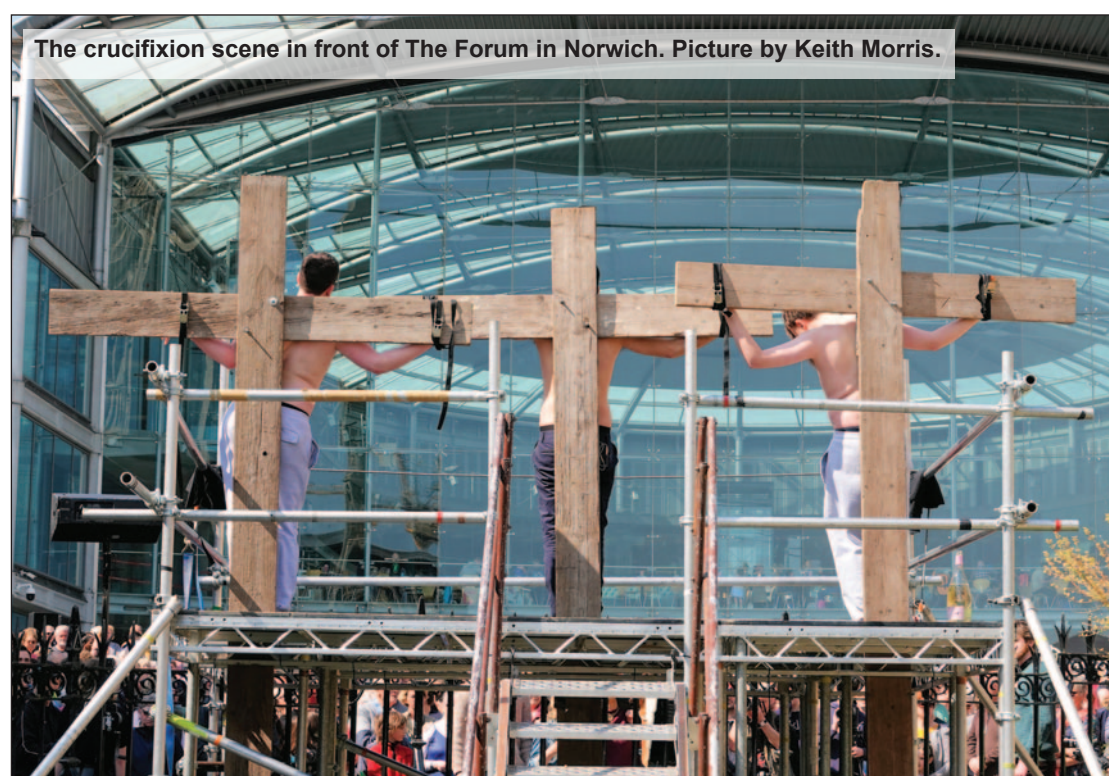
# Passion Play in Norwich

Over 1400 people watched the joyous conclusion of the Norwich Passion Play inside St Peter Mancroft church on Holy Saturday while many more were captivated by the preceding dramatic scenes as they unfolded in the bright sunshine on Hay Hill and Millennium Plain.

■ The large crowds, which packed out Hay Hill, were mesmerised by the rabble-rousing of Emily Feltham as Mary Magdalene atop a plinth. Local drummers and chanting created a carnival atmosphere as the throng eagerly joined the Palm Sunday procession following Norwich-born and Catholic educated actor Freddy Goymer, as Jesus, on a bike up to Millennium Plain.

The modern-day drama, recalling historic events 2,000 years ago in Jerusalem, continued to unfold in front of the Forum, with the Last Supper and the poignant betrayal of Jesus by Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The arrest of Jesus by riot shield-carrying militants and his trial, and sentence to death by crucifixion by Pontius



The crucifixion scene in front of The Forum in Norwich. Picture by Keith Morris.

Pilate, took place in front of jeering crowds, including the Norwich-based community cast led by Rachel Hobson.

Some were shocked and many others left in tears by the portrayal of Jesus carrying his cross and then being tied to it, along with two convicted criminals either side of him.

As a dead Jesus was carried away, the crowds were directed inside St Peter Man-

croft to see the last scene. The group of stunned and dispirited disciples were transformed when Mary Magdalene said she had seen Jesus come back from the dead. Disciples Thomas, Peter and John were amazed when the resurrected Jesus appeared at the back of the church to loud cheers from a packed audience.

Jesus' triumph over death was acclaimed by all and then

celebrated in style by a Norfolk Gospel choir and band, led by Heather Land, who sang Great is He and Oh Happy Day as the audience stood up to clap and sing along, before giving a standing ovation.

The one-off event was staged by Celebrate Norfolk with Saltmine Theatre Company and members of dozens of Norwich churches after being delayed last year by the Covid pandemic.

## How to know the Father's love

In the latest in his Voice of Hope series Fr Alvan Ibeh looks at how we can know the Father's love.



for God's healing upon them? Do I still feel loved by the Father? What happens when I receive a report from my doctor that I have an incurable condition from a medical point of view? Will I still believe in the Father's love for me? What if, after praying so hard for a particular job but not securing it, will I still believe in the Father's love for me, knowing that He always has a better plan for me?

One of the greatest deceptions of our enemy, the devil, is to convince us that God does not love us. He will remind us how great sinners we are and how God is punishing us and will never forgive us. He will even use our loved ones to remind us of how miserable our life is and how we have been abandoned by God and far from His love. Remember the story of Job; His wife said to Him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!" (Job 2:9). This was undoubtedly the devil speaking to Job through his wife, to doubt the Father's love.

I believe we all know that God, our heavenly Father, loves us. He loves us so much that He gave us His only begotten Son so that by just believing in Him, we will be saved (John 3:16).

In case you are in doubt about God's love for you, I want to make known to us some facts about God's love for us as contained in the scriptures: God's love for us is everlasting; "I have loved you with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3). God's love for us is great; "See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God, and such we are" (1 John 3:1,

Psalms 103: 11). He loved us first (1 John 4:19). He is love Himself (1 John 4:8). He reproves us because He loves us (Proverbs 3:12). His love has been poured lavishly into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us (Romans 5:5). He gave His life for us for love (John 15:13). His love for us is incomprehensible, inexhaustible, unfathomable and immeasurable. Above all, my dear friends, nothing can separate us from the Father's love.

I will conclude with this passage from St Paul's letter to the Romans 8:35- 39, and I hope it reassures you once more of how deep God's Love for you is: "Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity or are persecuted, hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?... No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours; through Christ, who loved us? And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's Love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries for tomorrow – not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below – indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

So dear friend, I want you to know and believe strongly that God's love for you is so deep that it may sound too good to be true. If you believe it, then let everyone around you know about it.



# Bishop's welcome to church

**Bishop Alan Hopes spoke of the triumph over death as he baptised and confirmed new church members during the Easter Vigil at St John's Cathedral.**

■ Family and sponsors joined catechumens and candidates from around the diocese as they made their final steps towards becoming full members of the Catholic Church.

After the congregation had gathered outside the Cathedral around the new Easter fire, Bishop Alan lit the Easter candle to celebrate the risen Christ and members of the congregation processed in and passed the flame around the building as they lit each other's candles.

"The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the unique event on which the whole of human history turns," said Bishop Alan in his homily. "Our story can never be the same again."

"God's love has triumphed over human sin and all the powers that lead the human race to self-destruction. God's love has triumphed over death itself."

"We are drawn into the experience of the women and the disciples on that first Easter morning. The unexpectedness of the discovery, the fear and the mental confusion, the haste and the excitement,



Bishop Alan confirming new members of the Church at St John's Cathedral in Norwich. Picture by Eldred Willey.

the questioning and the eventual belief that Jesus Christ is truly risen.

"The risen Christ steps into the darkness of our world, shedding the light of his risen glory... On this sacred night we

will all be sprinkled with the newly blessed baptismal waters. All God's people are thus reminded that we too are part of God's new creation and that we have died to sin in order to live a new life

with Christ.

We have no need to and look at the empty tomb. We know that the Lord is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia."

More pictures at: [flic.kr/s/aHBqjzLcyu](https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjzLcyu)

## Families invited to join World Meeting online

■ Families and couples across the Diocese of East Anglia are being invited to take part in the 10th World Meeting of Families via an online app and website.

"Family Love: A Vocation and a Path to Holiness" is the theme for the 10th World Meeting of Families which takes place this summer during the week of June 22 – 26.

The main event will be held in Rome and will be attended by delegates from Episcopal Conferences all around the world as well as representatives from international movements involved in pastoral care for families. Catholics across the globe are invited to download the World Meeting of Families app and so participate virtually in the events with the Holy Father via live streaming throughout the week.

Dr Antonia Braithwaite, chair of the Diocese of East Anglia Commission for Marriage and Family Life, said: "We are encouraging families and couples to download the app, which can be obtained from the official WMF website, and listen in and watch the talks and workshops and events."

The Meeting will begin with a Family Festival, followed by two and a half days of Theological-Pastoral Congress. These discussions and workshops will



involve married couples, families, pastors, theologians, and family life professionals holding discussions around this year's theme. The Meeting will end with a final Eucharistic celebration and a mandate to families at the end of the Year of Amoris Laetitia Family.

Seven catechetical lessons have been developed to accompany this World Meeting of Families. To explore these further, the Marriage and Family Life Commission in our Diocese will be holding a series of events for families throughout the coming year. These will be held at religious houses, where parents will work through these materials together while their children play.

More Information about the events at the World Meeting, as well as the catechetical materials can be found at: [www.romefamily2022.com/en](http://www.romefamily2022.com/en)

## GAP YEAR: Residential Support Assistant (Learning Disabilities) - Ipswich



**Start dates throughout August and September 2022 for a 12-months gap year experience.**

### A bit about L'Arche:

L'Arche is a network of Communities which supports adults with Learning Disabilities. Our Communities comprise of households in which people with and without Learning Disabilities live alongside one another, sharing the joys and challenges of life, and form unique friendships not often seen in wider society. L'Arche is a committed care provider that seeks to support the physical, medical, social, emotional and spiritual needs of its community members.

L'Arche Ipswich is recruiting for Gap Year adventurers to live in Community, learning care skills and sharing life with people they may not ordinarily encounter. Previous and current assistants have described the experience as life-transforming.

Learn what others had to say here: [www.larche.org.uk/assistants](http://www.larche.org.uk/assistants)

This opportunity is made up of Community Living activities and Personal Care tasks.

**Community Living:** going out for coffee | watching TV | playing games | cooking and baking | walking | eating together | Video calling friends | going shopping | assisting in a L'Arche Workshop | art classes | dance and drama activities | singing songs | household chores | community gatherings and celebrations | holidays | cinema trips | worship services/reflections

**Personal Care:** supporting morning and bedtime routines | administering medication | assisting with personal hygiene | supporting meal times | aiding mobility

You don't need to have prior experience to thrive in this role, we'll train you up. The main thing is that you are willing to throw yourself into Community life (which is a lot of fun!).

### We think it could be a good fit for someone:

- looking for a gap year
- interested in volunteering
- exploring the charity sector
- who is unsure of their next steps, but wants to make a difference
- pursuing a career in psychology, but in need of more practical experience
- who would like space to explore personal growth and/or spirituality
- interested in the health and social care sector
- looking for a unique, hands-on experience

You will be a voluntary worker if you take part in this Gap Year opportunity, however food, accommodation and a subsistence (£309 per month) are provided. There is also the potential for retreats, holidays and reflection days.

**To find out more please go to: [www.larche.org.uk/assistants](http://www.larche.org.uk/assistants)**

To apply for the post of Live-in Assistant, please send your CV to: [ipswichrecruitment@larche.org.uk](mailto:ipswichrecruitment@larche.org.uk)

Interviews will be held in Ipswich throughout June and July 2022





# What can Catholics learn from Covid pandemic?

**While recovering from a second bout of Covid, Poringland priest and UEA chaplain Fr Andrew Eburne had time to reflect on what Catholics might learn from the pandemic.**

■ Recently I was recovering from my second bout of Covid, which laid me up for a couple of weeks. The enforced tiredness was very frustrating, but it at least gave me the opportunity to reflect on the wider situation of the pandemic, and particularly on this question: what, as Catholics, do we learn from Covid?

Three answers came to me. The first answer has to do with our faith, and what lies at the heart of our faith. And it has to do with physical presence.

Christianity is unique in the importance it places on the physical presence of God, and Catholicism among Christian traditions is unique in its fidelity to that presence. Not the spiritual or symbolic presence –

not some vague, airy-fairy, intangible presence – but the actual, physical presence of God. “The Word was made flesh, and lived among us”. God can be touched.

This is the extraordinary, radical teaching of our faith. God has a physical, concrete, touchable presence: both in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ Himself, and in Christ’s gift to us of the Eucharist, the Real Presence which can be touched, tasted and consumed, which is physically present

on our altars and in our tabernacles. That gift, that real, physical presence of God is at the very heart of our faith. Covid has shown us once again how essential it is.

God came so that we could encounter Him in the flesh. He did not come so that we could encounter Him through our screens, or at a safe distance; but in the flesh, up close and personal, in the Real Presence of the Eucharist. This is, for us, the transformative encounter, and this is the encounter we must never, ever neglect. That seems to me the first lesson of Covid.

The second lesson has to do with the wider world. One of the significant developments of modern life in the affluent Western world has been to push God to the margins. To say we can do without Him; to live as though we do not need Him. We lead our own lives. We are strong, on our own: we are self-sufficient.

Actually we are not; actually we are very fragile. This was shockingly apparent in the pandemic. How quickly the structures of our modern life seemed to dissolve! How quickly our confidence turned to

panic. Rarely it seems have we seen individuals and communities so convulsed by fear – sometimes quite over-mastered by fear and by anxiety, which persists even to this day. The pandemic has brutally exposed the superficiality of our self-sufficiency and our control over our own lives. By the same token, it has revealed the depth of our need for God.

As Christians we do not believe that we are in charge or in control, nor that we were made to be so. We were not designed to be ‘in sole command’ of our own lives. It is too heavy a weight for us; and like any other impossible weight, the burden of carrying it will distort the way we stand and walk, and the way we live. This is not how we are meant to be. It is God’s strength that we are to rest in, not our own. It is God’s will and God’s plans that we seek to follow, not our own. And, as St John Henry Newman said: “He knows what He is about.”

This brings me to the third of my answers, which is the importance of trust in God and in His Providence. ‘I know the plans I have for you,’ God says to the



Prophet Jeremiah, ‘plans for your good and not for evil, plans to give you a future and a hope.’ God knows what He is about. How do we understand the catastrophe of Covid – how do we learn not to be afraid?

We do so through our relationship with God; through trust in His Providence and His plans for us. We do so through trust in His promise to us, ‘I am always with you’ – a promise fulfilled above all in the Real Presence of the Eucharist, which is waiting for us in every tabernacle in every church. When we re-learn that trust in God – when we re-learn the importance of the Real Presence, and the importance of our drawing strength from the Eucharist – then our fears and our anxieties slip away. “Be strong and of good courage; for the Lord your God is with you!” (Jos 1:9)

So as you and I ‘learn to live with Covid’, perhaps we can also learn these lessons from our faith: the fragility of any life that is lived without God; the importance of our trust in God’s Providence and His plans for us; and the unique gift of the Real Presence, never to be neglected.

# Ignite Festi

**The Ignite Youth Festival returned to the Sacred Heart Primary School in Swaffham this year with an extravaganza of light, sound and teenage enthusiasm. Eldred Willey reports.**

■ As the on-screen countdown came to an end, Matt Dean and his band took to the stage to kick off the festival with the explosive opening song ‘For in Christ’ complete with pyrotechnics.

Ciaran Losasso (Ignite Team Leader) Sarah Mawe and Alice McCall then introduced the festival and after a few games it was time to welcome professional Christian comedian Tony Vino. Tony involved the crowd with his set including a hilarious re-enactment of The Lion King.

After dinner there was a chance to unwind outside on the basketball court and the climbing frames, or socialise back at the tents before the evening continued in a more reflective mood with gentle worship.

Fr Luke Goymour spoke about restoration of relationships through Christ, telling a parable about a judge who, after imposing a fine, paid it himself for a man in the dock whom he recognised as an old friend.

Fr Luke then brought in the Blessed Sacrament, and Ciaran Losasso led an examination of conscience, walking the young people through the implications of the command to love God and love neighbour, and encouraging the young people to be honest.

“When you get the primary relationship right, everything else pales into insignificance,” he said.

Six priests were available for confession, and when Ciaran gave the signal there was such a response that he had to slow the teenagers down, encouraging some to stay in Adoration while others queued to speak to a priest. The evening continued with chilling out around the fire pit before sleep time (well at least some people slept).

Sunday morning started with praise and worship, before Jess McCall gave a talk about what it means to ‘Stand Up’ with reference to the festival theme ‘Stand Up, I appoint you as a witness’ (Acts 26:16).

Mass followed, celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes, who wanted to stay longer but had to rush off to be in Cardiff later that day. The afternoon was given over to workshops including Model Aeroplane Building and Flying with Fr Luke, to Discerning Your Vocation with Fr Gladson (and everything in between).

Then it was time for the traditional barbecue with an open mic invitation for anyone to entertain the crowd.

In the evening Fr Gladson talked on ‘I appoint you as witnesses’ before blessing people personally with the Blessed Sacrament and directing the ministry team to pray with them. Many people were visibly moved.

The Sunday evening ended with a Disco Finale run by Hamish MacQueen (Director of Youth Service) taking time out from overseeing the festival to be his alter ego ‘DJ Hammy’.

Overall there were 170 people at the festi-



val, many of whom then took part in a four-mile pilgrimage walk to Walsingham on the Monday morning to conclude the weekend, which one young person described as ‘one of the best weekends of my life’.

Hamish said: “It was so encouraging to have such a good number. Amidst all the fun, to see young people come closer to Jesus, and know more of His immeasurable love was amazing. It’s what it’s all about.”

Special thanks to the behind-the-scenes team who help run the festival with catering, logistics, security and technical support especially Daniel Anderson, Megan Copeland, Joe Perna, Sr Jude, George Cameron-Laker and Rebecca and Steve Bretherton.



# val returns



Pictured above is Adoration on the Saturday evening of the festival and left and below, other activities provided. You can see a Flickr gallery of the festival at: [flic.kr/s/aHBqjzNaBw](https://www.flickr.com/photos/aHBqjzNaBw/)



## SVP Walsingham return

■ The SVP National Pilgrimage is returning to Walsingham, after a three-year gap during the Covid pandemic, in early July.

This year's pilgrimage will be on July 3 starting at 1.30pm with Mass led by Bishop Alan Hopes. After a short break there will be the Sacrament of the Sick at 3.15pm, led by Bishop Alan. The Pilgrimage will conclude with Benediction at 4pm.

This event is organised by the SVP Central Council of East Anglia, which reminds attendees that most of the congregation will be outside so to come prepared for all weathers, bring plenty of water and your own refreshments.

The usual Holy Mile walk up to the village of Walsingham is not scheduled in because of the health and mobility problems of many of the congregation.

Joan Wall, President East Anglia Central Council SVP, said: "With so many SVP members working in various ways to support those caught up in the conflict in Ukraine we have been asked to coordinate a societal prayer for Ukraine. For the nine days leading up to Pilgrimage we hope to recreate the same groundswell of prayers that we had when praying for our brothers

and sisters in Kerala with a novena for peace and protection of the afflicted.

"This weekend will be the last time the current board of trustees will be meeting in its current form, with a new National President and a new board soon to be elected, they will be finishing their tenure with a weekend long retreat in Walsingham which will close on the final day to coincide with our own pilgrimage.

"We are also delighted to know that a small relic of St Vincent de Paul and St Louise de Marillac will also be installed at the Shrine. Along with the company of many good and Holy Saints already present it will be possible for all future pilgrims to the Shrine in Walsingham to be in the presence of St Vincent de Paul and St Louise de Marillac.

"The EACC are looking forward to welcoming you all back to Norfolk for the very special day," said Joan.

If you can help as a steward on the day to carry an umbrella at Communion time, at the Blessing of the sick and for the collection, please let Jackie Roberts know if you can help at: [jm.roberts@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:jm.roberts@mypostoffice.co.uk)



## Prime Minister sponsors roof slate

**The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, has signed one of the slates which will form part of the roof repair at St Mary's in Yarmouth.**

■ Brian Lafferty, Chair of the Finance Committee at St Mary's, had set the ball rolling when Brandon Lewis CBE, MP for Yarmouth, came to visit the church recently. The MP showed great interest in the work and Brian asked him to sponsor a slate.

"I asked if he fancied getting Boris to sign one too," said Brian. "He said he would pay for it now and get the £10 off Boris later. I had

no reason to doubt him.

"Thanks to everyone who made this happen. Again, we have another little piece of history to attach to our wonderful church."

The PM's signature, written in permanent marker, will be displayed on the inside of the roof, along with hundreds of others. The slates will be going on in the next few weeks and the scaffolding coming down.

Some 300 slates have now been sponsored at £10 each to support the £1.6 million roof repair project. Another £1m worth of work still needs to be done.

You can sponsor a slate or find out more on visit [www.stmarysgy.org.uk](http://www.stmarysgy.org.uk). "We still have 200 slates left to sell," said Brian, "Once they are gone, they are gone!"





Pictured are some of the participants in the sponsored walk at St Francis of Assisi school.

## Bishop praises young radio team

■ During a visit to Our Lady and the English Martyrs in Cambridge, Bishop Alan Hopes praised the way in which young people were sharing their faith on national radio.

After celebrating Mass in Cambridge on Sunday May 8, Bishop Alan congratulated a group of young people, Alfie Peck, Aoife Peck, Danny Ward, Dan Mansfield, Ashish Lobo and Maryam Giraud, from the Parish of St John Fisher in Cambourne. They were the winners of the National Young People's Award as being the most innovative radio team.

The award was in recognition of their radio show RMEY Faith Vibe which airs every Friday at 5pm on Radio Maria England. Bishop Alan was delighted that a Christian radio show was selected as a winner in a mainstream secular competition.

He spoke at length about how pleased he is to have young people sharing the word of God and having the courage to talk about their faith openly on national radio in a way that other young people can relate to.

He said he was impressed by the passion and enthusiasm shown and the many ways the young people bear witness by using video and multimedia channels. He added that he hopes that at least one of the group will use their God-given talents in their chosen future career.

Bishop Alan encouraged the young people to keep their faith at the core of everything they do as they move into adulthood. He said he was hopeful that the success and hard work of this group will encourage other young people within the Diocese to get involved in this or similar projects.

Bishop Alan then announced that he was awarding Alfie Peck, Aoife Peck, Danny Ward, Dan Mansfield, Ashish Lobo and Maryam Giraud with the Diocesan Medal. The medal will be presented by their Parish Priest Canon John Minh in the coming weeks.

**Pictured below is Bishop Alan Hopes with some of the RMEY Faith Vibe winners.**



# Students join CAFOD walk against hunger

**Over 450 students and members of staff from St Francis of Assisi Primary School in Norwich joined a sponsored walk for CAFOD.**

■ The walkers clocked up a combined total of 1,000km around the school field and Eaton Park, raising nearly £3,000. The event formed part of CAFOD's Walk against Hunger campaign which took place during Lent, raising money to tackle global hunger.

Clarice, one of the students who took part in the walk, said that "when they said how much money we raised I felt proud". Blake, another student, remarked that "we've helped other people not be hungry".

Jane Crone, CAFOD's Community Participation Coordinator for East Anglia said: "St Francis of Assisi School have responded to CAFOD's Lent appeal with great generosity and

enthusiasm. Well done and thank you to everyone involved."

Looking ahead, CAFOD is inviting the Catholic community to get involved in a campaign called Fix the Food System. Although there is enough food in the world for everyone, one in ten people are hungry.

Modern industrial agriculture means that small-scale farmers have increasingly limited choices about which crops they can grow and how they grow them.

At the same time, food industries are responsible for one third of harmful greenhouse gas emissions, largely due to the production of pesticides which also damage soil, water supplies and biodiversity.

Forests and rainforests are destroyed to make land available for rearing cattle for meat and dairy or to grow soya for animal feed.

Communities around the world, including some which CAFOD works with, are demonstrating that alter-

native food systems can be good for people and good for the planet. One partner, Alpona Mondal from Bangladesh, says learning how to farm organically has changed her community:

"We had not realised just how big a mistake we had made by moving away from the traditional ways of farming of our forefathers. We had become disconnected from nature, but now we are going back to it again. Our village has become a lot greener and healthier after so many of us shifted to organic farming, and the soil has greatly improved. This has had a big impact on the nutrition and health of the families living in this village."

You can check the CAFOD website for information about how parishes can get involved and find out more about activities for schools at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)

Or you can get in touch with Jane Crone on [jcrone@cafod.org.uk](mailto:jcrone@cafod.org.uk) if you have any questions.

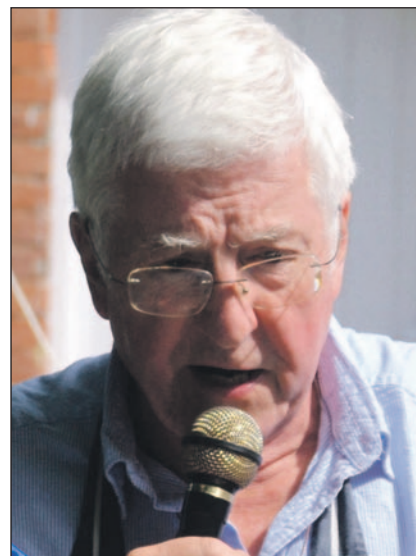
## Franciscans say farewell to Br Robert

■ The Norwich Pax et Bonum Franciscan Fraternity held a farewell celebration recently for Brother Robert Hardie.

Robert is emigrating to New Zealand with his wife Clare and spaniel Holly. He originally served the Franciscan community in the south-west Region. Since his profession 30 years ago he has held positions not only at local level in Norwich, but also at regional and national levels.

Robert has been involved in many charitable works, including setting up a feeding programme for Norwich street dwellers on Wednesday evenings. They have come to look forward to the home-made goodies and social interaction. Br Rob's lively and knowledgeable personality will be greatly missed by all.

The Mass and celebration meal took



place on April 25. "It proved a great suc-

cess, with many of the street people attending as well as secular Franciscans from across the East Anglia region," writes Anne Murrin, a member of the Secular Franciscans based in Norwich. "Fr Sean celebrated Mass for the intentions of Rob and Clare, and he blessed our new banner which had been recently created by Debbie Bool." "It really was one of the loveliest Masses I can remember," wrote Robert afterwards.

The Franciscans, who are based at St George's Catholic parish, give out food and vouchers to people living on the streets. Frances Taylor, a member of group, said: "We try and work in the footsteps of St Francis and what he did – to help those in poverty and the homeless. You build a rapport with people which really helps them."



Children from St Pancras Primary School.



# School governor is a rewarding role

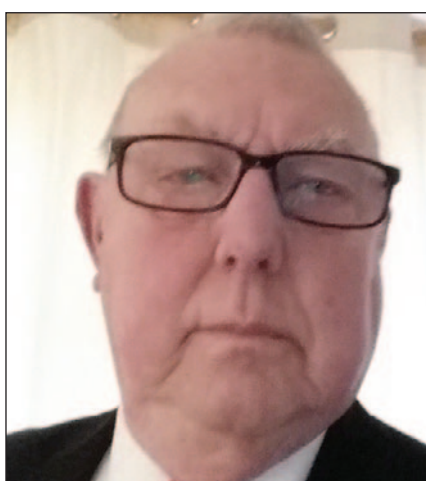
**A successful Catholic school needs a set of dedicated governors, and it can be a very rewarding role as Michael Bradshaw – Co-Chair of Governors, St Felix Primary School, Haverhill – explains.**

■ I have been a Governor of St Felix Catholic Primary School since November 1, 2015,” writes Michael, “during which time I have been Governor, Chair and Co-Chair. I have been part of the successful transition into Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust.

When he was first asked to be a Governor by the then Parish Priest, he was concerned that he would not possess the necessary skills for such an important role. However, he soon realised that with the training opportunities through Schools Choice and the support of fellow governors and the head of school he would be able to understand the various aspects of the school’s learning and teaching processes.

“With over 250 children in the school, and each one an individual, it continues to be a very rewarding experience,” he said. “It feels significant to be part of the children’s growth within the school as they move through the various educational levels.”

When asked to list the reasons why



he became a governor, Michael said he cared about the education and wellbeing of the children at St Felix school; he wanted to ensure that all the children had the best opportunity to learn, grow and reach their full potential; he wanted to be part of the process that has helped to improve the education and wellbeing of pupils and to support the school staff in their endeavours to achieve that improvement.

“I enjoy new challenges,” he added, “and this has provided me with the opportunity to develop new skills and rekindle old ones. I’ve been able to work with the other members of the local governing board to monitor, question and examine effectively.”

He says that his role is to be a “critical friend” to the school executive, helping to ensure that all pupils achieve their full potential both in learning and becoming rounded individuals, to prepare them for their

journey to the next school and life after school. Part of that process is to ensure that the agreed school development plan and the school’s financial management of funds are monitored regularly, in keeping with the school’s and Trust’s Mission Statement.

At local board meetings, governors are presented with various documents on the school’s pupil and financial performance. They need to be satisfied that these are true representations. They do this by examining data against national statistics for comparison, questioning the school executive and attending school in person or as a group to monitor various aspects of the curriculum, which may have been highlighted in the school’s improvement plan.

There are numerous Government documents available on gov.uk, particularly The Governance Handbook, which cover ethos, accountability and financial performance and ensure that the school meets its obligations under Ofsted.

“I can honestly say,” concludes Michael, “that anyone involved in the local governing board of a school will find it to be one of the most rewarding experiences they could have.”

If you are interested in becoming a school governor or would like to find out more about the fantastic impact that you could make within our Trust schools, please go to: [www.our-lady-of-walsingham.co.uk/governorrecruitment](https://www.our-lady-of-walsingham.co.uk/governorrecruitment)

## Bishops invite you to return to Mass

■ The Bishops of England and Wales have issued an invitation to Catholics to return to Mass at Pentecost in a Pastoral Letter read out at Masses on May 21 and 22, which Bishop Alan Hopes introduces here.

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

At our recent meeting, the Bishops of England and Wales prepared a statement marking the end of the provisions regarding the Sunday Mass Obligation which were made two years ago at the beginning of the Covid pandemic. Now that the reasons for those provisions have lessened significantly, they will end as from June 5 as we celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost.

Our message is an encouraging one – it is a message of invitation asking us to renew our fundamental Christian duty of attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.

■ A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Eucharist gives the Church her identity – “The Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist.” It enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith, and to be a visible sign of faith in the world. This hallmark is supported and strengthened by the precept that our fundamental Christian duty is to worship God by participating in the celebration of Mass. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the greatest of all privileges, sometimes referred to as “the Sunday Obligation.”

Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply.

We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation.

Our Catholic people and parishes have benefitted during these difficult times from the online streaming of Mass and other services. “Virtual viewing” of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation. It may, however, be a source of continual spiritual comfort to those who cannot attend Mass in person, for example those who are elderly and sick, for whom the obligation does not apply. In this context, we recognise gratefully the ministry of those who administer Holy Communion to the elderly, sick and housebound.

We are grateful to our clergy, religious and lay faithful who have served our parishes, schools and communities with dedication and distinction throughout this pandemic. Now we look forward with renewed faith and confidence.

In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Lord’s Supper, the Lord Jesus entrusted to us the precious gift of Himself. With humility, we glory in being a Eucharistic people for whom attendance at Mass is essential. Looking forward to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to attending Mass in person.

As the Church needs the witness of the presence of each person, so too each believer needs to journey in faith and worship with their fellow disciples. Nourished by our encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, fed with His Word and His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, and supported by the presence of each other, we receive strength week by week, to serve the Lord and glorify Him with our lives.



## What's your gift to the world?

### ■ Catholic Legacy Week 5-11 June

■ Imagine being at the first Pentecost. Think of the sound of the violent wind, the dramatic sight of the tongues of fire above each person...

On that day, the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to the Church. It's a gift that has inspired faith through generations. And it's a gift that shapes our own life and actions, too.

#### What does the gift of faith mean to you?

Catholic Legacy Week starts on Pentecost Sunday (5 June), and during the week, Catholics like you are being asked to consider an important question: If the gift of faith matters, could you pass it on to future generations by remembering Catholic causes in your Will?

When you leave a gift in your Will, your values live on. You pass your faith on into the future. And you keep making a difference, for generations to come.

Thirty Catholic organisations have come together for Catholic Legacy Week, so you can give to the causes close to your heart.

Of course, your loved ones come first when you make or amend your Will, but any gift to a Catholic organisation can have a significant impact. It's also very simple to include your chosen charity as a beneficiary in your Will.

We've received the gift of faith – and it changes everything.

A gift in your Will can pass on the gift of faith for future generations.

If you would like to find out more visit [yourcatholiclegacy.org.uk](http://yourcatholiclegacy.org.uk) or call Lily on 020 7095 5370

# Award for Estrella

## Norwich Emergency Department Staff Nurse Estrella Catalan has been given a posthumous CNO Gold Award by the Chief Nursing Officer for England Ruth May.

■ Catholic nurse Estrella worked at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital and her family are parishioners at St John's Cathedral in Norwich. Estrella sadly died of Covid-19 in February 2021 after receiving treatment in the hospital's Critical Care Complex.

Ruth May, Chief Nursing Officer for England said: "It is an honour to dedicate this award to Estrella. Estrella's belief in her profession, dedication to the NHS and her pioneering approach shone through in everything she did and it is absolutely right that she is recognised with this CNO Gold Award.

"During Estrella's career she was able to demonstrate her passion and skill to support education within the clinical environment. Estrella's dedication to mentoring, supervision and education was at the forefront of her role. She inspired all learners with her passion for nursing, her drive to be part of a solution, her whole hearted commitment and desire to inspire.

"Estrella represented the best qualities of the nursing profession and while we have lost a wonderful and dedicated colleague, her family have lost so much more."

Prof Nancy Fontaine, Chief Nurse at NNUH, said:

"Estrella was a wonderful person and a caring and conscientious nurse, who loved to teach and mentor students; she is missed by all her colleagues who remember her so fondly."

Estrella worked for the hospital for more than 18 years, joining in September 2002, working as a staff nurse on Gunthorpe and Heydon wards, and was a hugely respected, loved and dedicated member of the Emergency Department team and the Acute Stroke Team.

Following completion of her degree in nursing in the Philippines, Estrella and her young family came to the UK where she gained her Nursing and Midwifery Council registration in 2002.

Nancy added: "Estrella was part of the ground-breaking team of nurses who joined the NNUH from their homeland of



The award presentation at the NNUH for Estrella Catalan, right.



the Philippines.

"This transformational decision demonstrates Estrella's desire to embrace change and grab opportunity

despite potential hurdles. Estrella was part of the leadership that integrated a cohort of overseas nurses smoothly and seamlessly in to both the hospital acute ward and the Norfolk community."

## Bishop to celebrate Mass for Missio

As Missio prepares for the beatification of one of its founders, Bishop Alan will be celebrating a Mass for the charity's volunteers and supporters in East Anglia.

■ The Mass will take place on Saturday June 25 at 11.30am at Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich. All are welcome to join this celebration of the legacy of Pauline Jaricot and the work of Missio in the diocese. Please email: [redbox@missio.org.uk](mailto:redbox@missio.org.uk) or see your Missio Parish Local Secretary to register your attendance.

Missio helps missionaries to work alongside communities globally that are poor or in need. Sometimes the need might be very specific: a motorbike for a priest to celebrate Mass in remote villages or a simple community hall so people can gather.

The Venerable Pauline Jaricot was due to be beatified on May 22 in Lyon, France. Born in 1799, Pauline was a remarkable young lay woman with formidable faith. Through her resolution and strong beliefs, she founded Missio's Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF) aged just 23 years.

The England and Wales branch of the APF was formed in 1825 and Pauline's legacy continues today through the Red Box



Pauline Jaricot.

scheme, which is a partnership between Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries.

Pauline had a passion for helping to support missionaries around the world. She believed that if we all give a little and pray a little, we can share God's love throughout the world. You can find more details of Pauline's life, and download resources to celebrate the occasion with your parish, school or community at [www.missio.org.uk/pauline](http://www.missio.org.uk/pauline)

Because Pauline Jaricot is such an important figure in the global Missio family, celebrations, Masses and events will be happening around the world to mark her beatification, which coincides with the 200th anniversary of the APF.



*Faith for the future*

During Catholic Legacy Week, could you consider a gift in your Will to Catholic causes – to pass on your faith?

It could be the most significant gift of your life.

[yourcatholiclegacy.org.uk/week](http://yourcatholiclegacy.org.uk/week)





# Cherishing the buildings where we encounter the Lord of Life

The Diocese of East Anglia is finding growing opportunities to take advantage of its rich architectural heritage. Cedric Burton, Secretary of the Historic Churches Committee, explains the significance of its work.

■ Our churches exist to provide a place for people to gather to celebrate the Liturgy - the source and summit of Christian life. These buildings are not only the places where the community gathers for worship but where, in its gathering and its worship, the community encounters the risen Lord of Life.

Thus, our churches deserve our appreciation, care and enhancement in their sacredness and beauty and for us to see in them a revelation of God's love, an expression of faith and worship and a resource for the vitality and continuation of the Church's mission.

Our Diocese covers around 5,000 square miles including 51 parishes and 83 places of worship, of which 25 are listed Grade II or above and a further 28 are assessed to contribute to conservation areas or are eligible for local listing. It is a considerable challenge for parishes to maintain their church buildings and to develop and enhance them in harmony with both contemporary liturgy and the historic or artistic merits of the church.

Parishes need a source of advice and guidance on what can be done, what should be done and what may be done. The Diocesan Historic Churches Committee provides this support to those parishes with listed churches or churches with particular merit or which are located within conservation areas.

The Committee includes both experienced clergy and expert members providing architectural, historical, artistic, conservation and planning expertise. Its formal role is to grant the ecclesiastical equivalent of listed building consent.

Generally, changes to a listed building require consent from the local authority. However, the principal Christian



denominations are legally permitted to make changes to their listed churches without local authority approval.

This privilege is known as "the ecclesiastical exemption from listed building control". The Committee is established under the authority of the Bishop in accordance with direction from the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales and is independent of the local church or parish community.

The purpose of the ecclesiastical exemption is to enable the living sacramental purpose of the church building to be given full weight when applications for alterations, additions or other works to a listed church building are being considered.

Approvals for works are given in the form

significance.

Eloise will also support parishes in developing effective maintenance programmes and organising major repair projects alongside helping them through the relevant faculty, planning, and grant applications.

Eloise has an undergraduate degree in Archaeology and Anthropology from University College London and a Masters degree in Historic Building Conservation from the University of York.

She comes from a local authority background, having worked first at Cambridge City Council as a Planning Officer before moving to East Suffolk Council as a Conservation Officer and most recently South Norfolk and Broadland as a Heritage Officer.

She has a lot of experience working with listed buildings and advising their owners on maintenance and sensitive changes.

Eloise can be contacted at [historicchurches@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:historicchurches@rcdea.org.uk)

## Eloise Limmer was appointed as Historic Churches Support Officer in June 2021, a post supported by Historic England.

■ It is a three-year, part-time post, jointly funded by Historic England, focused on the listed churches within the diocese. Eloise will be working closely with Parish Priests and the Parish Finance Committees (PFCs) responsible for listed churches to help them to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of their historic church buildings.

This will build on the work completed as part of the 'Taking Stock' review which created a catalogue of the churches within the diocese describing their architectural details and highlighting features of

of Faculties under the authority of the Bishop and these may be conditional. The Government requires the church to have documented procedures for making changes to its listed churches. The controls must be open and transparent, with similar levels of consultation with local communities and statutory bodies as in the secular control system. Changes affecting the exterior of a listed church may still require planning consent from the local authority.

The process of application and consultation is managed through the Catholic Historic Churches website which includes guidance notes for parishes on: making an application; the supporting evidence required; the implications of decisions and the process for appeal should that be deemed appropriate.

However, the Committee should not be seen simply as the administrator of a bureaucratic process. It has considerable experience and expertise amongst its members and a wide range of potential helpful contacts.

The Committee works closely with the Diocesan Architects Caroe Architecture Ltd and early discussion with the Committee through the secretary can help parishes both avoid the pitfalls of the process and provide access to professional expertise to help develop successful and sustainable parish schemes.

The capabilities of the Committee to assist parishes has been increased by the recruitment of an Historic Churches Support Officer – Eloise Limmer (see panel left).

For more information, contact Cedric Burton, Secretary of the Historic Churches Committee on [sechcc@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:sechcc@rcdea.org.uk) [www.catholic-historic-churches.org.uk](http://www.catholic-historic-churches.org.uk) [taking-stock.org.uk/diocese/east-anglia](http://taking-stock.org.uk/diocese/east-anglia)

## First Historic Churches Conference set for diocese

The first annual Historic Churches Conference for the Diocese of East Anglia will take place on Friday June 24 at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich between 10.30am-4.30pm.

■ This event is being organised by Eloise Limmer, Historic Churches Support Officer for the Diocese, and its focus will be on supporting those that care for the 23 listed churches in the Diocese, although the talks will be of interest to others too. There is no charge to attend.

The key guest speaker will be Sophie Andreae, Vice Chair of the Patrimony Committee at the Bishops Conference of England and Wales talking about the role of the Patrimony Committee and the funding landscape for historic places of worship.

Members of the Historic Churches Committee will be in attendance to describe the role of the Committee and explain the Faculty process. St John's Cathedral architect, Suzi Pendlebury, will highlight the importance of maintenance when caring for historic buildings with the opportunity for a tour of the works that have been done at the Cathedral. Sandra Portas, Diocesan Stewardship and Fundraising Officer, will present advice on applying for external funding.

Eloise Limmer said: "We hope the conference will become an annual event where people from all the parishes with listed churches come together to develop their knowledge about how best to care for these special buildings. It will be a great opportunity to come together and share experiences as well as having a chance to discuss ideas with members of the Historic Churches Committee and other experts."

"Caring for these buildings can be a daunting prospect so this is a chance for parishes to get support and information and provide feedback on how the Diocese can better support them. There will be a particular focus on external funding opportunities which should be of interest to a lot of parishes!"

All are welcome but it is expected that all parishes with listed churches send at least one representative. A booking form and agenda are available at [www.rcdea.org.uk](http://www.rcdea.org.uk)

To book or for more details, email Eloise at [historicchurches@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:historicchurches@rcdea.org.uk)



Sophie Andreae.



# News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese

■ A group of pilgrims paused for rest and refreshment at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Ramsey enroute from Kettering to Walsingham.

Ramsey lies in Cambridgeshire, between Huntingdon and Peterborough, and the ten walkers (much reduced from pre-Covid numbers of around 25) reached the town on April 11. Due to some delays on their journey, the group eventually arrived at around 3.30pm for a long-awaited break and chance to eat lunch and enjoy hot drinks provided by parishioners Cath Logan and Clare Storey. Refreshed, the group journeyed on to Benwick for the night.

The walkers were part of the Pilgrim Cross, formerly known as the Student Cross Pilgrimage. It now includes groups of all ages (even babies) who set out from different locations around the UK to walk to Walsingham during Holy Week.

The pilgrimage started in 1948 with 30 Catholic priests and laymen walking from London to Walsingham. Over time, the pilgrimage has evolved and people from different church communities come together to walk for between one and seven days, arriving at the grounds of the former Augustinian Abbey in the heart of Walsingham in time to celebrate Easter.

"It was a joy to welcome the pilgrims to Ramsey," writes Clare Storey, "and to Sacred Heart again, even if only for a short time. We look forward to welcoming them again in 2023."

To find out more about Pilgrim Cross please visit: [pilgrimcross.org.uk](http://pilgrimcross.org.uk)  
Picture by Clare Storey



■ For the first time in nearly 500 years, a group of Christian pilgrims gathered to walk from villages to the Shrine of Our Lady of Grace at St Mary Elms, Ipswich.

The pilgrimage took place on April 9. As in mediaeval times the walkers called at churches of St Mary as they processed towards the town towards the replica statue of Our Lady of Grace. The original statue is believed to be in Nettuno in Italy.

At St Mary's church in Capel St Mary, Rev Sally Letman led prayers before joining pilgrims on the 9-mile route. Eighteen members took part, representing the four Christian communities in the village: Church of England, Catholic, Methodist and Community Church. They were also joined by a member of St Mary Elms church.

The pilgrims received a warm welcome at the St Mary churches in Bentley, Belstead and St Mary's Stoke before arriving at St Mary at the Elms in Ipswich where they were greeted enthusiastically by Rev John Thackray. After a brief service and candle lighting at the Shrine weary pilgrims were treated to tea and cake at the vicarage, supplied very kindly by Rev John.

Suffolk has had a great devotion to Our Lady since the early mediaeval period and around half of the 500 churches in the county are still dedicated to St Mary. The Shrine to Our Lady of Grace received more visitors than Walsingham in those times, with famous visitors including Henry VIII, Catherine of Aragon and Cardinal Wolsey.

The idea to revive this pilgrimage route came from Kathy Pollard, a member of the Catholic Community in Capel St Mary. Kathy comments: "The idea was very much welcomed by the other church communities in the village and we are very grateful to Brian Rogerson from the Anglican church who organised the route and to the Rev Sally Letman who co-ordinated church visits and walked the route with Brian in advance." She added: "It was a very successful day and an opportunity to witness our Christian faith and to pray together."

Pictured above are pilgrims outside St Mary at the Elms, Ipswich.

■ St Pancras in Ipswich has revived the time-honoured tradition of the May procession and crowning of Our Lady.

The event took place on Sunday May 8. "We could not have wished for a better afternoon," writes Mim MacMahon: "alight with blue sky and brimming with tree blossom. The somewhat unglamorous setting of the patch of grass beside the church hall was made brilliant by her statue, standing on an old porta-Madonna inside a garland of pink and white flowers. A young girl, Emelia Wasag, our 'May Queen', stepped forward to crown her with the tiny garland that had been prepared."

The procession made its way through the car park, whose asphalt was decorated by the scattering of flower petals. Some bystanders looked on, a bit bemused by what was taking place. Inside the church, parishioners carried the statue of Mary lovingly to its place beside the altar and those gathered sang her praises, with the Litany and Benediction to follow.

There was tea afterwards, and sausage rolls, buns and fellowship. "People went home happy," writes Mim. "And Our Lady did what she always does: beautified our homely world with her immaculate, God-bearing presence."

