



New Rector for Walsingham National Shrine is named – page 5



Joy for East Anglia pilgrims at World Youth Day – page 8



Momentous first year for new Catholic school – page 12



Pictured, from the left, Fr Bienn Carlo Manuntag, Bishop Peter, Fr Mark Ashwood. See more pictures at: www.flickr.com/photos/diocesefeastanglia/

Double ordination day for East Anglia

Seminarians Dcn Mark Ashwood and Dcn Bienn Carlo Manuntag were ordained as priests on a joyous day at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich, on Saturday July 8, presided over by Bishop Peter Collins, with over 600 in attendance. Joshua Clovis reports.

■ The solemn and joyous ordination Mass was presided over by Bishop Peter, with Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes among the 600 attendees that included 80 priests. Canon John O’Leary, Rector of Allen Hall Seminary, was also in attendance and presented the two candidates to Bishop Peter.

Fr Mark Ashwood, originally from Northern Ireland, moved to Norwich for

his PhD. A Catholic convert and former occupational therapist, Fr Mark spent six years studying at Allen Hall in Westminster. His parish is Our Lady and St Walstan in Costessey, near Norwich. Fr Mark has now been appointed as Assistant Priest in St Edmund’s, Bury St Edmunds.

Fr Bienn Carlo Manuntag comes from St Philip Howard Parish in Cambridge, with his family originally from the Philippines. Fr Bienn Carlo spent six years studying at St Mary’s College, Oscott in Birmingham and has now been appointed as Assistant Priest in St Luke’s, Peterborough.

During the ordination, Bishop Peter delivered a moving homily: “Listen to the voice of St Paul in his first letter to Timothy – take great care – be an example to all the believers in the way you speak and behave – be exemplary in faith, love and purity,” he said. “Be united with me, your bishop, and with my successors. Forge worthy and endur-

ing bonds of fraternity with your brother priests. Encourage potential vocations to the priesthood in the hearts of the young. Encourage and support my college of deacons. Bring encouragement and support to the men and women who have consecrated themselves in religious life, share in their joys and sorrows. Be humble servants of God’s holy people, fostering the integrity of faith and the harmony of ecclesial communion through the exercise of a genuine spirit of respect for each and every human person.”

“When you embraced ordination as deacons, you committed yourselves to perfect and perpetual continence for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven. You know full well that you are called to live your vocation within an environment that is challenging,” Bishop Peter added.

“But with full maturity, listen once more to the words of the council decree – let priests remember, that in carrying

■ Continued on page two.

Iraq challenges highlighted by cardinal in visit

■ Cardinal Louis Raphael Sako, Patriarch of the Chaldean Church, highlighted the urgent need for the solidarity of Western Christians towards Eastern Christians during a recent visit to Walsingham, hosted by Bishop Peter Collins, reports John Adam Fox.

Cardinal Sako made a private pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday June 17, as part of the Patriarch’s official visit to the UK at the invitation of the British Government, organised by Catholic charity, Fellowship and Aid to the Christians of the East (FACE).

The Patriarch was accompanied in Walsingham by Bishop Basil Yaldo, Curial Bishop of Bagdad, Father Andrawis Toma, Head of the Chaldean Mission in the UK, and John Adam Fox, Chairman of the Catholic Charity, FACE.

The Patriarch’s pilgrimage began with a private Mass in the Chaldean rite at the Chapel in Dowry House where His Beatitude and entourage of Iraqi priests were heard singing heartily and joyfully in Aramaic – the language of Jesus.

After breakfast, the Iraqi party proceeded to the Anglican Shrine where they were greeted by Fr Ben Bradshaw for a guided tour. His Beatitude was then formally welcomed by Bishop Peter and acting Catholic National Shrine Rector Fr James Mary McInerney, and had a guided tour of the Orthodox chapel of St Seraphim, followed by a visit to the site of the original Holy House in the Abbey grounds, where Fr Michael Rear gave a comprehensive talk on the history of Walsingham.

After lunch the party visited the Slipper Chapel for Afternoon Prayer including a Syriac hymn to the Virgin Mary – in Aramaic.

During an in-depth interview with EWTN GB in Walsingham, the cardinal addressed the challenges faced by Christians in Iraq and their hopes for the future.



Bishop Peter Collins with Cardinal Sako in at Walsingham.



Double ordination of new priests

■ Continued from front page.

out their task, they are never alone, but are supported by the almighty power of God. Believing in Christ who has called them to share in His priesthood, let them devote themselves to their office with all trust, knowing that God is powerful to increase charity in them. Let them remember too that they have their brothers in the priesthood, and indeed the faithful of the entire world, as allies."

"The pathways that have brought you to this day, to this moment, are amazing. I thank your parents, your families, your friends, your various colleagues and communities, all those who have played a significant part in moulding you. Under the canopy of God's grace, with the support of a great cohort, you have learned how to cultivate your many gifts. You have willingly and generously crafted lives that have already cultivated an abundance of fruit. Through your ordination to the sacred priesthood, the Lord God is preparing you to enter new landscapes. The Lord God will provide you with seed for the sowing – be eager to plant, to nurture," Bishop Peter concluded.

With these words echoing through the cathedral, Fr Mark and Fr Bienn Carlo took their vows, therewith embarking on their journey of priesthood.

The ordination was followed by pictures and a shared lunch in the enclosed Cathedral gardens.

Catholic EastAnglia

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

EDITOR: Keith Morris
tel: 07712 787762
Pear Tree Farmhouse,
Wymondham Road,
Wreningham, Norwich,
NR16 1AT.
keith.morris@rcdea.org.uk



Articles and photographs for the next edition are very welcome and should be sent to the editor, ideally via email, by Thursday, September 7.

Diocese website: www.rcdea.org.uk

Advertising: Contact Nick at Cathcom on tel 01440 730399 or email him at nick@cathcom.org

Publisher: Cathcom Ltd, 01440 730399
Inclusion of adverts is the responsibility of Cathcom and does not imply endorsement by the Diocese of East Anglia.

700 gather for SVP pilgrimage

■ Around 700 Vincentians convened at Walsingham, for the National Pilgrimage for the Sick, led by Bishop Peter Collins, who highlighted the valuable services of SVP members and the need to involve younger generations. Jackie Roberts reports.

On Sunday July 2, Vincentians from many parts of the country joined together in prayer to participate in the National Pilgrimage for the Sick at Walsingham in Norfolk. Bishop Peter officiated this event, his first SVP pilgrimage since becoming the Bishop of East Anglia last year.

The day began with everyone enjoying their own picnic lunches under the wide-open skies of Norfolk, adorned by white, fluffy clouds. A cool breeze was present, preventing us from getting too hot, and fortunately, there was no rain.

Bishop Peter co-celebrated Mass at 1.30pm, with several other priests. After a short break, many people were anointed with the Sacrament of the Sick. The day concluded with Benediction at 4pm. A wonderful atmosphere of friendship and love, always present when Vincentians gather, filled the air.

In his homily, Bishop Peter acknowledged the immense service that SVP members provide to the community. With heartfelt dedication, these members address the cares and worries of many, often dedicating a lifetime to service. He noted that most of



the members were no longer young and emphasized the need to attract younger people. He affirmed that SVP members were indeed true servants of the Lord.

The SVP Pilgrimage always takes place on the first Sunday of July. So, next year it will be on July 7. Consider marking this date in your diary.

SVP members of St Mary's Conference in King's Lynn, together with brothers and sisters in the newly-formed Wash Confer-

ence in Dersingham, joined the pilgrimage, said Pauline McSherry: "A day of prayers, friendship and many helping hands was truly memorable. As the years creep on help is greatly valued.

"Thank you to all who were by my side in my nonagenarian year. Bishop Peter spoke warmly of the work of SVP, an ageing community and still ready to serve. He encouraged the younger generation to step forward and serve those in need."

Appointments of East Anglia clergy announced

Bishop Peter Collins has announced a series of clergy appointments and retirements across the Diocese of East Anglia.

■ **Appointment of Vicar General:** Canon David Bagstaff has been permanently appointed as Vicar General of the Diocese. Bishop Peter said: "Canon David has contributed so much to the life and ministry of the Diocese over many years and he has been invaluable to me since my appointment in December. His wisdom and experience will continue to assist the ongoing development of our Diocesan family. I thank him for his willing generosity in accepting the appointment."

■ **Appointment of Episcopal Vicar for Clergy Welfare:** Fr David Finegan has been appointed as Episcopal Vicar for Clergy Welfare. Bishop Peter said: "Fr David will assist the Vicar General and me in all matters regarding clergy welfare – those in active ministry and those in retirement. Fr David brings many talents to this task and I know that he will have your support as he undertakes his new responsibilities. I thank him for his willing generosity in accepting the appointment."

■ **Appointment of Vicar for Religious:** Fr Karol Porczak MS will continue his service as Vicar for Religious. Bishop Peter said: "I thank him for his willing generosity in

accepting the appointment."

■ Priest Retirements:

Mgr Anthony Rogers will retire as parish priest of Aldeburgh with Leiston in September and will take up residence in Newmarket. Bishop Peter said: "On behalf of the Diocese I wish to express the deepest gratitude for all that Fr Tony has contributed during his long and fruitful ministry. We are all aware of the many roles and responsibilities he has undertaken over the years. We give him the assurance of our prayers as he prepares to embrace his retirement, though we can be sure he will be appearing in all sorts of places in the days ahead."

Fr Michael Vulliamy will retire as parish priest of Whittlesey and Ramsay in September and will take up residence in the locality. Bishop Peter said: "On behalf of the Diocese I wish to express my thanks for Fr Michael's priestly ministry which has been exercised with great sincerity and compassion. We give him the assurance of our prayers as he prepares to embrace his retirement."

■ Clergy Appointments:

The following appointments will be operative from Monday September 18.

Canon David Bagstaff has been appointed as Parish Priest of Our Lady and St Peter, Aldeburgh.

Fr Sean Connolly has been appointed as Parish Priest of St Edmund's, Bury St Edmunds.

Fr Walter Chenyika has been appointed as Priest in Charge of St George's, Norwich.

Fr Andrews Arakkal Joseph has been appointed as Priest in Charge of St Jude the Apostle, Whittlesey.

Fr Peter Wygnanski has been appointed as Personal Secretary to Bishop Peter. Fr Peter will also assume the role of Chaplain to the University of East Anglia.

The newly-ordained **Fr Mark Ashwood** has been appointed as Assistant Priest in St Edmund's, Bury St Edmunds.

The newly-ordained **Fr Bienn Carlo Manuntag** has been appointed as Assistant Priest in St Luke's, Peterborough.

Canon Mathew George will take up residence in Sacred Heart and St Oswald, Peterborough.

Fr Andrew Eburne will continue as Priest in Charge of Our Lady of the Annunciation, Poringland. Bishop Peter said: "Fr Andrew was only able to undertake a limited seminary formation before his ordination as a priest. He will undertake part-time postgraduate study via the University of Durham over the next two years.

He will no longer serve as Chaplain to the University of East Anglia nor as the Director of the Diaconate so as to allow for his research. I am immensely grateful to Fr Andrew for his ministry as Chaplain to the University over many years."

In order to allow **Fr Luke Goymour** to concentrate upon his parish responsibilities at St Mark's, Ipswich, he will no longer undertake the task of being Chaplain to the Diocesan Youth Service. Bishop Peter said: "I take this opportunity of thanking Fr Luke for his great service to the youth ministry of the Diocese over many years."

Operations director Paul is ordained as a deacon

On July 29, Paul Raynes was ordained to the diaconate at The Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich, by Bishop Peter Collins, in a Mass attended by family, friends and clergy. Joshua Clovis reports.

■ Paul Raynes, Director of Operations and Finance for the Diocese of East Anglia, was ordained to the permanent diaconate by Bishop Peter Collins in a solemn Mass at the Cathedral, attended by clergy, including Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes, priests and deacons from various locations.

Family and friends, including staff and fellow-governors from St Edmund's College, Ware, and the National Shrine at Walsingham also gathered to witness this significant event in Dcn Paul's life.

Bishop Peter delivered the homily during the Mass, he said: "You are a most generous man, a generous husband, and a generous father. You are part of a most generous family. Your son Francis, your daughters Audrey, Elizabeth, and Catherine and your beloved wife Sarah. On behalf of the Church, I thank you, Sarah, for your willing generosity in supporting Paul in his embrace of the diaconate.

"Paul, as a son, as a husband, as a father, you have been enveloped by love and explored its territories. Yet another period of exploration awaits you in your future ministry as a deacon. As a deacon, you are to be an icon of love, of charity. The love made manifest in service to the Gospel, the love made manifest as the most glorious expression and encapsulation of the Gospel.

"You were nurtured in the faith from infancy and onward through your childhood. There is ample evidence to demonstrate that your faith became deeply rooted through your teenage years. The magnificent influence of the Salesian charism is imprinted upon your soul. You creatively embraced the opportunities provided by your education pathway, sustained by the Salesians who are represented here today.

"Your professional journey has taken



Bishop Peter ordains Paul Raynes as a permanent deacon and, below, with his family and Bishop Alan and Bishop Peter. A full picture gallery can be seen at: www.flickr.com/photos/diocesefeastanglia/

you into the civil service, including the diplomatic service. You became a journalist for a time before taking up a sequence of senior posts in various national agencies and local government. Last year, you were appointed as Operations and Finance Director within our diocese.

"As a deacon, you are charged with the duty of providing a beacon of hope for those around you. You are called to become a minister of the word, a minister of the altar, and an icon of charity for all to behold.

"As a deacon, by word and deed, bring hope to all your brothers and sisters. Do so in communion with all of the baptized. Do so in communion with your brother deacons, the College of Deacons. Do so in communion with the presbyterium. Do so in communion with your bishop.

"Your illustrious Parish Priest, Fr David Finegan, often tells you that you are his deacon within the fair boundaries of St Etheldreda in Ely.

"Tell him from me that you are, in fact, my deacon. Sarah, you can tell Fr David, and you can tell me, that Paul is first and foremost your husband and father to your children.

"Hear well the words that will be spoken when I present you with the book of the Gospels: 'Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach.' Amen."

Following the Mass, the community celebrated together with a shared buffet in the Cathedral gardens, reflecting the joyful spirit of the day.



news in brief

Caritas festivals set for across East Anglia

■ A series of Caritas festivals across the Diocese of East Anglia, starting this November, has been announced by Bishop Peter Collins as a celebration of love and concern for our neighbour in action.

Caritas East Anglia is set to host a series of Caritas Festivals across various deaneries in the diocese. These events are aimed at encouraging and amplifying the social outreach efforts of the Catholic community. The first one in the Cambridge deanery will be held at St Laurence's, Cambridge, on November 4, 2023. Dates in 2024 for the other deaneries will be announced later this year.

Bishop Peter explained the purpose of these festivals: "At the end of every Mass we are reminded of the Gospel call to love God and our neighbour. In every deanery in the diocese over the next two years, I have asked that we celebrate the ways through which the Catholic community puts faith into action via Caritas and other outreach organisations (eg, foodbanks). I hope that at each of these Caritas Festivals, we will all be encouraged to participate in some of the wide variety of our local social action and outreach activities. Also, it will be an important opportunity to learn about what is done elsewhere and start locally new activities that will accompany the needs of our neighbours."

Each festival will feature presentations from representatives of various groups, providing an overview of their social action activities. In addition, the events will also host talks by leaders of established social action projects, presenting a platform to exchange ideas and share experiences.

The structure of the festival day will begin with Mass and conclude with a prayer service. Visitors are welcome to join at any time during the day in this informal and enlightening event. Refreshments, such as coffee, tea, and biscuits, will be served throughout the festival.

Caritas East Anglia, the organiser of these festivals, is a member of the Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN), the social action arm of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. This initiative aligns with their ongoing mission to support and coordinate social outreach in the diocese.

Through the Caritas Festivals, Caritas East Anglia aims to create a platform for fostering understanding, engagement, and inspiration among the Catholic community in their pursuit of social action. The initiative stands as an embodiment of Bishop Peter's call for active faith that seeks to meet the needs of our neighbours.

Three bishops

■ Bishop Peter Collins attended his first-ever Royal Norfolk Show in late June and joined two other bishops at the show's outdoor thanksgiving service. Joining him were the Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Rev Graham Usher and the Bishop of Lynn, the Rt Rev Dr Jane Steen.

Read the latest Diocese
of East Anglia news at
www.rcdea.org.uk

Our Lady of Fidelity



The church needs religious sisters URGENTLY to bring Christ to others by a life of prayer and service lived in the community of Ignation spirituality. Daily Mass is the centre of community life. By wearing the religious habit we are witnesses of the consecrated way of life. If you are willing to risk a little love and would like to find out how, contact Sister Bernadette. Mature vocations considered. **CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF FIDELITY**

1 Our Lady's Close, Upper Norwood,
London SE19 3FA Telephone 07760 297001

Ferrars Hall Care Home

Ferrars Hall Care Home in Huntingdon provides the highest standards of family-led residential & dementia care. Our home is luxurious & beautifully furnished, whilst retaining a warm family atmosphere that makes Ferrars Hall feel extra special.

For more information please contact
Chloe Kenna on 07849 830 520 or email
chloe.kenna@countrycourtcare.com

www.countrycourtcare.com



The Leaven Carmelite Secular Institute CALLING

Single and widowed women Seeking to
dedicate their life to God

Through vows in secular society

Contact: The President, The Leaven,
c/o The Friars, Aylesford ME20 7BX

Email: theleaven@gmail.com
Website: www.theleaven.org.uk



Care & Support in the
comfort of your own Home.
Days, Nights, Respite at
Home & Live-in care

01603 407976
www.nrcare.co.uk

Have a more abundant life

Are you
living or
just exist-
ing, asks
Fr Alvan
Ibeh in the
second
part of his
latest
Voice of
Hope
series.



■ In the July edition, we reminded ourselves that God created us to do more than exist. He wants us to start indeed living life and living it more abundantly: "I have come that you may have life and that you may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

He has blessed each one of us with both physical and spiritual blessings: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). The worst thing that can happen to us as Christians is for us to believe that we have nothing to offer to the body of Christ, which is the Church.

Who is the Church? It is not just the building; it is you and me. If the body of Christ is the Church, and we are the Church, it means that each of us is an integral part of this body,

and Christ is the head of this body. "And he is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he might have the pre-eminence." (Romans 12:5). Now you can see how important you are in the Church of Christ. Each of us is a significant part of the Body of Christ, the Church, though our importance flows from Him, who is the head because the body can't survive without the head. Have you ever seen a headless body walking on the street before? You will run for your life if you see one. This calls for humility, knowing that every good gift comes from the Lord and that, cut off from Him, we can do nothing (John 15:5).

So the question again is, "How am I committed to using these gifts God has given me, not just for my good but for the common good of the body of Christ? Apart from just going to Mass on Sundays for a few hours, do I also dedicate some time each day of the week to do God's work as an important part of the body of Christ? How do I use the time, talent, and treasure that God has blessed me with? Do you know that making time every day to pray for people in the hospital — people in great need — can be a great commitment on your part as a Christian? Are we just comfortable existing as Christians without any commitment?"

God says in Isaiah 49:6: "It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of

the earth".

God is saying to us, "It is not just enough to profess to be a Christian, going to Mass every Sunday, but not wanting to be involved in any other thing that has to do with the body of Christ. There is no doubt that we live in a very busy world and are often distracted by many things, making it difficult to commit ourselves to the things of God. But the fact remains that every committed Christian, no matter how busy they are, places God first above all else: "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need" (Matthew 6:33). This is what it means to live and not just exist.

Commit to start using whatever God has given you to the glory of his name. Commit your time, talent, and treasure to build up the body of Christ. This is not meant for just a few; we are all called into it. The body suffers when you are not committed to playing your part. Refrain from allowing anyone to give you the impression that you have nothing to offer.

God has blessed you with many things, and He doesn't want you to leave this world without making any impact. The earth should feel your impact, not just your existence.

There is a purpose for which you were brought into this world. You must discover what it is and start making your presence felt to the glory of God. Don't just exist, my dear friend; you must begin Living. May God give us all the grace and strength to start living a more committed life as children of God. Shalom.

Anthony ordained a deacon

East Anglian seminarian
Anthony Asomugha was
among five students ordained
to the Sacred Order of the
Diaconate at the Chapel at St
Mary's College, Oscott on July
2.

■ Archbishop Bernard Longley was the Principal Celebrant and he was joined by the resident priests and seminarians along with many visiting priests, family, and friends of the candidates.

Bishop Peter Collins said: "We rejoice that Anthony was ordained as a Deacon by Archbishop Bernard. He has now completed his seminary formation and has graduated with high honours. Please keep him in your prayers as he prepares for parish ministry in anticipation of his ordination to the priesthood next year.

Dcn Anthony said: "I am very happy having been ordained to the diaconate. The ceremony was very moving and at various times I had to remind myself that it was all happening in reality. It was indeed the day which the Lord had made.

"I was struck by the words from Matthew's Gospel where Jesus says that whoever preferred father or mother to Him was not worthy of Him. Archbishop Bernard called me a "Herald of the Gospel" — perhaps I should add the suffix HG to my name!

"I was very moved by rites of vesting where the newly ordained deacon receives the stole and dalmatic. For the rest of the Mass, I assisted the archbishop at the Altar and for the first time gave the liturgical invitations to "offer each other



Anthony Asomugha during
his diaconate ordination.

the sign of peace" and to "go in peace".

"I am very grateful to the many priests, parishioners, friends, and family members who supported me, and who affirmed my sense of vocation through the ups and downs of formation. May God bless them abundantly. I am grateful to Bishop Peter for his encouragement and confidence in me. He has asked me to serve at St George's, Sprowston where I have been based since 2020.

"I became part of the Church in East

Anglia through my undergraduate studies at UEA, and now, with the diaconal ordination, I have joined the brotherhood of diocesan clergy. I feel a sense of happiness and fulfilment which I think comes from being dedicated to God in this special way. And I know that through His grace, I will be a sign of Christ serving His people in East Anglia. I ask for your prayers as I serve as deacon in Norwich in preparation for priestly ordination sometime in the future."

Farewell to Acting Rector at national shrine

Three bishops helped to say farewell to the Acting Rector of the Walsingham Catholic National Shrine, Fr James Mary McInerney, at a celebration which coincided with the national grandparents and the elderly pilgrimage.

■ On July 24, a farewell Mass was held for Fr James Mary at the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham. The event was presided over by Bishop Peter Collins, Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes and Bishop David Oakley of the Northampton Diocese. Also in attendance was Rev Kevin Smith, Administrator of the Anglican Shrine, and Friars Fr Colin Mary and Fr Gerard Mary, alongside other clergy who serve at the Shrine. The celebration also coincided with the national grandparents and the elderly pilgrimage.

Fr James Mary had been serving as the acting Rector at the National Shrine following the departure of Mgr Philip Moger, who assumed his new ministry as an Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Southwark. In his address at the conclusion of the Mass, Bishop Peter acknowledged the service of Fr James Mary.

Bishop Peter said: "This day marks our opportunity to give thanks for the work and ministry of Fr James, our acting Rector.

"We were blessed with the generosity of Fr James Mary, in being willing to accept the invitation offered by Bishop Alan and



From the left, Bishop Peter Collins, Fr James Mary McInerney and Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes.

myself, to assume the role of acting Rector until the appointment of a permanent priest to the role of Rector, which, of course, you will now be aware has taken place.

"Fr Robert Billing, from the Diocese of Lancaster, will be joining us in September. He paid a visit to the Shrine this past week and had two very fruitful days, speaking not only to Fr James Mary, but to the other

priests who serve the Shrine, and to the officers and all the staff.

"It is a day of sadness, for the departure of Fr James Mary marks the departure, finally, of our recent imprint from the Friar's convent. Fr James Mary is joined today by two of his confreres who have served at the Shrine. Bishop Alan and myself went in search of the possibility, with the Minister

General of the Order, that they might continue, but it has not been possible.

"We give thanks for the past six years of service the Friars have given to this wonderful place of sanctuary. Fr James Mary has brought many gifts to bear; the sincerity of his faith is nourished by his humility, natural and supernatural. He is a man who has cooperated with grace in so many ways.

"His pastoral ministry is characterized by his gentleness, and we give thanks for all the fruit that has flowed from his service in our midst. We wish him well now on his journey back to the Emerald Isle. He himself would long to be here still in the days ahead, but he is a man under obedience and he goes wherever his superiors send him. We know that he will forever remain sheltered under the mantle of Our Lady of Walsingham.

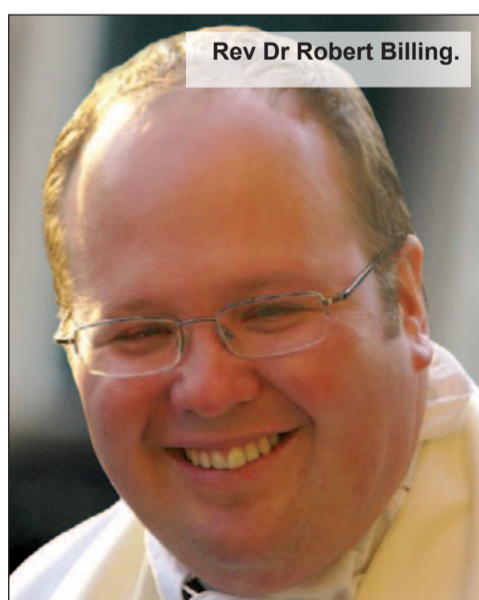
"Fr James Mary, on behalf of everyone present, on behalf of all those associated

with the Shrine, on behalf of all the pilgrims you have served, a sincere thank you, and we entrust you confidently to God's grace and mercy."

Following the end of the Mass, a shared buffet and farewell cake were served to mark the departure of Fr James Mary.

New Rector for Walsingham

The Rev Dr Robert Billing has been appointed the new Rector of the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham in Norfolk. He will serve for a five-year term and will take up his new responsibilities from September 1. Keith Morris reports.



Rev Dr Robert Billing.

■ Fr Robert is a priest of the Diocese of Lancaster and served as Bishop's Secretary to three successive bishops over a period of 13 years. He is currently parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, Carnforth, some seven miles north of Lancaster.

As Rector, Fr Robert will oversee the mission of the Catholic National Shrine and will be responsible for the pastoral and spiritual care of pilgrims, the Shrine chaplains and visiting clergy. The Rector also promotes the message and work of the Shrine nationally and internationally.

As Bishop of East Anglia, it was the Rt Rev Peter Collins' responsibility to appoint a new Rector for the Marian Shrine: "I am immensely grateful to Bishop Paul Swarbrick of Lancaster for his generosity in releasing Fr Robert for

this important role.

"Fr Robert brings with him a wealth of talent and experience that will stimulate our vision of the future. His spiritual, pastoral and administrative abilities will undoubtedly bear abundant fruit within the national and international mission of Walsingham.

"I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Fr James Mary OFM Conv for his contribution over recent months as Acting Rector at the Shrine. As we look forward to welcoming Fr Robert let us be united

and committed in praying for him in the weeks ahead. Our Lady of Walsingham – Pray for us."

Fr Robert expressed his surprise and joy at his appointment: "My appointment to serve as the new Rector of the Catholic National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady at Walsingham comes as a big surprise. Of course, it is also a huge joy and honour.

"Only a year ago, I was appointed, after a number of years in diocesan administration, school chaplaincy, and, more recently, engaged in canon law studies, to pastor three small parishes north of Lancaster, each under the patronage of Our Blessed Lady. I had never expected my time in these parishes to be so short, though in this year I have learnt much and received so much encouragement. Now, I take the faithful of these parishes with me in prayer to the heart of Our Lady's Dowry, to Walsingham.

"As I take up this further service to the Church, this time nationally, I venture, first, as a pilgrim, eager to learn and to serve closely with those who dedicate themselves to make Walsingham 'England's Nazareth' today. I hope to share and confirm that commitment.

The Bishop of Lancaster, the Rt Rev Paul Swarbrick, welcomed the news: "It is an honour for the Diocese of Lancaster for one of our priests to be chosen as Rec-

tor for the Catholic National Shrine to Our Blessed Lady at Walsingham. I am delighted that Fr Billing has accepted this appointment.

"When I was first asked to release him, I must confess that I said 'no' because I believed the need of the Diocese could not spare him. Further reflection followed and I sensed that this request was actually coming from Our Blessed Lady, and I decided that I did not want to get on the wrong side of her!

"I have every confidence, given Fr Billing's considerable talents and experience, that he is a good choice for this significant position in the national church. The work of the Shrine will be safe in his care. Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us."

Bishop Alan Hopes, Chair of the Walsingham Trust and Bishop Emeritus of East Anglia, said: "I am delighted that Fr Robert has been appointed as the new Rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham. With his undoubted spiritual and pastoral gifts, Fr Robert will bring renewal and fresh vision to the mission and work of the Shrine, promoting its message, both nationally and further afield.

"We entrust him to the prayers of Our Lady of Walsingham as he prepares to take up this important task."

www.walsingham.org.uk

Special Mass for altar servers at cathedral



Pictured is Bishop Peter Collins with the altar servers. A full picture gallery can be seen at: www.flickr.com/photos/dioceseofeastanglia/

Bishop Peter Collins celebrated a special Mass on Saturday July 22, with Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes present, honouring the crucial service of about 50 altar servers who were in attendance. Joshua Clovis reports.

■ During the Mass, Bishop Peter delivered a powerful homily to the altar servers, acknowledging their crucial role in their service and expressing his gratitude:

“It is a great joy for me to celebrate Mass with you, servants of the sanctuary of the

Lord. You have come a distance today, rejoicing that school has finished, the holidays begun. May I first thank you for your great service, your generosity of heart, to step forward, to answer a call that may have been delivered to you by your parish priest.

“As a very young boy, I played ‘church’. Especially on Mondays. Why? Because my mother was washing on a Monday, and it was the day when the large towels were available for use. I would sometimes see a tear in the towel, and I would try to expand the tear so that I could use the towel as a chasuble. I could put my head through it and pretend then that I was a priest.

“Serving at the sanctuary is not play, it is a most serious undertaking, is it not? It is a great honour and a great privilege to stand upon the sanctuary, to serve at the altar of the Lord. Everyone who comes to Mass is not invited there to be mere spectators, everyone who comes to Mass is a participant within the gathered people of God.

“You, as servants of the sanctuary, are charged with the duty of helping the deacon, priest and bishop in the practicalities of the celebration. But more than that, by your example, the example of your own faith, your own witness, you are meant to assist all those others who are gathered with us.

“I thank you for what you offer in service to your parishes, but above all in service to the Lord Himself. You are demonstrating an enthusiasm to participate, to celebrate, to be of service. Be aware that all that you do is a service to the Risen Lord, who is in our midst.

“May your service at the altar continue to benefit you in terms of deepening your own faith. May your service of the altar be a true service to all those who come in worship. Help them to find the Lord who is in our midst. Amen.”

Following the conclusion of the Mass, the attendees shared in a communal barbeque in the Cathedral Narthex hall.

Be part of our global network.

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 U.K. Circles 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, including meals together, barbecues, picnics, theatre visits, music and sporting events.

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

Join us today and make friendships for life!

To find your local Circle please contact our provincial membership Officer Paul Thompson on p_s_thompson@hotmail.com

 [thecateniansuk](https://www.instagram.com/thecateniansuk)
 [thecateniansuk](https://twitter.com/thecateniansuk)
 [TheCatenianAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/TheCatenianAssociation)
 membership@thecatenians.com

Scan to visit our website:



Bishop's eumenical honour

■ Bishop Peter Collins has been appointed an Ecumenical Canon at Ely Cathedral, in a first for the cathedral, which also held a Bible story-telling event in July through the Bible Society.

On Sunday June 25, at a Festal Evensong, Ely Cathedral installed Rev Dr Robert Mackley (pictured right on the left) as Honorary Canon of Ely Cathedral and Bishop Peter Collins (right) as Ecumenical Canon of Ely Cathedral. They are pictured with the Bishop of Ely, the Rt Rev Stephen Conway.

The Dean of Ely, the Very Rev Mark Bonney, said: “We have appointed Etheldreda Canons since 2011 and welcomed representatives from a number of Christian denominations. We have a Catholic layman as a canon, but it is the first time we have had the Bishop of East Anglia as an Etheldreda Canon. We are delighted that Bishop Peter accepted this role. He joins representatives of the Baptist and Methodist churches.”



SVP member is honoured

Peterborough SVP member Stephen Giblin has been honoured for 49 years of service in the parish of Sacred Heart and St Oswald.

■ On May 21, Stephen (pictured right in the blue) was given a long service certificate during a Mass at Sacred Heart by Peterborough conference president Al Perna, assisted by Fr Seelan.

Dr Matthew Karangi, Secretary Peterborough SVP conference, said: "Stephen did not make this journey alone for 49 years. Peterborough SVP conference worked as a group to put concern into action by ministering to those who were in need through visits, taking communion to those parishioners who could not attend mass, visiting the sick in hospital, befriending people who may be isolated, in need, or in prison, or just offering a helping hand to the most vulnerable members of the Peterborough society.

"For the many years Stephen worked with the conference, his commitment was always striving to strengthen the weak and ignite their faith, joyfully extending his hand in the care and personal service of individuals and families who need support. He has been a great example of how concerns of many vulnerable members of the society today can be addressed by doing small things.



"For many years Stephen ran the furniture van and soup kitchen, supported the children's camp, organised the pilgrimage to Walsingham, acted as SVP treasurer, representing the District Council, and served the parish as a Eucharistic minister, altar server and committed sacristan."

Would you like to sponsor this newspaper and help to support it?

Catholic EastAnglia

The Diocese of East Anglia is seeking a sponsor for its monthly Catholic East Anglia newspaper, which reaches 52 parishes and up to 7,000 readers each edition with the latest news and features about the local Catholic community.

Editor Keith Morris said: "Print and distribution costs associated with the well-read newspaper have been increasing and we now need to find one or two sponsors who would like to appear regularly in the paper to help us subsidise the cost.

"If you are an organisation or business which would like to reach the East Anglia Catholic community, I would be delighted to discuss details with you about how we could promote your work or services, whilst helping us continue to produce the newspaper in both print and online editions."

If you would like to discuss this opportunity, please email Keith at keith.morris@rcdea.org.uk or ring 07712 787762.



Urgent repairs make church steeple safe

■ Urgent safety measures, including a road and pavement closure, were put in place around Our Lady and the English Martyrs (OLEM) church in Cambridge in mid-July after a report revealed structural issues with the church steeple and bell tower.

In response to the potential public safety risks, a team of conservation stonemasons successfully completed surveys and removals of dangerous stones at OLEM, leading to Hills Road reopening.

A recent condition report on the steeple at the Grade 1 listed, 133-year-old church, had revealed, "stone fall, final failure, cracking and signs of failure with potential danger to the public on the pavement below".

Diocese of East Anglia Historic Churches Officer, Matthew Champion, who has been helping to sort out the issues, said: "A specialist team of con-

servation stonemasons was on-site at OLEM all weekend, using a truck hoist to survey the upper-level stonework, and then remove any stones that were considered to be a potential danger to the public. This operation was completed on Monday July 31, allowing the city council to reopen Hills Road later this afternoon.

"Potential problems with some of the stonework on the Grade I listed church were first identified in a specialist high-level access report undertaken as part of the regular series of property surveys.

"This report is the first part of a series of emergency measures being undertaken by the parish and diocese to ensure the safety of the public, while a project design is drawn up in association with local and national authorities to restore the building to its former glory."

World Youth Day attra

A 57-strong Diocese of East Anglia mostly-young pilgrim group spent almost two weeks at World Youth Day in Portugal, having a fun, joyful and faith-enriching time. Keith Morris summarises the trip.

The Diocese of East Anglia World Youth Day pilgrimage. Pictures by Keith Morris. To see a full picture gallery visit: [flickr.com/photos/dioceseofeastanglia](https://www.flickr.com/photos/dioceseofeastanglia)



■ Before leaving the UK, the group had a Sending Mass at Our Lady Immaculate and St Etheldreda in Newmarket, where Bishop Peter Collins told them: “It is the duty of the young to show enthusiasm, to be filled with vigour, physically and spiritually.

“A pilgrim does not walk alone but always in communion with the church. You have a duty to care for each other, to encourage, to protect, to pray with and for one another,” encouraging the group to support one another during the coming days.

After flying to Porto, the group started off the Days in the Diocese phase in the most northerly Portuguese diocese of Viana do Castelo where they were

assisted by local priest Fr Pablo da Lima, who is currently studying at a Cambridge college and was a genuine godsend for the whole trip.

The very first event was an international welcome at St Dominic’s church in Viana and, for communications director Keith Morris who was there to provide media coverage, it was the stand-out moment of the whole fortnight: “There was a very special Pentecost moment when over 1,000 pilgrims from the UK, Poland, Portugal and elsewhere filled every inch of the church. We all joined hands across the aisles to say the Lord’s Prayer in our own languages. It brought some, including me, to tears.”

Days of cultural visits, salt-carpet mak-

ing and traditional Portuguese dancing workshops and times of praise and prayer followed, as well as huge queues for meals.

Fr Pablo told the group of a special connection between the Diocese of Viana do Castelo and the Diocese of East Anglia. Both were founded in the 1970s, by Pope St Paul VI, a statue of whom is in the Viana cathedral.

The East Anglia group took a statue of Our Lady of Walsingham with them for the whole pilgrimage, which attracted much interest from fellow pilgrims from all over the world.

The finale was a trip to the historic Ponte de Lima where the group were welcomed by traditional drummers and a

4,000-strong flag-waving Mass inside a huge exhibition centre, followed by a rave led by a Catholic priest, Padre Guilherme, playing loud, thumping techno music, complete with stage lights, lasers and dry ice.

A final East Anglia-only Mass was held with an enclosed order of Carmelite nuns, in the Convent of St Thérèse of Lisieux in Viana. The nuns joined the Mass sitting behind a wooden grille which separates them from the outside world.

Sr Catherine Williams wrote: “We were then privileged to spend some time talking to the sisters, whose joy at speaking to us, again through a grille, was quite evident, with Fr Pablo acting as

Attracts 1.5m pilgrims



our translator. It was an amazing and unique opportunity to meet with these women who live such a radical and unique vocation. They answered a wide variety of questions and left us with much to ponder. It was a poignant meeting and one which left a deep impression on all of us."

On their way to Lisbon for the main World Youth Day events, the East Anglia group stopped off at the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. They took part in an international Mass in the 9,000-seat Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity and then had the chance to visit the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and light candles outside the Apparitions Chapel.

Some of the young people in the group

chose to walk on their knees on a path between the two basilicas on the site as an act of penance and devotion, which is a traditional part of a visit to Fatima.

Tony Thanickal explained the experience by saying: "I came as a child to Fatima and it was very nice to return as an adult, I think that the experience of walking on my knees felt like a good way to make my prayers known to God and to demonstrate my willingness to endure hardship."

Once settled into their central Lisbon hotel, the East Anglia group took part in a reconciliation session in the chapel with the Franciscan Sisters of Maria and evening prayers – Taize style.

Then it was on to the first main event,

the Opening Mass at the Parque Eduardo VII where the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon, D Manuel Clemente, celebrated Mass in Portuguese in front of 400,000 people.

Cardinal Clemente said: "The path you travelled to get here was worth the effort, and during this time you will find, in the variety of who you are and in the quality that you bring, each and everyone, from each land, language, and culture. Nothing can substitute this personal path and path together, to encounter the path of all."

The mornings in Lisbon were spent in large outdoor English-speaking Rise Up catechesis sessions. The group heard first from American Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley, currently Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Boston and a Council of

Cardinals adviser to Pope Francis.

Jess McCall wrote: "Cardinal O'Malley told us St Paul said that the 10 Commandments are written in our hearts and that to live a fully human life we need to follow them. He went on to say that being part of a worshipping Catholic community is an important part of this and that we are charged with carrying on Jesus' mission, we do this by being a witness to Him in our lives."

Later, many of the East Anglia group went to hear Christopher West of the Theology of the Body Institute talk about the Theology of the Body, based on the work of the same name by John Paul II. Beth Desborough wrote: "Christopher explained that when you look at someone you only see their body. You have to see them and see their soul and who they truly are and that's the love that you must have for people; that they are deeper and more than they appear to be."

The following day Kerry Barrett wrote: "In our second Rise Up catechesis session we heard from Archbishop Anthony Fisher, of Sydney, who taught us that we need to become great lovers and really live in communion with each other. He continued by telling us that Jesus loved with commitment, reminding us that Jesus said "as I have loved you, you must love each other".

Then it was off to the King Edward VII park again to watch the welcome for Pope Francis. A vibrant spectacle of colour, flags and sound from half-a-million pilgrims greeted the Pope, wrote Kirsten Taylor: "The highlight of the day, after waiting for a long time, was watching the open car of Pope Francis passing close by us. He was welcomed with elation by everyone. His presence did not disappoint and the happiness and friendliness could be felt everywhere. This beautiful experience will definitely stay with me forever."

Well-known American Bishop Robert Barron spoke at the final catechesis session, wrote Sr Catherine: "In the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, he delivered an inspiring talk on prayer: how God desires and chooses us. He gave us a rather unique analogy of God as a helicopter, 'who wants to land in our hearts... the only problem is the landing area is all cluttered. Prayer is clearing this landing ground'. He also reminded us that prayer is what we are made for, a conversation between friends."

An estimated 800,000 people, including Pope Francis, later witnessed a dramatic portrayal of the Way of the Cross in the Edward VII Park.

During his homily, Pope Francis said: "Jesus is the Way. In the Gospels, we most often find him on the road. He never stays put, but goes to the public squares, to the shores of the lake, to the mountains, to the temple... He has nowhere to lay his head.

"He keeps moving; he shows concern for those around him; he stops before those who suffer and yet continue to hope.

He feels compassion for the weary, and he reaches out to those in pain. He stops to listen to each person's story, and tenderly cares for all before resuming his journey. Jesus' public life is one of constant journeying; indeed, his whole life is

■ Continued on page ten.

Two amazing weeks i

■ Continued from page nine.
a journey.”

Later, some of the East Anglia group managed to get tickets to an evening concert with the likes of well-known Christian musicians Matt Maher and Israel Houghton in a Lisbon football stadium with thousands of other Christians.

An estimated 1.5 million people attended the final Mass of World Youth Day and the overnight Vigil before it with Pope Francis at the Field of Grace in Lisbon, to bring the event to a close. The East Anglia group, along with many, many others made their way by foot and metro in scorching temperatures.

Pope Francis finished his vigil homily by saying: "There is only one thing that is free, that is the love of Jesus". This was followed by a beautiful time of adoration and then a not-so-quiet night of sleeping in the field before being woken up with techno and rave music from Padre Guilherme again.

Pope Francis had left for the night but returned early the following morning for another popemobile tour of four huge fields, stretching for miles and filled with 1.5 million pilgrims.

Jess wrote: "In his final homily, the Pope gave advice on what to do once we are back home after World Youth Day, after we have come down from the mountain.

"He gave us three verbs to help us; to shine, to listen and to be unafraid. He said we should shine with the light of Christ, listen to him so that we too may become the light of the world and to be unafraid for the Lord loves us and is always at our side."

Wearied pilgrims then made their way back to the hotel, some six miles away and rested in time for a final celebration meal.

On the day of their return flight home, the East Anglia group had a final private Mass in a Lisbon convent when Bishop Peter said: "You have undoubtedly engaged in many conversations with pilgrims from other cultures and that in itself is a learning curve.

"As well as talking with others in the group, opening yourself up to questions and the search for answers, which perhaps are not easily attained. You will spend a lifetime searching for answers and we need to be exposed to the thoughts of others to help us in our great journey. I hope that you have engaged with many people from around the world at this exciting event."

Youth Services Director, Hamish MacQueen, who masterminded the East Anglia trip, said: "It was an amazing pilgrimage with an amazing group.

"From what they have said, I know that faith has been strengthened, a greater sense of vocation nurtured and knowing more of the unconditional love of God has become a reality... and that's what World Youth Day is all about."



The Diocese of East Anglia World Youth Day pilgrimage.
Pictures by Keith Morris. To see a full picture gallery visit: [flickr.com/photos/dioceseofeastanglia](https://www.flickr.com/photos/dioceseofeastanglia)



n Portugal



Joshua joins comms team

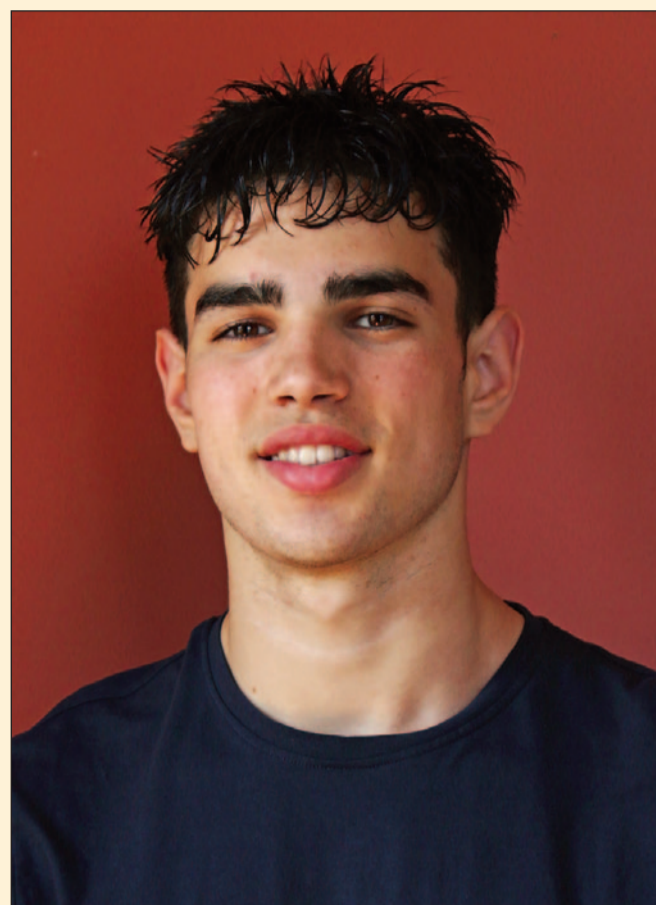
■ Joshua Clovis has joined the Diocese of East Anglia as a part-time Communications Officer to help it communicate its mission and work through its website, social media, newspaper and other channels.

Joshua already works as a freelance communications and technology contractor for a number of Catholic organisations including the Catholic National Shrine in Walsingham, EWTN GB and St Anthony Communications.

He said: "I am excited about the opportunity to contribute my experience to make a meaningful impact in diocesan communications. I hope I bring a creative and innovative approach to my work and look forward to meeting many people across the diocese."

Joshua will be working with Communications Director Keith Morris, taking pictures and writing stories across the Diocese for the website and for Catholic East Anglia.

If you have a story or event you would



like us to cover, please email him at joshua.clovis@rcdea.org.uk

Joshua replaces Eldred Willey who has gone to work for a development charity.

Pictured above is Joshua Clovis.



**L'ARCHE IPSWICH
NEW JOB?!**

CALLING ALL CARE AND SUPPORT WORKERS

We are looking for experienced and enthusiastic support workers to join us part-time or full-time at our Supported Living Services in Ipswich, Suffolk.

L'Arche Ipswich is more than just a service provider; we are a diverse, inclusive community of 30 people with and without learning disabilities who live, work and celebrate together.

Our aim is to provide a place of belonging to enable adults with learning disabilities live independent yet connected lives.

We are rated as an Excellent CQC provider of individualised and person centred care.

To find out more:

Come and visit us, you will be warmly welcomed. To arrange a time please call Sarah on: 01473 729744. Find out more on our website at: <https://www.larche.org.uk/support-worker-ipswich>

If you are interested in enriching people's lives and adding real value to our community, we would love to hear from you!

To apply, simply fill in our Support Worker Application Form, which can be found online at: <https://bit.ly/3S5gCpJ>



YOUTH & SCHOOLS MATTERS

Momentous first year for school

The newest Catholic school in the country – in Peterborough – has just completed its first year. Mark Cooper, head of St John Henry Newman VA Catholic Primary School, reflects on a momentous ten months.

■ In late July we marked the end of our very first year of being open and over the previous few days I had reflected on the journey we have been on. When we opened our doors on September 5 last year to Reception, Year 1, and Year 2, we had just 38 children in school on that first day. Today we have 122 children in school.

The growth of our school has far exceeded our expectations and I expect the school to continue to grow quickly over the coming years. Looking ahead to next year, we will be welcoming well over 100 new children and their families as well as eight new members of staff.

We have worked hard so that our school community has had access to all key school events, and these have brought moments of immense pride. Standing and seeing our children lead events such as our Welcome Ceremony, Advent Service, Stations of the Cross, Nativities, Sports Day and most recently Mass have been incredibly special.

This year has also brought about some challenges, notably with a major leak we suffered that destroyed our Reception and KS1 (Key Stage 1) classrooms. The way that the children, staff, and families



Pictured left are the pupils at St John Henry Newman in July and, below, the pupils back in September 2022 when Bishop Alan Hopes blessed the new school.

adapted to this was amazing and at no point was the learning offer impacted by the event.

In our Gospel assembly on Monday, the children were also reflecting on our school year and used the parable of the growing seed which explored what a seed needs to grow well. I asked the children why they thought our school had grown well this year. The children's responses were amazing:

"The teachers and adults have been so welcoming" – Year 2 child.

"Because we can say prayers together" – Year 4 child.

"All of the children have been so kind and caring to each other especially when a new child has joined" – Year 2 child.

I would like to say a huge thank-you to our staff and families for their support throughout this year. This year has been my proudest year as a headteacher, and I am so excited to see what the next year at St John Henry Newman will bring.



Graduation for Ignite Youth Team members

■ The end of a year spent working as part of the Ignite Youth Team was marked with a "graduation" Mass at St John's Cathedral in Norwich on July 16, for team leader Ciaran Losasso and members Louisa Poole, Sophie Pereira and Elliott Cannon.

Elliott said: "To give thanks for the past

year Bishop Peter celebrated the 11am Mass at the Cathedral. During the Mass, he gave each of us a Certificate of the Catholic Mission recognising the achievements we had made that year. During his homily, Bishop Peter spoke about the task of spreading the seed of the Gospel encom-

passing the essence of all we strove to do this year.

"After the Mass had ended we went to the Narthex where the celebrations continued as we had lunch with our family and friends as well as those who helped us throughout the year, all catered by the

lovely Narthex staff. It was a lovely occasion to mark the end of a fantastic year."

■ If you are age 18 - 35, perhaps recently left school or university, and are interested in joining the Ignite Team this September or January, please visit: www.rcdea.org.uk/youth



If you are aged 18 - 35 then why not join the Ignite Team ?

- Inspire young people with the Gospel Message
- Grow in your own faith
- Gain experience and skills working with children and young people
- Gain a Certificate in Catholic Mission
- Join in September (12 month programme) or January (6 month programme)
- Accommodation, food and an allowance are provided



www.rcdea.org.uk | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ignite.team) Ignite Team | [@igniteyea](https://www.instagram.com/igniteyea) | [@igniteyea](https://www.twitter.com/igniteyea) | igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk | 01508 486236
Diocesan Youth Office, 21 Uppgate, Poringland, Norwich NR14 7SH



Pictured are the Ignite Team with Bishop Peter Collins at the graduation Mass.

Our Lady returns to Ipswich

Almost 500 years after a statue of Our Lady of Ipswich was removed from its shrine in the town by Thomas Cromwell's men, a replica has been produced and now rests in St Pancras church. Fr Joseph Welch reports.

■ In 1538, the statue of Our Lady of Ipswich was removed from its shrine in Lady Lane by Thomas Cromwell's men and taken to Chelsea in London, to be burned, along with statues from many other shrines around the country including Walsingham.

But there is a twist in this particular tale. The story goes that the statue of Our Lady of Ipswich was rescued and taken by sea to Italy. In the seaside town of Nettuno (where St Maria Goretti was born), there is a statue of Our Lady which the locals call 'The English Lady.' It is thought to have appeared in 1550. Certainly, before then there is no mention of it.

Tests have shown that there is a higher-than-expected salt content in the wood, such as might be consistent with the statue having spent some time at sea. These details, along with a number of others, suggest with a surprising degree of certainty that the English Lady in the coastal town of Nettuno, roughly half-way between Rome and Naples, is indeed the original statue from Ipswich.

In 1977 some parishioners, including the late Stanley Smith, Maire 'Doc' Heley, and Judy Fell, as well as Jean Johnson, established the Guild of Our Lady of Grace of Ipswich with two objectives in view. The first, to work for greater Christian unity, and the second to re-establish the Ipswich shrine of Our Lady of Grace. Curiously, it would seem that it was in Ipswich that Our Lady was first given the title of Our Lady of Grace.

Working with parishioners from St Mary at the Elms Anglican church, and



St Pancras parishioners, left to right, Laura Isaacs, Victoria Davres, Brigitte Newman-Sanders, Philomena Haining, and (front) Anne Abbott, with the new statue of Our Lady of Ipswich. Picture by Stephen Griggs.

Guild members from other local churches, a shrine was indeed re-established in the closest spot possible to the site of the original shrine which had long since vanished.

Today, there is an annual walk, organized by the Guild, every September from Wolsey's Gate near the waterfront into the centre of town to the church of St Mary at the Elms, stopping at the plaque in Lady Lane, which is the nearest point to the site of the original shrine, before concluding at St Mary Elms church.

Yet it seemed odd that there should be no statue of Our Lady of Ipswich in any Catholic church or home in the town itself. So, in 2022, St Pancras parish commissioned a brand new statue from the Italian workshop of Stuflessers, paid for by three remarkably generous parishioners. The newly carved statue was to be as close a replica as possible of the statue in Nettuno.

After a lengthy wait, and many e-mails

back and forth, the new statue finally arrived on June 23, safely crated and packaged.

Statue and throne had been carved separately but were quickly reunited and placed on the sanctuary at St Pancras where it could be inspected by everyone before being removed to the Lady Chapel, her new home.

Next year, on May 15, the feast of Our Lady of Grace, Bishop Peter Collins will come to Ipswich to bless the new statue. In the meantime, we have already celebrated a Mass of welcome at which Fr John Barnes, the local dean, preached a beautiful homily explaining that whilst we were welcoming Our Lady of Ipswich to St Pancras. Nonetheless, it is really Our Lady who is welcoming us into God's house. Even so, everyone present was delighted simply to say to our Blessed Mother, after an absence of 485 years from any Catholic church in the town, welcome home!

Celebration of Ipswich cardinal

■ A major project to celebrate the 550th anniversary of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, Ipswich's most famous son, is now up and running and his famous red cardinal's hat is a centrepiece of an exhibition open over the summer.

Wolsey was born in 1473 and educated in Ipswich. Initially dismissed by his critics as the mere son of a butcher, he enjoyed a meteoric rise, against the odds, which took him to the most powerful position within the King's Court as Cardinal and Lord Chancellor and the Pope's representative in England.

His journey, together with his newfound papal influence, led him back to Ipswich where, between 1526 and 1528, he founded the Cardinal's College of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Wolsey fell from power and died before his college established itself and it was largely dismantled.

Thomas Wolsey 550 began in March 2023, the most likely date of the 550th anniversary of his birth. The wide-brimmed cardinal's hat has been loaned by a University of Oxford college and will be on show as part of the "Wolsey's Ipswich" exhibition, at The Hold and runs until October 29.

www.thomaswolsey550.co.uk

Catholic Union talk

■ The Catholic Union's 2023 Craigmyle Lecture will be given by Dame Rachel de Souza DBE, the Children's Commissioner for England and co-founder of the Norwich-based multi-academy Inspiration Trust.

Dame Rachel, a former principal of the Ormiston Victory Academy in Costessey, Norwich, will use her lecture to talk about creating a society where children can flourish.

The lecture will take place on September 13 at the University of Notre Dame London campus, near Trafalgar Square in London. The event will also be live-streamed. Further details can be found at: www.catholicunion.org.uk

A day for men

■ Twenty-three Catholic men from East Anglia came together in Walsingham for the annual "Day for Men" organised by the diocesan Marriage and Family Life Commission on June 10. The group met together for Mass at the Shrine, fellowship, discussion, prayer and finished the day with the Rosary as they walked the Holy Mile.

Led by Fr Anil Zachery and Chidi Umeano, they explored many of the unique challenges faced by men as they attempt to follow their vocation as husbands, fathers or single men in the modern world, said MFL co-ordinator, Antonia Braithwaite: "Fr Anil helped to delve into the true role of fatherhood and Chidi led an interactive question and answer discussion session. All left invigorated and strengthened and with a deeper understanding of how Jesus Christ Himself provides the best example of how men are called to both serve and lead."

To be kept up-to-date for next year's Day For Men, please contact Antonia at: mflcoordinator@rcdea.org.uk

Accident halts Simon's cycle ride to Lourdes

■ Thetford Catholic parishioner Simon John's bid to cycle the 1371 km between the Marian shrines of Walsingham and Lourdes in France to raise awareness of modern slavery was unfortunately halted by a road accident, which put him into hospital.

John, aged 77, was making the pilgrimage to raise funds for two charities working to tackle modern slavery: Bakhita House and Anti-slavery International. He began on June 26 and planned to get to Lourdes on July 14.

Unfortunately, when Simon was over the Channel and cycling in France, near the village of Chartres, on July 4, he was knocked over by a bus.

Reporting from his hospital bed, Simon said: "At first, the injuries seemed minor. By the time I reached Blois (60 miles further on) by bike, I could not walk. At first, I began to recover, and then things went from bad to worse because I was quietly developing a blood clot in the leg, which dislodged just as I was preparing to leave a hotel and go



to the station to go by train to Toulouse, and then cycle the rest of the way to Lourdes.

"The clot dislodged and became a severe pulmonary embolism in the lungs. I am now being treated in a hospital in Blois and am advised not to cycle or even lift anything in the immediate future."

By reaching Blois, Simon had completed about 60% of the pilgrimage which was to raise money to help tackle modern slavery. The crime of slavery, or human trafficking, has been described by Pope Francis as "a scourge upon the body of Christ". In the last few years, the number of people who are enslaved by others has risen by a shocking 25% to 49.6 million people. That's 1 in every 150 people and one quarter of these souls are children and over two-thirds are women and girls.

Before he started the ride, Simon said: "I believe that everyone deserves to live a life free from exploitation. I am making this ride unsupported and I am truly concerned by this challenge. I hope I can make it. I hope and pray for people's freedom and restoration."

You can sponsor Simon's pilgrimage ride at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/simon-john-1685616829573> and at <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/bakhita-house.php>

Bishops pay tribute to John Pitt

Two East Anglian bishops have paid tribute to former Financial Secretary for the Diocese of East Anglia, Lt Col John Pitt, who died on July 1. Keith Morris reports.

■ John, who lived in Hoxne in Suffolk with his wife Ellen, spent 12 years with the diocese, retiring in 2019, after a varied career as a banker, Army officer, military diplomat, military intelligence officer and Secretary of the Special Forces Club in London over a 58-year career.

John met Ellen, who was serving in Ottawa with HM Diplomatic Service, while he was negotiating with the Canadian Defence Department on behalf of the British Army for training facilities in Alberta. They were married for almost 50 years and had two sons and five grandchildren.

As Financial Secretary, John played a key role under two bishops and during the period of Sede Vacante after Bishop Michael's death. The overall role was to support the bishop and the Diocesan Trustees in the routine management and strategic development and delivery of the diocesan mission.

During his appointment, John was instrumental in many diocesan initiatives, including Alive in Faith, which is still funding social outreach, seminarian training and securing the future of our retired priests.

Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes paid tribute saying: "I will always be grateful to John for the support and encouragement that he gave to me personally for nearly eight years, as the Diocesan Financial



John Pitt with Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes.

Secretary and for the many hours he happily invested in the life and mission of our Diocese. The Diocese has much to thank John for, for his service over many years.

"He had a deep Catholic faith and a great love for the Church and her mission. This infused his work and all that he did. I know that many of the clergy and parish treasurers were appreciative of the help and encouragement that he

readily gave them. He was always open to new initiatives for raising much urgent funding, such as Alive in Faith, and was instrumental in setting it up across the Diocese – no mean feat.

"He also faced major challenges head-on until they were sorted out, or at least progressed in the right direction. He was a true gentleman, always a calming and pragmatic presence in the Diocesan curial offices, making them a place

where our staff felt valued and supported. He always gave his time to someone if they wished to see him and particularly if there were a real problem or a particular pressure worrying them.

"He had a dour sense of humour, which came from his Scottish roots, and regaled us with many amusing stories from his vast experience of life which we missed when he retired," said Bishop Alan. "Our prayers should be with Ellen and his two sons, together with their grandchildren at this time. May he rest in peace."

Bishop Peter Collins said: "The Diocese has much to be grateful for to John for his time as our Financial Secretary. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Ellen who is a committed member of Diss parish and who is also on the committee of the Friends of the Cathedral. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen."

John's wife Ellen said: "I think John himself was delighted and honoured to be appointed by the Diocese but I can still see a little bewilderment as he wondered what it would entail. He very quickly adapted and loved it all. The new acquaintances and friends he was so fortunate to meet made his life at Poringland happy.

"It is sad that John's health on retirement let him down, depriving him of the time he wanted to spend with the grandchildren; but he never gave up hope and his faith was a boost to my own. I know he will continue to be there for me even if not physically present as our long life together was a real blessing and leaves that dreadful 'emptiness'."

John's funeral was on August 1, at the Church of St Henry Morse in Diss.

Archbishop Peter Smith is remembered

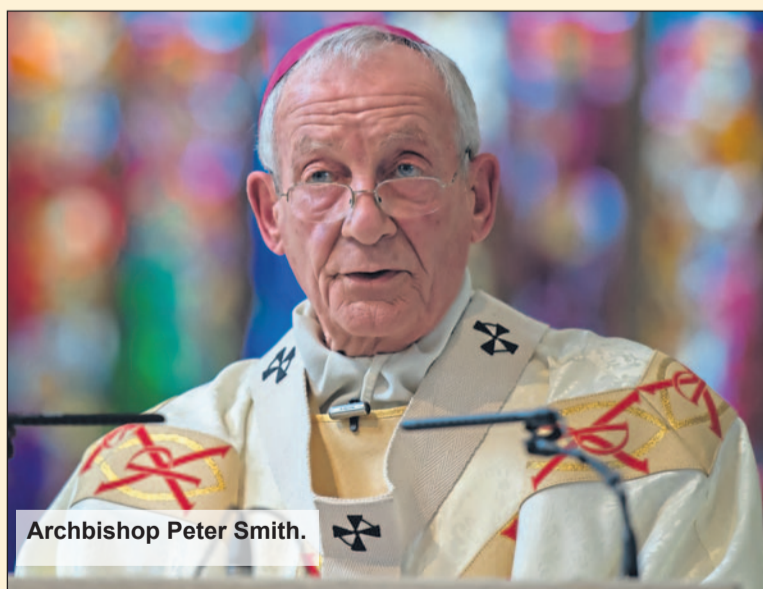
■ Clergy and faithful gathered at Norwich's Cathedral of St John the Baptist on Monday June 26, to remember and honour the life of Archbishop Peter Smith, the second Bishop of East Anglia, with a poignant Requiem Mass.

Led by Bishop Peter Collins, with Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes in attendance, the Requiem Mass served as a moment to remember the archbishop's life, his achievements, and his unwavering dedication to his faith.

Bishop Peter delivered a homily that encapsulated Archbishop Smith's journey and his virtues and spoke of his remarkable life and service.

Bishop Peter said: "Archbishop Peter first went to Exeter University to read law where he excelled. Upon leaving Exeter, he went back to his beloved London where he became a priest of the Archdiocese of Southwark. He laboured there a while before finally following the call of a vocation to priesthood."

The bishop further recounted the archbishop's dedication and



Archbishop Peter Smith.

service, "He was sent to Rome to study Canon Law and then returned to the Archdiocese of Southwark, working within the Tribunal and then was appointed to teach Canon law at St John's Seminary."

Recalling their shared experiences, he said: "As you know, he would then move from being Rec-

tor to becoming bishop of this diocese. He was always engaging and entertaining. But it was obvious, his gifts gave rise to a clear mind and he became entwined with your lives here in this place. Wherever he went, he is remembered with deep affection and appreciation."

The bishop then spoke of Arch-

bishop Peter's role in safeguarding structures for the Catholic Church, "Whilst he was Bishop of East, he served on the Nolan Commission, always kindly, though eliciting what was needed. So, he came to Cardiff where we had experienced some difficulty."

"Archbishop Peter occupied the chair of this diocese, ably, humbly. And we give thanks to God for his ministry here. His body is not interred in this cathedral church, but he is embedded in this place."

The bishop then touched upon the archbishop's life in London, "Having served in Cardiff, he was eventually called back to his hometown of London. South of the river. It was a joy to him and he served in many ways. He was the voice of the church, appearing on television often and we give thanks for that particular ministry."

Finally, the bishop concluded his homily by recalling the late archbishop's humility and his love for small pleasures of life, "He was first and last a humble man. He was a true disciple of the Lord and we will all remember his culinary

skills. Richmond sausages were his favourite. Today, we give thanks and we pray for him..."

As the Mass concluded, clergy came together for a lunch, sharing in their mutual memories of Archbishop Smith.

Want to advertise?

Catholic East Anglia regularly reaches an audience of over 7,000 Catholics across Norfolk, Suffolk, Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

To explore the opportunities and value-for-money rates, please contact Nick at publishers Cathcom Ltd on tel 01440 730399 or email ads@cathcom.org



Investiture held in Norwich

Over 100 Dames and Knights of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and their friends were welcomed to Norwich by Bishop Peter Collins and Cathedral Dean, Fr Alan Hodgson, on Friday June 16 and Saturday June 17.

■ A Vigil, Benediction and rite of Investiture was celebrated in St John's Cathedral in Norwich by Archbishop John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark, Grand Prior of the Order.

In his homily, Archbishop Wilson spoke directly to the Order and beyond – reaffirming how and why the holy places of

the Holy Land and our connection to them are as vital today as they were to apostles and saints past.

“In confirming the centrality of the Holy Sepulchre to our salvation, his Grace quoted the words of Pope Francis: “From this place, we learn how to live our lives, the trials of our Churches and of the whole world, in the light of Easter morning.”

In England and Wales, the Order of the Holy Sepulchre is present in a national Lieutenancy with eight sections. It renders substantial assistance to the Holy Land, through prayer, pilgrimage and financial support (to both the Church and humanitarian aid).

The President of the Eastern Section which hosted the weekend, John Prestage, said: “What a joyful weekend this was. Members of the order were delighted to be so warmly received by Bishop Peter, the

Dean and all the cathedral staff in Norwich. This was simply a wonderful weekend of renewal in both our faith and mission.

“For those invested in the order this weekend, they have had an unforgettable experience. I know from speaking to them how deeply moving it was for them and their families.

“We are all deeply appreciative of all that was done to welcome us at the cathedral, and on the Sunday for our pilgrimage to Walsingham.

“In troubled times we must all seek to continue our prayers and support for the Holy Land and its people.”

www.eohsj.org.uk

A full picture gallery is available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/139254953@N05/albums> Photographs (C) Bill Smith.

Missio rep is honoured

■ Lowestoft Parish Missio representative, Barbara Radforth from Our Lady Star of the Sea, has been honoured for ten years of service with the Catholic charity.

Barbara was presented with a certificate by Fr Kevin Hughes from the Mill Hill Missionary and Parish Priest Fr Padraig Hawkins.

Barbara said: “My role as Missio



Secretary is quite simple really. It consists of gathering in the red boxes from parishioners, recording the donations and, with the help of my husband Paul, banking the monies. I was completely taken aback to receive the medal and the certificate but it was a real honour.”

Francis exhibition

■ A group of the Norwich Secular Franciscans travelled to the National Gallery in London recently to view the exhibition of paintings and artefacts relating to the life of St Francis of Assisi.

Anne Murrin, said: “We had a wonderful personal guided tour through the art, the history and spirituality of this amazing man by a local secular Franciscan who is also a professional art tour guide. We were blessed to be able to benefit from his wisdom and experience.

“St Francis lived from 1181 to 1226. He embraced poverty and became an itinerant preacher and eventually founded the Order(s) named after him. He arranged the first live nativity scene in Greccio which is followed today by the celebration of our Christmas cribs. He is also known for his respect for animals and the environment, the whole of God's creation.”

Tea for cleaners

■ Each summer the four teams of voluntary church cleaners at St Felix, Felixstowe, are invited to the Presbytery for afternoon tea, as a thank you for the work which they carry out throughout the year, reports Fr John Barnes.

“Two teas were held this year, on a Tuesday and a Friday, to enable as many cleaners as possible to take part. The teas took the traditional form, dainty sandwiches, scones with clotted cream, and a selection of cakes. There was music and animated conversation.”

MP drops in

■ An SVP coffee morning at St Clare's church, Woodbridge parish, played host to local MP Dr Dan Poulter on Saturday June 10, who visited to have a drink of tea and to see what they do.



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

Membership Support Officer

East Anglia | 15hrs per week
2 Years Fixed Term Contract
£10,475.40 per annum

Closing date 15th October 2023

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is a Catholic lay organisation whose members seek out and help those in need in the community.

It would like to recruit a Membership Support Officer (MSO) for the East Anglia area to support member recruitment and development, provide general support for members and be the link between groups and National Office.

This is a part time, home-based role (15 hours per week – 2 days equivalent) working as part of the SVP Membership Team. It requires the ability to travel around the diocese to make recruitment appeals, work with existing groups, attend meetings and meet with interested parties where appropriate.

Having your own transport is essential and travel expenses are paid. For further information and details of how to apply contact Lance Philpott, Head of Membership at lancep@svp.org.uk

Picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese

■ Bishop Peter Collins, pictured right, confirmed 21 of 35 young candidates at St Laurence's Church, Cambridge, on Wednesday July 5 with 14 being confirmed the previous day at Our Lady & English Martyrs due to a clash of dates with a school trip.

Sue Sykes said: "It was a lovely Mass with Bishop Peter connecting with all the candidates who were all smiling after he has anointed them with oil. It was followed by a party in the parish room with a special confirmation cake.



■ On the feast of St Anthony of Padua, parishioners at St Pancras in Ipswich were present at the traditional blessing and distribution of bread, a custom stretching back hundreds of years.

Parish priest Fr Joseph Welch said: "Food brought by members of the parish is blessed at the end of Mass and then handed on to those in need. The parish has a barrel all year round at the back of the church for donations of dry foodstuffs which are then collected by a representative of Families in Need (FIND) and distributed through a foodbank to those in the local area.

"On June 13, these foodstuffs were blessed along with fresh bread rolls which were then handed out to parishioners to remind us of the importance always to consider the needs of the poor."

Pictured, top, are parishioners with the Families In Need Collection barrel, clockwise from bottom left: Maria Patten, Theresa Cleary, Rosa Patten, Peggy Ayers, and Anne Abbott.

■ St John Fisher Church in Cambourne has celebrated its first Bollywood evening (pictured below) with magnificent food donated and cooked by Indian parishioners, reports Mel Ward.

"With skilful performances from Amelia, Annamaria and Mabril getting us in the spirit, we took to the floor ourselves for some vivacious and colourful dancing. Local councillor Shrobona brought along a swathe of saris and guests from the local community joined us in a rainbow swirl of dance," said Mel. "Philomena's children and grandchildren had gathered to celebrate her coming to the UK 50 years ago to marry her beloved and much missed Alfred. Shaju acted as compère for the evening.

"All the food and time and effort in preparation was generously donated and the event raised about £1,000 for our SJF Development Fund. We are still praying for discernment for how our church without its own building will flourish in the future, but, for now, putting those prayers into action and building bonds of friendship, culture and memories along the way," said Mel.



■ On June 11, St Dominic's, in Downham Market Parish, joyfully celebrated five children receiving their First Holy Communion, marking a significant cross-generational occasion for the community. Janelle Cleg-horn reports.

Billy, Francesca, Sophie, and siblings Mikey and Niamh received the Eucharist for the first time, fittingly on Corpus Christi — the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, from Fr Marc Homsey, visiting priest from the Diocese of Leeds, with Parish Priest, Fr Erico Falcão, overseeing the celebration.

For a small parish like St Dominic's, this was a considerable occasion that brought together a cross-generational congregation. For the candidates, it was also an achievement in a journey that started in October 2022, when they had their first catechism class with Lourdes, the parish's dedicated and commendable Catechist

reprising her role.

With nine months of catechism classes preceding the day, the children confidently led the procession into the church, participated in the readings, recited the Prayers of the Faithful, and carried through with the collection and offertory. Before the Concluding Rites, Mikey delivered a very passionate thank you address to the whole congregation, reserving heartfelt thanks to his mother for her role in his personal journey.

After Mass, the children helped lead the Corpus Christi procession of the Blessed Sacrament around the Church grounds by scattering rose petals along the path of the procession. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament then took place in the front garden of the Church.

The entire congregation then gathered in the Parish Rooms for drinks and nibbles, and the children were treated to a two-tier personalised cake and many congratulations.