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Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes celebrates a farewell Mass at St John's Cathedral in Norwich. Picture by Keith Morris.



Bishop Alan bids farewell at Mass

Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes returned thanks to God for the many graces and blessings received over the last nine and a half years as Bishop of East Anglia, as he celebrated a farewell Mass at St John's Cathedral. Eldred Willey reports.

■ Bishop Peter Collins, 68 priests and deacons and some 250 members of the congregation came to mark the occasion on January 24, and to wish Bishop Alan well in his retirement.

The celebration, which took place on the Feast of St Francis de Sales, was also the twentieth anniversary of the episcopal ordination of Bishop Alan. In his homily, the Bishop Emeritus made many references to St Francis, the seventeenth-century Bishop of Geneva, and the author of two famous books, *On the Love of God* and *The Devout Life*.

“Once you begin to read these books,”

said Bishop Alan, “you discover just how accessible and relevant his writings are... they are living wisdom – not theory concocted behind a desk, far from the concerns of ordinary people.”

The bishop then reflected on the words of the first reading, ‘God, here I am. I come to do your will.’ “When we respond with a generous yes,” he commented, “we become part of God’s wonderful plan for the salvation of the whole world.”

He then traced the responses to God of the great figures of biblical history – Abraham, Moses, Samuel, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Elijah – who, each in their own way, foreshadowed the great yes of Mary, and ultimately of Christ Himself.

Bishop Alan recalled the ‘eventful and fulfilling’ years he had spent as bishop, particularly his visits to parishes, schools, hospitals and prisons, the opportunities to take part in young people’s events, the Chrism Masses and Walsingham pilgrimages.

He thanked the people, priests and deacons of the diocese who have served faithfully and given a good witness, and

asked forgiveness for moments when he had ‘failed to live up to the wonderful vocation of bishop’.

“Finally,” he said, “I entrust the past, the present and the future to the Lord and to the prayers of Our Lady of Walsingham... I ask that with me you treasure the past with thanksgiving, embrace the future with hope and journey on in the present moment with confidence in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

At the end of the Mass, Bishop Peter added a word, concurring that “the writings of St Francis de Sales should be near to us all”. He pointed to the great insight of the saint, that God’s truth “is always channelled through love. There is no truth that fails to serve love, and there is no worthy love which fails to be fashioned by God’s eternal truth.”

He then addressed Bishop Alan directly, thanking him for his fidelity “which was first moulded by your Anglican faith... Through your episcopal service you have provided an outstanding witness, and I thank you on behalf of us all.”

Pope makes appeal for earthquake victims

■ Pope Francis has appealed for help for earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria as Catholic charity CAFOD joins 14 other international aid agencies in an appeal through the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC).

In the early hours of Monday February 6, a powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck near Turkey’s border with northern Syria killing thousands of people and turning buildings into rubble.

The earthquake, and the aftershocks that followed, have already killed more than 21,000 people, injured hundreds more and destroyed thousands of homes and buildings.

During his General Audience in the Vatican on February 8, Pope Francis said his thoughts go at this time to the peoples of the neighbouring countries, hard hit by the earthquake that caused thousands of deaths and injuries.

“With emotion I pray for them, and express my closeness to these peoples, to the families of the victims and to all those who are suffering from this devastating calamity.”

The Pope thanked those who are working to bring relief, and encouraged everyone to show solidarity with those territories, “some of which have already been battered by a long war.”

“Let us pray together that these brothers and sisters of ours may move forward in the face of this tragedy, and let us ask Our Lady to protect them: Hail Mary, ...”

Responding to the emergency, CAFOD’s local experts are already on the ground and assessing the needs of those affected by the earthquake. The charity has already committed £100,000 to support local experts who are on the ground providing urgent humanitarian support to survivors of the earthquake in the worst-affected areas.

Jane Crone, CAFOD’s representative in the Diocese of East Anglia, said: “The Catholic community in East Anglia have responded to the news of the earthquake through prayer and generous donations to our emergency appeal. A number of parishes are holding special collections.”

Find DEC appeal at: www.dec.org.uk

Find CAFOD appeal at: cafod.org.uk

Bishop set to celebrate Lenten Station Masses

■ Bishop Peter Collins will be visiting each of the deaneries of the Diocese during Lent, celebrating a series of Lenten Station Masses.

“I very much look forward to visiting each deanery across the diocese during the Season of Lent. Our deanery Lenten Masses provide an opportunity for us to enhance our diocesan communion and to deepen our allegiance to Christ the Suffering Servant,” he said.

“I rejoice to see the established pattern of Eucharistic Adoration being coupled with the provision of an opportunity for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in each location. My thanks to Rural Deans for arranging these celebrations as we all undertake the great pilgrimage towards Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum.”

The events will follow a regular format for each deanery which he visits, with Exposition and Confession at 6pm, Mass at 7pm and Supper at 8pm.

They will begin with a Mass on Tuesday February 28 at St Peter and All Souls Peterborough. Our Lady and the English Martyrs in Cambridge will follow on Thursday March 2; then Holy Family King’s Lynn on Tuesday March 7; St Mary’s Ipswich on Thursday March 8 (formerly on March 9); St Edmunds in Bury St Edmunds on Tuesday March 14; Our Lady Star of the Sea Lowestoft for the Coastal Deanery on Thursday March 16 and finally St George’s Norwich on Tuesday March 21.

As part of the Lenten programme at St John’s Cathedral in Norwich, Fr Dennis Lloyd will be giving a series of talks on ‘The Theology of the Body’. He will be sharing Saint John Paul II’s integrated vision of the human person.

The Pope answered many questions about human sexuality and more during 129 Wednesday audiences between 1979 and 1984. The human body is capable of revealing answers regarding fundamental questions about us and our lives. Fr Denys will unpack some of these questions in a series of three talks at 7pm on Fridays in the Narthex: Friday March 3, 10 and 17.

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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 March 6.

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Rector says farewell to Walsingham Shrine

■ Bishop Peter Collins and Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes joined Mgr Philip Moger as he celebrated his last Mass as Rector of the National Catholic Shrine in Walsingham.

The farewell Mass took place on Sunday February 5. Mgr Moger is now Auxiliary Bishop-Elect for the Archdiocese of Southwark and is preparing to take up his new responsibilities.

He came to Walsingham in September 2020, for a five-year appointment, but the plan changed when Pope Francis decided last November on his appointment to the Archdiocese of Southwark.

“Leaving Our Lady’s National Shrine to become a Bishop wasn’t part of my plans,” writes Mgr Philip, “but then, doesn’t Our Lady of Walsingham teach us always to be open to the new thing God might want us to do? Of course, what God asked of her was unique, beyond compare, and of vital importance; but, doesn’t God ask of us each day to do things – however small – to help build his kingdom, and give glory to His name? None of us can say that we’re too small or insignificant to play a part in God’s plan. And if we don’t, who will?”

Speaking of his move further south, Bishop Peter said: “I wish to express sincere gratitude to Mgr Philip Moger, Auxiliary Bishop-Elect for the Archdiocese of Southwark, as he prepares to conclude his tenure as Rector of the

Catholic National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady in Walsingham.

“Mgr Moger has served as Rector for the past three years, moving to Walsingham from his home diocese of Leeds. Alongside his diocesan duties, Monsignor Moger has been a most faithful and talented servant of the Catholic Church in England and Wales for many years, contributing greatly on the national level to the liturgical and spiritual wellbeing of the Church.

“On behalf of the Diocese of East Anglia, I offer thanksgiving for the immense contribution of Mgr Moger to the ongoing development of the National Shrine and its mission. We note, in particular, the recent decision to designate the celebration of Our Lady of Walsingham as a National Feast in England.

Bishop-Elect Philip has ever been, and will ever be, a true and most caring Pastor of the Flock.

“Whilst we are sad to see him leave the sacred precincts of Walsingham, we entrust him with great confidence into the realm of his future episcopal ministry. Our Holy Father Pope Francis, as Vicar of Christ, has chosen Fr Philip to assist Archbishop Wilson in the vineyard of South London and Kent. We offer Bishop-Elect Philip the firm assurance of our prayers during these days of transition, and we entrust his future ministry to the loving embrace of Our Lady of Walsingham.”

Pictured above are (left to right) Bishop Peter Collins, Bishop-Elect Philip Moger and Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes at the final Mass (image: Norman Servais).



New provider for Safe Spaces abuse support

The appointment of a new independent provider for a national support service for the victims and survivors of church-related abuse has been welcomed in the Diocese of East Anglia.

■ Safe Spaces is a free national support service which offers a confidential, personal, and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with either the Church of England, The Church in Wales or The Catholic Church in England and Wales, regardless of age, gender or sexual orientation.

The service will now be provided through independent organisation First Light, which has extensive experience in supporting those who have experienced or are experiencing sexual abuse or domestic violence, including survivors and victims of church-related abuse.

First Light has been appointed by the

Board of Trustees Of Safe Spaces England and Wales (SSEW) after a rigorous and highly competitive tender process.

Mick Thurley, Diocese of East Anglia Safeguarding Coordinator, welcomed the move, saying: “I am pleased that the Safe Spaces project will continue to flourish and build upon the firm foundations laid by Victim Support.

“I would like to encourage anyone who has been abused by someone within the Catholic Church to make contact with Safe Spaces, either directly or through the Diocese of East Anglia Safeguarding Office, so that they may receive free and personal help, support and advice from this independent and specialist victim support service.”

Bishop Paul Mason, Safeguarding Lead for the Catholic Church, Board Member of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and a Trustee of SSEW said: “The impact of abuse can be complex and life-long. It is vital that victims have a source of support from an independent body which specialises in this area. We have

complete confidence that First Light will deliver this service in the long term and will make a difference for those who need it. We would like to thank every survivor who has worked with us to help ensure a continuity of support and excellence of service.”

Lyn Gooding, Chief Executive of First Light said: “Our trained staff are ready to be there for any victim or survivor of church-related abuse. We know that Safe Spaces is needed, we are committed to the project for the long-term and we could not be more proud to take up this vital work.”

Service users can expect a seamless transition from interim providers FearLess (formerly Splitz Support Service) which followed a successful two-year pilot of the Safe Spaces project run by Victim Support. All current service users will be contacted individually to talk through relevant information, options and to answer any questions. They can expect continuity in accessing support.

Safe Spaces can be contacted by ringing 0300 303 1056 or by visiting: www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk

Retired priest convicted of historic abuse

■ Fr Dennis Finbow, a retired priest of the Diocese of East Anglia, was convicted of three historic (non-recent) child sexual abuse offences at Huntingdon Crown Court, on January 31.

Fr Finbow was charged in January 2022 by officers from Cambridgeshire Police with the offences relating to his service as a Catholic priest in Peterborough in the 1980s and 1990s.

Following a six-day trial, Fr Finbow was convicted by a jury of three counts of indecent assault on a child and found not guilty of the remaining three offences. He was released on unconditional bail for sentence at Huntingdon Crown Court on March 8.

Bishop Peter Collins said: "Following Fr Finbow's conviction, I shall now be seeking urgent legal advice regarding initiating the process of his laicisation (removal of his clerical status and rights), in accordance with our safeguarding policies and procedures."

Fr Finbow has been retired and not in active ministry since 2001. Prior to his retirement he had served in parishes in Peterborough and St Neots, Cambridgeshire.

Bishop Peter said: "The safeguarding of children and vulnerable people is of paramount importance to the Catholic Church and the Diocese of East Anglia has co-

operated fully with the police and other statutory authorities throughout this investigation.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the victim in this case and also other victims of child sexual abuse. We would encourage any victim of child sexual abuse

perpetrated within the Catholic Church context to make contact either directly through our Safeguarding Office or with Safe Spaces, our Victim Support Service.

"Should anyone have any concerns or queries about the Dennis Finbow case then I would encourage them to contact Mick Thurley, our Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator on 07429 215344."

Bishop Peter makes first radio broadcast

Bishop Peter Collins was a guest at Radio Maria England in Cambridge for a special edition of Songs in the Wilderness. Eldred Willey reports.

■ "I am enjoying East Anglia no end," began Bishop Peter, when he visited the studio on January 31. He then introduced the first piece of music which he had chosen to share.

It was 'Guide my O Thou Great Redeemer' which was followed by 'Tantum Ergo', 'The Reproaches' and 'Ave Verum'.

Between the music, the interviewer, Diane Redmond, drew the Bishop out on some of his life story.

He was born, he said, in south-east Wales, the youngest of four children and grew up in a thriving Catholic community where buses brought worshippers to Mass from the outlying villages. It was removed from the wider world, and "the next valley was foreign territory".

He went to secondary school in Merthyr Tydfil, and after responding to the call to priesthood was sent to seminary in Valladolid, in Spain – an ancient institution founded in 1589 by Robert Parsons SJ. It was now 1978, and his first Mass at the seminary was a Requiem Mass for Pope John Paul I.

In 1984 he was ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of Cardiff and appointed to the Metropolitan Cathedral of St David's in the capital.

After a second curacy at St Mary's, Bridgend, he was surprised to be called back to Valladolid, this time to be vice-rector. The post brought with it further study – first a degree in Madrid and then licentiate studies at the University of Salamanca.

Returning to the UK, he was appointed parish priest of Chepstow and in 1995 attended the first national conference on safeguarding at Ushaw. It was providential piece of learning, as a major safeguarding case concerning his predecessor was about to come to light in his own parish. "Safeguarding has been a sig-



Pictured above is Bishop Peter Collins with the Radio Maria England Team and, below left, at the microphone.



nificant part of my ministry since that point," he said.

In 2001 Bishop Edwin Regan moved him to become Dean of the Metropolitan Cathedral in Cardiff – a post he held for 18 years. In 2019 he was appointed to the neighbouring parish of St Mary of the Angels, which was a larger Catholic community, with around 800 worshippers.

His tenure there was short-lived however, as last October came the call from the Apostolic Nunciature saying that the Pope wished him to become

Bishop of East Anglia.

"Norwich is so beautiful," he said. "It's all an adventure for me every time I go out in the car – it's all new."

He said that he was looking forward to visiting all the parishes in East Anglia. "It's a delight to be in this wondrous diocese," he concluded. "May the Lord bless you all."

Radio Maria England was delighted to welcome Bishop Peter for this first broadcast and hopes it will be the first of many.

Fr Toby Lees OP, Priest Director of Radio Maria, quipped that though Bishop Peter was now in a much flatter diocese than his native Wales, he was sure listening figures would peak for the Bishop's broadcasts. He added that the purpose of Radio Maria England is to be a microphone giving voice to all the good going on in the Church in this country, and he hopes that the Bishop and anyone in the diocese will contact the station whenever they have stories that should be heard about the transforming love of Jesus Christ. "This is your radio!" he said.

You can listen to Bishop Peter speaking on Songs in the Wilderness at: spotifyanchor-web.app.link/e/PSjKq9nS3wb

news in brief

Are you a photographer keen to help

■ Are you a keen photographer, with your own digital camera, and would like to help record events across the Diocese of East Anglia to use on our website and monthly newspaper.

Communications Director Keith Morris said: "We want to improve the quality of pictures submitted for use on the website, newspaper, parish and other uses. We are looking for volunteer photographers to cover both parish events and also some diocesan-wide events such as Masses and pilgrimages.

"If you have an interest in news and event photography and would like to see your pictures used in diocesan publications, and you have your own digital camera, I would love to hear from you."

Volunteer photographers would need to be happy to take pictures at events and then submit them by email or Dropbox or similar soon afterwards. You would be paid travel expenses and be fully credited for pictures wherever we use them.

Please send details of any experience you have, which parish you are a part of and a couple of sample photographs or link to an online gallery to keith.morris@rcdea.org.uk or ring him on 07712 787762.

We may ask you to complete a safeguarding DBS check on a voluntary basis.

Charity service

■ A service has been organised by the charity 'Outside the Wire' for all military veterans and their families as a thank you to those who have sacrificed so much for their country and to show our appreciation for those who have served in so many theatres of war.

Outside the Wire is a charity working under the umbrella of the Matthew Project and specialises in giving help to any serving and ex-military personnel with drug, alcohol, PTSD and social problems, which are experienced by many within and on leaving the services.

The service will be held at St John's Cathedral on Unthank Road on Sunday April 23 at 2pm. There will be refreshments after the event in the Cathedral Narthex.

Could any clergy who would like to attend to represent their own community please contact Rev Patrick Limacher, email patrick@limacher.org.uk.

Norwich retreat

■ A retreat for young women aged between 19 and 30 is taking place from the afternoon of Friday April 21 to early afternoon on Sunday April 23. It will be led by the Secular Franciscans Paula Pearce and Brigid Rawlinson and is entitled 'God's extravagant love'.

It will be held at the Julian Visitor Centre on Rouen Road in Norwich and St Julian's Church, with accommodation at the adjoining All Hallows Guest House.

If you are interested and would like further information, please contact Paula Pearce on paulapofs@gmail.com

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Let go of apathy, worry and anger

As we approach the fruitful Lenten season, Fr Alvan Ibeh says it might be a good time to reflect on the weights we have in our lives in his Voice of Hope series.



■ The most important weight we need to let go of, and should not even allow into our lives, is apathy towards God. Just as fish cannot survive without water and humans cannot live without air, we, as Christians, will not live a comfortable and fulfilled life without God.

I would rather say that God is the air we breathe; without Him, our lives will be and remain meaningless and without purpose. God gives meaning to our existence here on earth, 'for in Him, we live and move and have our being' (Acts 17:28), and 'cut off from Him, we can do nothing'. (John 15:5). We must stay connected to God, not just in this year but in every moment of our lives. We should therefore be people of prayer, as this gives us

access to Him, and God's line is always available 24/7; there is never such a thing as network failure, but the only thing that disconnects us from this line is sin.

That notwithstanding, there is always room for reconnection through the sacrament of reconciliation. We must, therefore, always make an effort to stay connected to God, our loving and caring Father and let go of anything that challenges this. We must have hearts drawn toward God's word and ask Him to give us the desire to walk with him daily. We must choose every day to come to Him, even if only for a few moments. James 4:8 says, 'Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts; you double-minded'.

Another weight almost all carry is worry, which is a difficult battle for many of us. There is no doubt that when faced with challenging situations, our natural tendency is often to react first with fear and worry instead of being propelled by a spirit of faith.

God tells us how attempting to carry the cares and worries of this world on our own will burden us. Worry does not, and never has, solved any problem but instead adds to the problem. When we worry about a situation, we indirectly say God can't handle that situation. Worry pulls us back and prevents us from moving forward into our God-given destiny.

But when we let go of worry, faith comes into place. It is our faith that attracts God's attention to our situation because, 'without Faith, it is impossible to please' (Hebrews

11:6). It is the fear of the unknown that leads us to worrying about things, but in Isaiah 40:10 it says: 'Fear not for I am with you, be not discouraged for I am your God, I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.'

Anger is another weight many of us carry around today and we find it very difficult to drop. It is a human emotion we all possess and manifest from time to time, though more in some than in others. While some can control their emotions, others find it extremely difficult to do so. Whatever the case, the fact is that an attitude of anger and hateful speech does nothing to create change. It only makes things worse both for the person and others around.

Life, my dear friends, is too short to waste on anger. But if you have been battling this weight for a long time now, don't give up; take it to God and don't even get fed up with reminding Him about it every day. God alone has the power to break through all the hardness. He can change us into people of kindness, self-control and encouragement. It may even seem like a miracle to those around us. But we must choose to allow Him to work in us. James 1:19-20 says: 'Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for man's anger does not produce the righteousness of God'.

Whatever weight you have decided to drop, I pray that God will grant us grace, especially in this season of Lent, so that our year will run smoothly till the end, even amid challenges and obstacles. God bless us all.

Bishop's Mass for Religious

Seventy-five people joined Bishop Peter Collins at St John's Cathedral for a special Mass for Religious on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

■ The celebration of the feast, which is traditionally known as Candlemas, on February 2, began with the lighting of candles at the west end of the Cathedral. Bishop Peter then joined a procession of priests into the building and sprinkled the congregation with holy water before processing with the congregation to the east of the Cathedral.

The annual Mass is an opportunity for Religious to renew their vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, as well as other obligations specific to each community. It takes place 40 days after Christmas – an opportunity, said Bishop Peter, to "contemplate the purification of God's People that was accomplished by the 40 years of their wandering and wondering in the midst of the desert".

The theme of wandering and wondering ran through the Bishop's homily as he turned to our own journeys and asked the congregation to contemplate what is being asked of us today.

"Human beings are charged with the duty of contemplation," he said. "From the confines of our finite existence we are



Bishop Peter at the Mass for Religious at St John's Cathedral.

empowered to contemplate the infinite realm of the Godhead."

He then turned to the characters in the Gospel narrative – firstly Mary, who received the Annunciation, and Joseph, who was given visionary insight through a dream, and then the two as a couple who learned to walk together.

Then there were Simeon and Anna, "aged in years but fresh in spirit", to whom the Holy Spirit provided the "ignition of recognition".

It was the Holy Spirit who gave them the flame of insight, said the Bishop, the same

Holy Spirit who prompts and sustains the consecration to religious confession.

"In all our wanderings and wonderings," he said, "we stand with Mary and Joseph, having to contemplate all authentic questions of identity and destiny."

On this journey we "embrace the light of Christ that brings clarity, that reveals what is concealed," and we "embrace the flame of the Holy Spirit that brings both comfort and purification".

You can see a gallery of the Mass by visiting: flic.kr/s/aHBqjAqCv2



Cantonese Masses

■ Canon Hoan Minh Nguyen will be celebrating a regular Mass in Cantonese at Our Lady of Lourdes, 135 High Street, Sawston CB22 3HJ at 2pm on Saturdays.

Upcoming dates of the Cantonese Masses for 2023 are: Feb 25, Mar 18, Apr 15, May 20, Jun 10, Jul 15, Aug 19, Sep 16, Oct 14, Nov 18, Dec 16.

The Masses will be followed by tea and an opportunity to mingle. More information from cantonmassea@gmail.com



Pictured above is Archbishop Savio being greeted at OLEM in Cambridge by Mgr Provost Eugene Harkness with the Cantonese and parish congregation after Mass.

Archbishop celebrates Cantonese Mass in city

A large congregation of Cantonese Catholics and local parishioners turned out at the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and the English Martyrs in Cambridge on Sunday January 29 to warmly welcome His Excellency the Apostolic Nuncio To Malta, Archbishop Savio Hon SDB. Elizabeth Lam and Dominic Chung report.

■ Archbishop Savio celebrated a wonderful Pontifical Mass in Cantonese, using a special liturgy for the First Sunday after Lunar New Year.

The regular servers of OLEM under the guidance of Jonathan Wright offered their devotional service at the Mass and Deacon Gianluca Savini proclaimed the Gospel in Cantonese. The Gospel according to Matthews (5:1-12): The Beatitudes was proclaimed.

In his homily, the Archbishop analysed the auspicious Chinese character for fortune and blessing (福) and reminded us that as in the Beatitudes, the truly blessed are those who live their lives in faith, and not simply of a worldly being. The character vividly signifies heavenly sacrifices, as depicted in the (祭), but it also refers to upkeeping oneself with a reasonable amount of earthly goods (一口田).

It does not necessarily mean we have to subject ourselves to undue hardship. However, as followers of Jesus Christ, we must never forget the true meaning of fortune and blessing – it must be grounded in hope, love and charity. All in the context of God's Heavenly Kingdom.

He also encouraged those who felt displaced and persecuted to entrust themselves to God, and not to be too downtrodden. "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven".

After the Mass, the Archbishop was greeted warmly in the church hall by the Rector and Parish Priest, Mgr Provost Eugene Harkness. Mgr Harkness referred to the enrichment to Church life by people of all nationalities who come to settle in the Diocese of East Anglia over the years, and he was delighted that the Hong Konger Cantonese community, in a relatively short time, have shown their resilience, their well-rooted, strong Catholic faith and their willingness to be part of an English Parish family. Integration is of mutual benefit and he was gratified to see our efforts bearing fruits.

The Archbishop then gave a brief account of the life and work of Pope Benedict XVI. It was as much a personal account as an historic narrative. At times we were privileged to gain an insight into their working relationship, and even a glimpse of a mentoring relationship. Archbishop Savio was consecrated a Bishop by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI and they had collaborated on many fronts. Archbishop Savio fondly recounted a warm glow on his head when

the Late Pope laid his hands on him during the Consecration rite.

For a number of years, Archbishop Savio was the Secretary of the then Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples.

In regaling his many encounters with the late Pope, His Eminence Cardinal Joseph Zen SDB was mentioned often. The Archbishop and the Cardinal are of course both Salesians.

We were reminded that the late Pope never wavered in His love for the Church in China. The Archbishop referred us to the special prayers to Our Lady of She-shan (a Marian Shrine, where a basilica in Shanghai is dedicated to Our Lady, Mary Help of Christians), which Pope Benedict XVI had composed in May 2008. The late Pope asked the Universal Church to pray on May 24 each year, the Memorial of Mary Help of Christians, for the Church in China.

It was an inspirational day, a fun and celebratory time and above all, a faith reinforcing day for everyone of OLEM and beyond.

Bishop Peter Collins said: "I am delighted that the Diocese of East Anglia has been graced with a visit by the Apostolic Nuncio to Malta and I rejoice to acknowledge that the Catholic parishes of Cambridge have extended a warm welcome to those whose first language is Cantonese.

"Although I could not attend personally, I offered a warm welcome to the Apostolic Nuncio as he prepared for his visit to Cambridge," said Bishop Peter.

news in brief

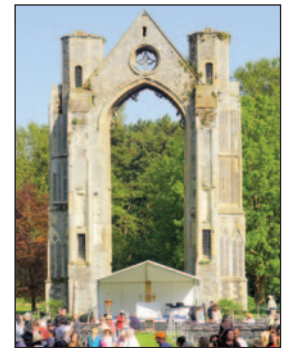
Walsingham two-day walk

■ The National Catholic Shrine at Walsingham is celebrating the Solemnity of the Annunciation this year with a two-day Camino and a talk by Andy Bull.

Andy is the author of the London to Walsingham Camino guidebook and an experienced pilgrim guide. His talk will take place alongside solemn Mass, Adoration and Vespers, and an ecumenical service at the ancient site of the Holy House.

This will be a two-day event, spanning March 24-25, and will celebrate the re-establishment of one of the pre-Reformation walking routes from London to Walsingham, highlighted by the publication of a guidebook to the path: London to Walsingham Camino: The Pilgrimage Guide.

Pilgrims are invited to walk the last two stages of the route from Castle Acre to Walsingham, arriving at the Shrine to celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation. The



walks will be led by Andy Bull.

Friday will feature a walk of 15 miles from Castle Acre to Fakenham, and Saturday a short walk of six miles from Fakenham to Walsingham, arriving at the Catholic Shrine for Mass of the Solemnity of the Annunciation, followed by an afternoon and evening of events including the ecumenical service, a talk by Andy and a book launch.

Andy will speak about the two-year project which identified the pre-Reformation route from London to Walsingham (once one of the most important routes in the country) and how a small team of pilgrim volunteers helped him adapt that route, to ensure it was a truly uplifting modern-day walking experience.

If you would like to participate, please contact Antonia Moffat from the National Catholic Shrine on antonia@walsingham.org.uk

You can book accommodation and meals at the Pilgrim Bureau of the Catholic Shrine on reservations@walsingham.org.uk or www.walsingham.org.uk/accommodation

Day of renewal

■ Ros Powell will be the speaker at a day of renewal in Clare, Suffolk. It will take place from 9.30am to 9pm on Saturday April 22 at Clare Priory, Ashen Road, Clare, Suffolk CO10 8NX and will include Mass, praise and worship, talks, confessions and a healing service.

Tea and coffee will be provided, but please bring a packed lunch and supper. Donations are welcome. For more information, and to register for all or part of the day, please contact Kathy at Clare Priory on 01787 277326, clarepriory@clarepriory.net

Diocese becomes a Your Catholic Legacy partner

■ **Diocese of East Anglia Trustees have made the decision to join Your Catholic Legacy and the Free Will Network to raise the profile of legacy giving in the Diocese.**

Research shows that Catholics are more open to the idea of leaving a charitable legacy than the general public and the Trustees want to encourage people to consider this and to make it easier for them to write a Will.

Your Catholic Legacy (YCL) is a consortium, founded in 2013 and is currently made up of 27 Catholic charities. Its mission is to make legacy gifts to Catholic causes the social norm for practising Catholics and it does this by encouraging legacy giving in the Catholic community.

Stewardship and Fundraising Coordinator, Sandra Portas, said: "Figures show that charities are set to experience an 'exceptional period of growth' from legacies over the next 10 years. The biggest barrier to Will making is apathy, with most people saying they haven't got round to it yet."

The next decade's growth is fuelled by the intergenerational wealth transfer from baby boomers. Appetite for legacy giving is growing and, despite recent delays at probate, the number of charitable bequests is predicted to rise by 30% over the decade. The average specific bequest is £5k, whilst the average residuary bequest (% of estate remaining after all other gifts have been executed) is worth £50k. Figures from the legacy information company Smee & Ford show that more than one million gifts totalling over £23bn have been made to charities between 2010/11 and 2019/20.

Some key facts about legacy giving:

■ 75% of the population are actively motivated to die with a positive net worth and leave something behind for future generations.

■ While people are naturally older when they die, people of all ages can and do make charitable Wills. By the age of forty, most people will have experienced a life change that puts them in a position to contemplate making a Will and therefore a charitable gift.

■ Research shows that Catholics are more open to the idea of leaving a charitable legacy than the general public, and even more so if they are a regular Mass attendee.

The Diocese will be giving parishioners access to the Free Will Network, a free will writing service for single or mirror wills. More details on how to take advantage of the service will be announced next month.

If your parish would like some information about legacy giving, please contact stewardship@rcdea.org.uk or yourcatholiclegacy.org.uk

Four churches g

Four historic Catholic churches in the Diocese of East Anglia have been listed by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on the advice of Historic England, bringing the total churches in the diocese with special protection to 25. Keith Morris reports.

■ Newly listed at Grade II, are: Our Lady of the Annunciation in King's Lynn, built with the support of the future King Edward VII; the gloriously decorated Minster Church of St Benet in Beccles, chosen by the architect as his final resting place; and St Felix in Felixstowe, an Arts and Crafts-inspired church built as an architectural labour of love to accommodate the town's growing Catholic community

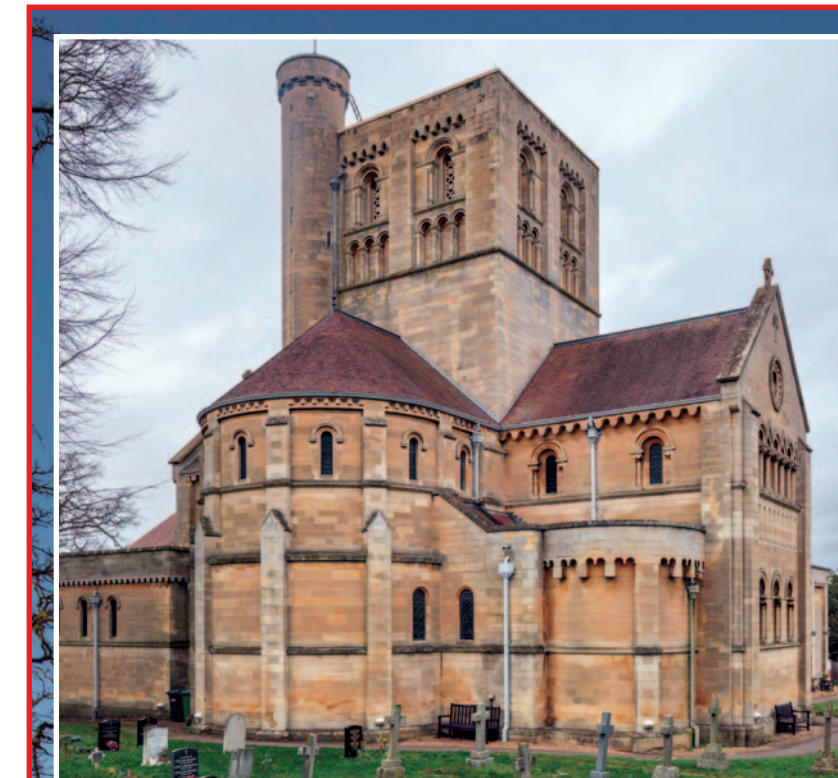
Relisted at Grade I is Our Lady of The Assumption and The English Martyrs in Cambridge, one of the largest 19th century Catholic churches in the country.

Bishop Peter Collins said: "As a new arrival in East Anglia, I have been delighted to discover the wealth of styles and variety offered by Catholic churches across the region. From our great stone minsters, to the more modest country chapels, the region boasts so many truly fascinating churches. The whole diocese is delighted to learn that so many of our wonderful places of worship have been designated as being worthy of special recognition. These historic churches represent a true testament to the faith of our communities in past centuries and are a key part of the Catholic legacy of East Anglia that we hold in sacred trust for the many generations yet to come."

Paul Raynes, Director of Operations and Finance for the Diocese said: "Our church buildings are a very visible vehicle for the diocese's witness to the world. The latest listing decisions give us cause for joy that the whole nation recognises the value of those 'prayers in stone'."

With the addition of the latest churches, the Diocese of East Anglia now boasts 25 listed churches, as well as a host of other listed buildings, in its care.

Historic Churches Support Officer, Matthew Champion, said: "The recognition of these churches as being worthy of listed status by Historic England is a real recognition of all the hard work, both past and present, that



members of the Catholic community have undertaken to care for and preserve these amazing structures. They are a real testament to the strength of faith in the region, and a jewel to pass on to future generations."

Caroline Skinner, Historic England Listing Team Leader (East of England) said: "These beautiful Catholic churches have been at the heart of their local communities for generations. The very distinctive, and individual, style of each building tells the story of the development of the Catholic faith

over the centuries, and they continue to offer a calming and inspiring space in our busy world today.

"Each church has a remarkable story to tell, from the building created with the support of the future King Edward VII, to the minster at which the architect chose to be laid to rest, and the church that was made possible by help of a 19th century female architectural patron."

■ **Our Lady of The Assumption and The English Martyrs.**

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iven historic listed status

Main picture is OLEM in Cambridge, top left is St Benet, Beccles, top right the modern stained-glass windows at St Felix in Felixstowe and, bottom right, Our Lady of the Annunciation, King's Lynn. All pictures courtesy of Historic England.



2018, two striking stained glass windows by artist Thomas Denny and stained-glass conservator Elizabeth Hippisley-Cox, on the theme of the Divine Mercy, were installed at the nave's west end.

■ Our Lady of the Annunciation, King's Lynn (newly listed at Grade II)

■ Built with the support of the future King Edward VII, this 19th century church featured designs by renowned Anglo-Catholic architects A W N Pugin and William Lunn, and helped to revive the shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, an important medieval pilgrimage destination.

The Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation was designed in Gothic Revival style by William Lunn and completed in 1897. By the end of the 19th century it was found to be in poor repair. The Prince of Wales (the future King Edward VII), helped to finance its rebuilding and contributed 50 guineas towards the cost.

The church played an important role in the revival of the shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, on which King's Lynn had been an important stage of the journey. In 1897, the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham was established in the new church's Lady Chapel by Fr George Wrigglesworth. In 1934, a national shrine was established at Walsingham, with a Pontifical Shrine remaining at Our Lady of the Annunciation.

■ Minster Church of St Benet, Beccles (newly listed at Grade II*)

■ Originally intended to be the site of a monastery served by Benedictine monks from Downside Priory, in 1898, a minster church was built in Beccles on land given by John George Kenyon of Gillingham Hall, a Catholic convert.

The impressive large church was designed in a Romanesque style with a richly painted ceiling decoration throughout the church by local architect Francis Easto Banham, who also chose it as his final resting place.

The foundation stone was laid in 1899 and the first Mass was celebrated in the nave on 4 September 1901. It took until 1908 to complete the church.

The grand interior features a high, barrel-vaulted plastered roof with elaborate stencilling around the arches and a continuous inscription taken from the Rule of St Benedict.

In 1953 the presbytery was converted into a primary school, which opened in 1957, and a new presbytery was built to the north-east of the church.

■ Cambridge (OLEM) (relisted at Grade I)

■ A significant Cambridge landmark, OLEM was built between 1887 and 1890, funded by Yolande Lyne-Stephens, a successful ballet dancer in France before her marriage to Stephen Lyne-Stephens. On his death in 1860, she inherited a considerable fortune and became a generous supporter of Catholic causes, including the mission at St Mary's Church in Thetford and a chapel at her estate in Lynford, Norfolk (both Grade II* listed).

One of the largest Catholic churches in the country, at 65 metres high, the OLEM church spire is only slightly lower than the tower of Ely Cathedral. The church's significant size, landmark features and stunning architectural detail were intended to suit its anticipated role as the centre of Catholic life at Cambridge University.

OLEM has been relisted at Grade I for the building's superb quality, craftsmanship and architectural vision.

■ Church of St Felix, Felixstowe (newly listed at Grade II)

■ It was built as an architectural labour of love to accommodate Felixstowe's growing Catholic community. In 1910, Beccles architect Francis Easto Banham proposed an Arts and Crafts-influenced Perpendicular Gothic design for the church with a four-bay nave along with a chancel, two side chapels, Lady Chapel, sacristy and an elaborate west front with a tall tower.

When the church was officially opened in 1912, with King Manuel

II of Portugal in attendance, only the sanctuary and four bays of the nave had been completed. The church was built in stages when funds became available, until its eventual completion in 1958.

Banham's son, Fr Cyril Banham, served at the church as parish priest between 1945 and 1961 and set about completing his father's design, overseeing the completion of the west front of the nave in 1957.

A 21st century reordering has seen a new sanctuary floor, altar, ambo and tabernacle plinth. In

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Inspirational Holy Land visit for Fr Peter



Fr Peter Wygnanski with Sister Aziza in Jerusalem.

Sheringham Parish is set to support the work of the Comboni Sisters in the Holy Land after Parish Administrator Fr Peter Wygnanski met the inspirational

Sister Aziza at an international Taizé meeting in Jerusalem, as he reports here.

■ Having taken part in meetings organised by the Taizé community in Moscow, Beirut, and Istanbul, I was delighted to take part in another such gathering in the Holy Land in May 2022.

As part of a programme of visiting holy sites and spending time with local Christians, some workshops were offered to allow a more in-depth encounter. I was especially interested to hear that the Comboni Sisters were sharing something of their work with the Bedouin people. The workshop was led by Sister Aziza, whose long history of helping

the least fortunate; those affected by leprosy, refugees, and victims of human trafficking has been recognised by numerous awards.

After humanitarian work in South Sudan, and medical training in England, Sister Aziza joined the Comboni Sisters in the Holy Land, and since 2010 has worked as a nurse at an open clinic in Tel Aviv run which provides free healthcare to refugees. The sanctity, and joyful service of the sisters was simply inspiring, and it was to the envy of many others who had attended that workshop that I had opportunity to visit her work in Tel Aviv.

Very early one morning, I walked from my hostel in the old centre of Jerusalem, and passed through the Damascus Gate to find Sister Aziza's car. I was picked up amidst the chaos that characterises that part of the Holy City, and we began the drive to Tel Aviv.

On the way, Sister Aziza told me of her work, not with the Bedouins but with others who have been left behind. In contrast to the bright lights, night life, and crisp architecture of the city centre, the aged Fiat pulled into a corner of Tel Aviv I can only suppose few visitors see. We arrived in a small industrial complex, and I was led up several flights of gloomy, graffitied stairs, reminiscent more of the golden age of crime drama of the 1980s than of a place of hope. And yet, as a sign of the project itself, as we passed through the door, I entered a place of light and healing, full of colour and joy. As I met the other volunteers, Sister Aziza talked me through the various activities of Kuchinate.

I came to learn that Kuchinate, means "crochet" in the Eritrean language, and iden-

tifies the centre which provides economic and social empowerment to hundreds of African refugee women and their families living in South Tel Aviv. The basis of the project is facilitating an income through making handmade products, promoting dignity and learning new and transferable skills, as well as encouraging artistic expressions of the journey of their lives so far. In addition to designing and making of crafts and artworks, Kuchinate provides community support, individual and group psychosocial support, and educational projects. Sister Aziza's vision is that by a holistic approach, the women of Kuchinate heal, rehabilitate and support each other, whilst providing financially for their families.

After a morning in such blessed company, I returned to Jerusalem by train with a copy of Sister Aziza's latest book, as well as a new apron, which has been a talking point at many clerical dinner parties since. Long after the book is lost and the apron worn out, what will remain is the memory of Sister Aziza's example of how, in great adversity, a small group can create a place of care and encouragement to serve those who otherwise are in great darkness.

It is no exaggeration to say that Sister Aziza becomes the second person I've met who I think may one day be canonised. I am delighted to recommend assistance of this wonderful work as a way of supporting the Christian witness in the Holy Land.

Anyone who would wish to contribute to this can get in touch with Fr Peter directly at peter.wygnanski@rcdea.org.uk, or see the parish website at:

www.ourladyandstjoseph.info

Diocese of East Anglia Directory – 2023

The Diocese of East Anglia Yearbook and Calendar for 2023 is **available now** in all parishes

Contains a comprehensive, up-to-date guide to the Diocese of East Anglia including: Key contacts for curia, departments, commissions, parishes, plus Mass times, clergy and religious, schools, hospital, diary dates, societies and organisations and a retreat centre guide.

It also carries a pictorial review of 2022 and the official Diocesan Liturgical Calendar for 2023.

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YOUTH MATTERS

Transforming weekends

Around 20 young people gathered at Clare Priory for the first Transform weekend, a new initiative of the Diocesan Youth Service for young adults wanting to go deeper in their faith and a second event is to be held in Holy Week.

At the first event in December, after being welcomed by Fr Stefan (Prior of Clare Priory), there were talks from Fr Luke Goymour (Chaplain to the Diocesan Youth Service) and Fr Peter Wygnanski (Priest Administrator at Sheringham). On the Saturday evening, Fr Gladson Dabre (Parish Priest of Clare) gave a talk before leading a powerful time of prayer ministry.

Throughout the weekend, music was provided by Jo Grennan from the Loretto Community (helped by Fr Peter), and there was plenty of time for personal prayer and reflection, including an opportunity to take part in all-night Adoration.

Director of Youth Services, Hamish MacQueen, said: "Many thanks to Clare Priory for hosting the weekend. 'Knowing we were continuing to pray in a place that had been a place of prayer for literally hundreds of years was an inspiration in itself,' one participant said to me."

The next Transform – **Transform for Holy Week** is on March 31 – April 2 (the start of Holy Week), again at the beautiful Clare Priory. It will be an opportunity to prepare spiritually for the events of Holy Week. It is intended for those age 16+. Full details at www.transform4.co.uk



The first Transform weekend at Clare Priory.



Poetry explores a caring world

Peter Coates from the Church of the Annunciation Walsingham has written a book of poetry exploring ways to care for each other and for our world. Eldred Willey reports.

Generation Care imagines different aspects of a world where the primary motivation of everyone is to care. The first poem, called 'Come Close' would stimulate the reader to think about aspects of care in a marriage and the second poem 'No Judgement Garden' is about compassionate listening and how to relate peacefully to someone who you can't agree with.

The book is dedicated to the new bottom line described by Rabbi Michael Lerner in his book 'Revolutionary Love'. He ponders what would happen if businesses and institutions were to replace the current bottom line of money and power with a new bottom line of care.

There is a powerful poem in the book about the problems of meritocracy based on the book by the Nobel Prize winning economist Angus Deaton called 'Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism'.

There are also poems about the wonders

of nature, and this leads to thoughts about the vastness of God. One poem is about the beauty of mercy, and the importance of water which can flow through our bodies as the spirit flows through our lives. There is a poem about the infinite joy of repentance and about the perfect doctor. Some of the poems are designed to stimulate the reader to think about relationships with other people and with God.

There are thoughts about the problems of mental health, including the theory that fractals play a role in brain development and lead to the troubling cycling of thoughts which tortures sufferers. These ideas are based on a book called 'The Fractal Brain Theory' by Wai Tsang. There is another poem about vitriol and one about anger.

There are poems in the book about the problems of human life and thoughts about how Jesus might resolve these. How would an all-powerful God look upon those who start wars and how and where might Jesus lead us? How could the concept of conveying compassionate care bring peace. What could resurrection mean?

Generation Care is published by Austin Macauley at £5.19 and you can order a copy at: www.austinmacauley.com/book/generation-care

Peter Coates will be donating all royalties to Tapping House Hospice.

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Parish embraces stewardship in spirit of faith and hope

St Dominic's in Downham Market is one of the latest parishes to have embraced the Diocese of East Anglia's stewardship programme, Faithful Stewards of God's Gifts, in a spirit of faith and hope.

■ The programme was run over three weekends in October and parish priest, Fr Erico Falcao, was keen to run it, post-Covid, to help bring the parish together.

"The programme came along when it was really needed," said Joe Walton, a member of St Dominic's parish stewardship team. "It has helped to focus our minds on our parish life and what our parish means to us in the context of our faith. I hope it's opened up conversations and encouraged more of us to get



The St Dominic's parish stewardship team.

involved in our parish life."

Janelle Cleghorn, the parish treasurer, delivered some of the talks, explaining everything in a warm, authentic and friendly way. Presentation and tone are so important to engaging with parishioners and making strong and meaningful connections that will bear fruit. A pack of information is available to give to anyone who missed the talks and the programme is ongoing and is really just the start of things.

"We have been coordinating our response," Joe said, "and contacting those parishioners who have volunteered their time and talents. Some have already begun to help, with welcoming at Mass, serving tea/coffee or cleaning. We are keen to make them feel valued and more involved in our parish life. Some have taken up leadership roles."

As a result of running the programme, some parishioners not only agreed to vol-

unteer their time and talents but also to review their financial commitment to the parish, leading to a significant increase in the value of standing orders. The parish will also benefit financially as the number of Gift Aid donors has gone up, too.

Over a dozen parishes have already run the programme, said Diocesan Stewardship and Fundraising Coordinator, Sandra Portas, with many more parishes planning to run the programme in 2023.

Summarising his hopes for the programme at St Dominic's, Joe said: "We will all benefit. We will grow in confidence. New ideas and initiatives will emerge. More cooperation and collaboration will follow. We will talk to each other more and communicate better. We will get to know each other."

"As more parishioners get involved, it will strengthen the bonds between us and build us into a more united community,

with its foundations on a strong, missionary faith.

"At first sight, perhaps, we may have individually felt that the programme is not for us, that we are not able to help or have nothing to offer due to our personal circumstances. It's important that no one should feel judged or excluded."

"Just remember the little acts and words of kindness, the considerate gesture, the warm greeting, the friendly words of welcome to a stranger, the smile. The expressions of faith, reverence and witness. They are all so important to our parish life, its very heart and soul. Their power and influence should never be underestimated," said Joe.

"We each have our unique personality, gifts and talents to offer. We are each loved and cherished by God. The great treasure we all share is our faith: we can pray. God needs each of us to help build up His kingdom here in our community and beyond. He entrusts us each with a mission to proclaim His Good News and be a witness to His message of love and forgiveness. And we are called to be faithful stewards of God's gifts."

"So, let's not become demoralized nor feel inadequate, daunted or afraid. Let's be filled with the Holy Spirit and take heart from the Word and eternal love of God," said Joe.

"We have a church where we can gather to worship and pray as a community with our parish priest; to meet for study and spiritual growth; to do works of outreach from; to enjoy each other's company at social occasions. This is only possible because the parishioners who came before us were faithful stewards. Their legacy to us is not only a church building fittingly adorned and well-maintained, sound parish structures and organisation and good facilities but indeed our parish community and very faith, which has been handed down from generation to generation.

"We owe them so much for being such faithful stewards of God's gifts. Let us in turn strive to be good and faithful stewards to assure our legacy to future generations, a legacy worthy of the great treasure we have each inherited."

If you would like more details of the diocesan stewardship scheme, please contact Sandra Portas on 07821 876170, stewardship@rcdea.org.uk

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40 years of Cambridge Nazareth Trust

■ Forty years ago, three far-sighted Holy Land Pilgrims from East Anglia organised a new charity, Cambridge Nazareth Trust. CNT supported disadvantaged children in deaf and blind schools and orphanages, supplying essential items from braille typewriters to gym equipment.

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With the schools' access to teacher training limited, CNT has recently focused on developing teachers' skills, ensuring rich learning experiences for their pupils.

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With Covid lockdowns, training moved online; digital literacy for pupils and teachers, now including those in Gaza, developed. In 2022 all kindergartens received training in English Phonics. Fluent English is an invaluable asset.

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Cambodia revisited after a three-year Covid hiatus

After a three-year Covid hiatus Marie-Madeleine Kenning, and her husband Michael, have revisited twinned parishes in Cambodia from her home parish of St Mary's, Ipswich.

■ The timing of our trip was influenced by the lifting of travel restrictions and a long-standing invitation to the wedding of Sreymich, the assistant manager of the Tep Im Centre, herself a former Tep Im student from Chomnaom, one of our twinned parishes.

We left England with some trepidation just before Christmas. Our last trip was in February 2020, just before the spread of Covid-19. We had a general idea of what had happened since then in Cambodia, but the detail remained unknown and a lot of changes can take place in the space of three years, especially during a pandemic. How had the people we knew been affected? How had those interviewed for my book, *Then the Khmer Rouge Came*, fared?

Having ourselves been labelled 'vulnerable' did not help. Were we foolhardy to venture out like this? Certainly, the emptiness of the arrival hall in Siem Reap airport, matching the low number of passengers on the flight from Bangkok, raised questions. But in the end, this visit, like all the others, turned out to be hard at times and yet immensely rewarding.

The first few days were strangely odd, after a three-year absence, and the presence of familiar faces like Fr Totet – the first missionary priest we ever met in Cambodia in 2008, now parish priest of Siem Reap who came to pick us up at the airport – was therefore particularly welcome.

It was a shock to discover, as we prepared to leave for Battambang, where most of our time would be spent, that the public bus service we had planned to use, had ceased to operate. As had all other bus services between the two cities. It was taxi time, although fortunately the cost was considerably less than it would have been here.

The pandemic turned out not to have had such a drastic impact on everyday life as it did in the UK. A number of people did lose their livelihood, but the number of deaths per 100,000 population was considerably lower and lockdowns were usually local and patchy.

We suspected that, given what they had been through during the Pol Pot era, our interviewees had generally taken the last three years in their stride. They had and were puzzled when we asked what had been the worst part, as if they had shrugged off the pandemic into oblivion. Like their compatriots, they are resilient people, used to adapting and making do when circumstances worsen. Younger people thought for a while. "At times we were only allowed to go to the market once a week," they replied. In a hot country where the majority of the population do not have a refrigerator, people have to shop every day. So they helped each other. Sister Tu, who runs a small orphanage, related how she stored food in her freezers and distributed cooked meals to her neighbours.

Our visit spanned Christmas and New Year and we arrived in the thick of preparations. We went to Snung, one of the parishes of Fr Carlos, director of the Tep Im Centre, with three Tep Im students in charge of putting on activities on Sunday mornings for primary school children in the vicinity. The children, almost all Buddhist, duly returned for Mass in the afternoon before being taken home in his truck by Fr Carlos. As he dropped each one off, he told us about their situation. How one of the parents had died, or was alcoholic, or the parents were in Thailand to earn money while the children were left in the care of grandparents, often too old and poor to look after them. To listen to this drip drip series of



Pictured above are Marie-Madeleine and Michael Kenning at the wedding of Sreymich and Bunra in Chomnaom with former Tep Im students.

awful stories about children we had just spent time with was crushing.

There would be many sad episodes like this. We are unlikely to forget the lines of empty tuk-tuks in Siem Reap or the sellers in the normally busy market waiting for a tourist to pass by.

Yet if you ask us to summarize our visit with one word, we would say: Joy. Joy at meeting up again. The joy of all those participating in the Christmas celebrations, not just the Masses but also parties and shows, where each performed

to the best of their abilities with a broad smile on their face. Joy at being present at the wedding of Sreymich and Bunra and then catching up with dozens of former Tep Im students who had come to Chomnaom for the occasion. Now in their 30s they had become teachers, accountants, IT specialists or worked for the Church – positions they couldn't have obtained without the help of the Tep Im Centre, coming, as most of them did, from poor farming backgrounds.

We have come back enriched, enthused. For more details visit: www.st-mary.org.uk/cambodia-kennings-2022

Margaret Beaufort Institute's Calendar
Pearl (30th) Anniversary Calendar of Events

- SATURDAY, 11TH AND 18TH OF MARCH, 10 AM**
 - 11th of March: Silent Retreat Day at MBIT facilities.
 - 18th of March: Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Pope Francis' Election as part of the MBIT'S 30th Anniversary.
- THURSDAY, 27TH APRIL, 5 PM (TBC)**
 - Announcement of 1st, 2nd & 3rd prize essays with an award of prizes. Essay competition title: Women's Rights are Human Rights.
- TUESDAY, 23RD MAY, 2 PM**
 - Talk by historian, Nicola Tallis, on her research into the life of Lady Margaret Beaufort followed by book signing. Venue tbc.
- SATURDAY, 10TH JUNE, 10 AM TO 4 PM**
 - Open day at MBIT 10.00 - 4.00. Farewell to 12 Grange Road.
 - Adoration in the morning. Final Mass at MBIT 12.00 pm.
 - Concert at Fitzwilliam College. at 03:00 pm.
- SATURDAY, 5TH AUGUST, TIME TBC**
 - Walking Tour of Medieval Norwich culminating in a visit to Julian's Shrine. Led by Sr Ann Swales, OP.
- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD, TIME TBC**
 - Date tbc. Talk on Giotto's Florence, Assisi & Padua by Dr Donald Cooper. Venue tbc.
 - Participation in the annual Cambridge Alumni Festival for alumnae with membership of both MBIT and a Cambridge college. Garden at Blackfriars Priory.
- OCTOBER, DATE TBC**
 - Talzi evening with instrumental accompaniment. Venue tbc.
- WEDNESDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER, 5 PM**
 - Thirty Years of Interfaith Dialogue among the Abrahamic Faiths: A Panel Discussion by Dr Edward Kessler, MBE (Woolf Institute), Dr Michael Barnes, SJ (MBIT) & Dr Tim Winter (Cambridge Muslim College). Sponsored by the Tablet. Venue Faculty of Divinity.
 - Anniversary Mass for the Margaret Beaufort Institute. Venue tbc.
- DECEMBER, DATE TBC**
 - Pearl Anniversary Lecture by key speaker to be held at the Faculty of Divinity (tbc). Gala Buffet. Venue tbc. The year's celebrations to end with Compline. Venue tbc.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF POPE FRANCIS' ELECTION
AS PART OF THE MARGARET BEAUFORT INSTITUTE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY 18 MARCH
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

LED BY DR PETER COUGHLAN AND DR ANNA ABRAM

AT MARGARET BEAUFORT INSTITUTE'S FACILITIES
12 GRANGE RD,
CAMBRIDGE CB3 9DU

FREE EVENT

A Pearl of Great Price
Silent Retreat Day
Led by Dr Sue Price & the Pastoral Outreach Team

Saturday, 11th March
From 10.30 am to 3.30 pm

Open to men and women
Cost: £15 which includes tea and coffee

Online course
Women as Icons and Subversive Habits
With Dr. Pavlína Marie Kašparová

Tuesday
25th April to 13th June 2023
17:30 - 19:00

Cost: £ 200

*For women only
*Members of Religious Orders receive a 30% discount
Find more info of all MBIT events at www.mbit.cam.ac.uk or write to info@mbit.cam.ac.uk

Picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese

■ On the Feast of Our Lady Lourdes, Bishop Peter Collins celebrated a Mass at St John's Cathedral with the anointing of the sick.

Fr Alan Hodgson, the Dean of the Cathedral, and other priests joined the Bishop for the annual event, which this year took place on February 11. Daniel Justin led a range of music, and there were refreshments afterwards in the Cathedral Narthex.

In his homily, Bishop Peter spoke of life as a feast to be savoured. This did not mean, he said, that it could be defined as the pursuit of self-indulgence, nor a journey that could be miraculously free of obstacles.

On this Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, he prayed for insight to understand the true nature of human life, including suffering.

He expounded the idea of "God's cascading grace" in the reading from Isaiah, a river that consoles "on days when all seems well, and on days when despair threatens". He contrasted the "sweet taste of fulfilment" which comes from this with "the stone jars of false expectation" which could never be filled.

While recognising that earthly life will always hold pain and loss, he said that we are duty bound to strive for healing. In doing so we had to rely on the cascade of abundant grace, for "without Christ we will run out of wine".

He encouraged his listeners to hunger only for what is authentic. "Dig down into the earth until you find the cascade of water," he urged, "into the soul until you find the flow of grace, into the pain until you find the healing balm."

"We must discover," he concluded, "that now is the time to taste and see that life is a feast to be savoured. Now is the time for healing. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy is His name."

Pictured right is Bishop Peter Collins anointing the sick at St John's Cathedral. You can see a picture gallery of the Mass by visiting: flic.kr/s/aHBqjAs297



■ The Knights of St Columba have announced the winners of their Christmas painting and photo competitions.

In the Lowestoft Council the Junior KS2 competition for crib photos was won by Jasper Brooks aged 10 (family entry) from the parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea. In second place was Amelia Brooks aged 9 (family entry) from the same parish.

In the Mary photos section first prize went to Amelia Brooks, and second prize to Jasper Brooks.

In the secondary KS 3 competition of the crib scene, first prize went to Paolo Anderson aged 13 (family entry) from Our Lady Star of the Sea and second prize to Noela da Costa age 12 from the same parish.

For the Mary scene first prize went to Noela da Costa and second prize to Paolo Anderson.

Entrants coming first and second in the council 518 round also came first and second in the East Anglia Province 27 round. Those coming first had their entries sent up to Head Office for national adjudication.

There was one extra winner at Province in the Junior Crib scene competition: which went to Vera aged 9 from year 5 of St. Augustine's School, Norwich.

Norwich Council 976 Photo Competition results were: St Augustine's Catholic Primary School – first Vera, second Persephone – aged 10, third India – aged 10.

In the main painting competition of a scene and biblical verse the Key Stage 1 first prize went to Emmanuel Subash aged 6 from St Augustine's Catholic Primary School and in Key Stage 2 the first prize went to Juniper Timberlake aged 10 from St Edmund's Catholic Primary School in Bungay.

In King's Lynn Council 319 Key Stage 1 first prize went to Sonia Sempolowicz aged 6 and in Key Stage 2 to Adrianna Lee aged 11.

In Norwich Council 976, the prize for Key Stage 1 went to Emmanuel Subash aged 6 and in Key Stage 2 to Belle Creasy aged eight.

Pictured above left is the crib scene by Paolo Anderson, aged 13, below left, the crib paintings by Emmanuel Subash aged 6 and, below, by Juniper Timberlake age 10.

