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Procession in Norwich with Blessed Sacrament planned Bishop invites all to ignite flame of faith

The Autumn evening of 2 October is an important "Save the Date" for every member of the Diocese of East Anglia as Bishop Alan invites us to join him in a procession of witness through the streets of Norwich to mark the next stage in a commitment to the New Evangelisation.

This very public display of our Catholic faith will begin with prayers at the Castle Mound in the centre of the city at 8.00pm.

The candlelit procession with the Blessed Sacrament will then move off at 8.30pm to wind its way through the city streets to St John's Cathedral, where an all-night prayer vigil will begin.

It is hoped that all our parishes and schools will be represented at this important event.

A similar procession was staged two years ago when more than 1,000 people walked in silence to celebrate the end of the Year of Faith.

Fr Sean Connolly said: "This year we hope to make an even bigger statement with, if possible, even more people

joining in.

"We want the city to be in no doubt that in its midst walk a people ready and willing to share the simple message: God loves you unconditionally.

"We've chosen to walk under the banner 'Ignite!' because the enthusiasm for their faith of our young people at the recent Ignite! Youth Festival held at Swaffham was so impressive.

"Hopefully the whole diocese can be similarly set on fire with a zeal for the Gospel and the confidence to be identified as Christian."

The Ignite! Procession celebrates the end of one year of New Evangelisation, during which we were encouraged to commit ourselves to personal renewal and rooted ourselves in prayer, and the start of a second year in which the focus will be on the evangelisation of our parishes.

Once in the Cathedral, an all-night vigil before the Blessed Sacrament led by our parishes and young people will begin.

Parishes across the diocese are

encouraged to lead a period of communal prayer on the hour, every hour.

The young adults who stay on will also lead prayer at certain times and be invited to take part in various workshops through the night, including the painting of a new diocesan icon of Our Lady of Mercy.

Throughout the night the Narthex will provide refreshments and priests will be on hand to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation.

Earlier in the day, representatives from schools from across the diocese will gather for Mass at St John's Cathedral at 12noon.

This will be followed by a retreat led by the Diocesan Youth Service and the newly formed Ignite team.

The Vigil will conclude on Saturday 3rd October with Mass celebrated in the Cathedral at 11.30am.

Everyone is invited to attend as much as possible of this significant event in the life of our diocese.



The procession two years ago started from the Castle gardens

IGNITE 2015
A Procession of Witness to celebrate
The New Evangelisation
in the Diocese of East Anglia
Led by Bishop Alan Hopes

Friday 2nd October 2015
12:00 noon: **SCHOOLS MASS**
Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Norwich

8:00pm: **TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**
From the Castle Mound to the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Norwich.
Everyone welcome.

9:30pm: **ALL NIGHT VIGIL BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**
Led by our parishes and young people.
Everyone welcome for all or part of the night.
Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Norwich.

Saturday 3rd October 2015
11:30am: **DIOCESAN SOLEMN MASS**
For the Evangelisation of Peoples
Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Norwich.

For more information see www.catholiceastanglia.org

Opening the Door of the New Evangelisation



Young people kept vigil through the night at St John the Baptist Cathedral

Advertisement



News from communities and parishes around the Diocese

Huw ordained parish deacon

Teacher Huw Williams has been ordained Permanent Deacon for the parish of St Felix in Haverhill following a four year period of assessment and formation.

Huw said he first became aware of a possible vocation to the diaconate in Durban, South Africa, where he was living in the 1990s.

His parish had a deacon but after Mass one Sunday, someone said to him that he could do that.

When he moved to the UK in 1997 he brought with him the idea of becoming a deacon but said he would try to be the “grey man at the back of the church”.

A welcome from the then parish priest Fr Tony Webb kindled in him the possibility that was fostered and brought to fruition by Fr Michael Teader.

“The most challenging part was writing to the bishop. There



Huw pictured with his family at the ordination

followed a year of assessment and interviews,” he said.

He then embarked on the study of pastoral theology at St John’s at Wonders covering such subjects as catechesis, spirituality and the Bible.

“I found the study challenging but very interesting. I was also pleased

to be able to say to my students that I was one too.”

Huw has been married to Carol for 25 years and they have three children Katrina, 21, Andrew 19, and Clare, 12.

He is continuing his studies with an MA Theology course at St Mary’s College in Twickenham.



Our Lady of Sorrows

Courtesy of Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

Our Lady of Sorrows - A Bitter Sea

If you go to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge you will find a relatively recent acquisition that is greatly treasured despite its rather humble size.

It is the late 17th century bust of Our Lady of Sorrows (Mater Dolorosa), painted on polychromed wood by the Spanish artist Pedro de Mena. The statue, also nicknamed “The Weeping Virgin”, shows the face of Mary covered in a hood as she looks up at her tortured and crucified son.

Mena has depicted Our Lady in a hyper-realist style, using real animal hair for the bold, brown eyebrows, elevated with anxiety. The eyes are made out of glass, as are the tears that course down Mary’s face and neck.

The tone and shape of the face confirms this realism, for although Mary’s features are delicate and beautiful, this is clearly the face of one in deep distress, not of one who is serene and unaffected.

The eyelids are half-closed with weariness, the lips are parted and the nostrils flared with heavy breathing, the pale skin is blotched rose in many parts, particularly under the eyes where Mary’s cheeks are wet with tears.

We can attribute to her the words of the author of the Book of Lamentations, looking upon the destruction of Jerusalem: “My eyes are spent with weeping; my soul is in tumult; my heart is poured out in grief... (Lam 2: 11)”.

Or we can assign to her the words of that same book so often assigned to her Son: “Look and see, all you who pass by, if there is any sorrow like my sorrow!” The sense of Mena’s bust is one of heart-rending emotion, engulfing the mother of the crucified Saviour. Nothing stoic or idealised about this scene.

And yet Mary bears her sorrow with a seeming quietness and fortitude. Her head and shoulder are straight, she stands erect; she suffers willingly alongside the slow, agonising suffering of her Son.

One thing that catches my attention about this statue is the colour of Mary’s garments. She wears an outer cloak that is blue – a typical colour for Our Lady, but this is a dark, grey-blue, like the colour of a stormy sea. The inner hood is a courser material, muddy brown in colour, like the sediment of a churned up ocean.

Mary here seems to personify in her agony a tumultuous wash of waves and driving rain that for the moment obscure the shore. In fact, some have speculated that the Hebrew name Miriam – from where we get Mary – originally means “sea of bitterness”.

This would certainly match with what we see in Mena’s bust, a mature piece of art that helps us meditate on the upcoming feast of Our Lady of Sorrows (September 15th).

And yet we know that the bitterness of Mary’s experience by the Cross is not a bitterness that takes hold of her heart, nor do the waves of sadness capsize her hope, for she has heard those words of the angel at the Annunciation all those years ago: “He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end”.

by Fr Henry Whisenant

Grandparents vital for passing on faith

Grandparents and their families from across the UK travelled to Walsingham to celebrate a day of prayer, celebration and reflection on the lives of Jesus’ grandparents St Anne and St Joachim.

The 12th annual Grandparents Pilgrimage to Walsingham on July 26 was led by Bishop Peter Doyle of Northampton and patron of the CGA in England and Wales.

“The shrine was so full the offering of the Sign of Peace took 15 minutes to complete amid the warmth and solidarity among pilgrims,” Caroline O’Grady said.

The Catholic Grandparents Association (CGA), based in the Diocese of East Anglia, recorded coachloads of pilgrims arriving from across England, Scotland and Ireland.

“Children took centre stage to present a retelling of the story of Walsingham, performing in period costume and to musical accompaniment,” Caroline said.

Catherine Wiley, founder of the CGA expressed the hope that grandparents everywhere would recognise in themselves their invaluable role in passing faith on to their grandchildren.

“There is not a grandparent alive who doesn’t know how to read a Bible story, who can’t explain the Mass to a child, who can’t tell them about the Trinity or that the Pope is our leader on earth,” the grandparent to 10 children said.

Caroline added that pilgrims reported feeling “inspired, empowered and motivated to do more to pass on the faith to their children and grandchildren”.



Children learning the faith from grandparents was a theme of pilgrimage



Bishop Alan enjoys a pizza with seafarers at the new chaplaincy at King’s Lynn opened by the Apostleship of the Sea.



Two roles for Shaun

Bishop Alan has ordained Shaun Morrison to the Permanent Diaconate as a member of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. He will have two roles serving the Ordinariate and the East Anglia Diocese.

Mgr Keith Newton preached at the Ordination Mass and told Shaun: “The ordained person is a servant of both Christ and his Church and the Deacon particularly symbolises in his life and ministry that calling to service.

This was the first ever Ordination to take place in the parish of the Out Lady of the Annunciation at Kings Lynn where there is the Pontifical Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.



NEW EVANGELISATION

Parishes asked to take leading self help role

“Evangelising ourselves in our parishes” is the theme of the diocese’s second year of New Evangelisation which begins in September.

To prepare for the year ahead Bishop Alan welcomed people from parishes across East Anglia to the first Diocesan New Evangelisation Event at Our Lady, Mother of God church, Thorpe St Andrew.

To help us share our faith, the day included an introduction to the work of Sherry Weddell. In her book *Forming Intentional Disciples*, she talks about the many Catholics who come to Mass every week who need help to grow towards an understanding of God’s unconditional love and forgiveness. Sadly, the one thing we Catholics tend not to do is talk about our relationship with Jesus. We need to consider how

we can break the silence to help everyone realise that desiring and having a personal relationship with Jesus is normal.

“I know God is in my life and I want to tell everyone about Him”.
A parishioner from Suffolk

The day gave us an opportunity to consider the Thresholds of Conversion: the stages people take towards a personal

relationship with God. There were lots of ideas to share which will help our communities to reach out to people who come to church and to non-churchgoing Catholics.

We looked at resources and ideas to strengthen the work already being done in our parishes to help people encounter Christ in their lives. Our parishes already have enthusiastic people doing

amazing things. We are now a group of people who can help our communities to plan the year. The next event in October will give us an opportunity to share the challenges and celebrate our successes.

“The day was thought provoking and inspiring in terms of content and a great opportunity to meet and share ideas with people from the whole diocese”. A parishioner from Norfolk

Holy Spirit at PROCLAIM 15 inspired people to ‘prioritise faith’

“Great joy; and a great hunger to share our precious gift of faith.”

That was the experience of the 32 people from East Anglia who went to PROCLAIM 15 - the first national conference on the New Evangelisation which was held in Birmingham on July 11th.

As one of the group put it: “We really knew that the Holy Spirit was with us. We arrived full of hope, and left feeling better able to prioritise. Rarely have the words of the Gospel that we are not to ‘hide our light under a bushel’ become more alive.”

It was a long day with an early start, especially for those who chose not to travel up the day before. Arriving at the Repertory Theatre, the 32 East Anglians joined over 900 representatives from dioceses across England and Wales.

The day included 11 workshops, the materials from which are to be made available to every parish later in September. Topics included how to create an evangelisation strategy for your parish; setting up parish mission teams; learning to share the Gospel message; reaching out to non church going Catholics; building a welcoming and family friendly parish; evangelising the young people of our parishes; and how to fulfil Pope Francis’ vision of a ‘Church which is

poor and for the poor.’

WHAT NEXT?

Now that the 900 delegates have returned to their diocese, carrying with them a new energy, determination and clarity of vision, the question is: what next? From Home Mission Sunday (20 September 2015) parishes are encouraged to catch the evangelising bug. All the resources from PROCLAIM 15 will be available online at www.catholicnews.org.uk and a diocesan initiative called ‘Coming Home’ will encourage all of us to pray together for the many non church going Catholics we know.

Four of our parishes - St George’s in Norwich, St Luke’s in Peterborough, Our Lady Immaculate & St Etheldreda in Newmarket and St Henry Morse in Diss - are piloting a special programme called ‘Crossing the Threshold’, having set up mission teams to plan for evangelisation in their communities. The successes of these four teams will be shared across the diocese.

WHAT CAN I DO?

1. Find out what your parish is doing to reach out to others and what people are planning for the future and get involved.
2. Pray. Sharing our faith can be



daunting but, as more than one speaker made clear, the ground of everything we do is prayer. So, most importantly, please pray for our parishes as we face the challenge of sharing our faith in our communities.

Please pray for the five out of six baptised Catholics who no longer attend Mass and do not experience God’s love through the Sacraments. You might like to cut out and use the Proclaim 15 prayer which is now being prayed throughout the country.

that they will understand and experience in their hearts that Christ is the source of unconditional love and reconciliation. We pray for everyone who worships in our parish community: that we may find the right words and means to invite our absent brothers and sisters to return to the practice of their faith. Amen.

Proclaim '15 Building missionary parishes

Loving Father,
You so loved the world
that you sent us your only Son,
that we might believe in him and have eternal life.
May we encounter Jesus Christ anew this day
and live the Good News with joy.
Through the power of your Holy Spirit,
help us to go out to the whole world
and proclaim our faith with confidence.
Give us the courage to witness to the Joy
of the Gospel by our words and actions.
Help our parish to become more welcoming
and missionary so that you may be known
and loved by all people.
We make this prayer through Our Lord Jesus Christ,
Your Son, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Lady, Star of the New Evangelisation, Pray for us.
Blessed John Henry Newman, Pray for us.
St Thérèse of Lisieux, Pray for us.

Bidding prayers to invite Catholics home

Five out of six baptised Catholics no longer come to Mass. This year’s Home Mission Sunday (20th September) marks an initiative to try and change that.

Every parish will be asked to include in their bidding prayers at Masses celebrated from 20 September until the first Sunday of Advent a ‘Coming Home’ prayer for non church going Catholics to be said together.

Parishes will also be equipped with business-sized cards so that parishioners can say the ‘Coming Home’ prayer at home and give them to friends and those sick or housebound members of our communities who are unable to come to Mass.

The idea is also to leave the small prayer cards lying around, where non church going members of our family or friends might see them. Stuck on the fridge door, by the key rack, on a coffee table, in the car, next to the fruit bowl, by the breakfast cereals, anywhere you can think of where they might be seen and examined.

We want our friends and family who don’t come to Mass to know that we’re praying for them: that the entire diocese cares enough to be praying for

them. We hope that the cards might spark off a conversation about faith and going to Mass and why people do or don’t attend.

We’re confident that a prolonged period of sincere prayer by the whole Church in East Anglia will not go unheard. After all, Jesus did say: “Ask and you shall receive.”

We want people in the parish to get talking about their non church going family and friends too. Too often we think it’s only our family who no longer come, only our friends who seem uninterested. The reality is, of course, that probably every single person at Mass on a Sunday will know someone who is baptised but chooses not to attend.

With this initiative, the whole diocese begins a conversation about how to encourage our loved ones and friends, our Catholic neighbours and work colleagues to come back home.

So remember to take plenty of the cards when Home Mission Sunday comes around!

Coming Home Prayer
Loving Father,
We pray for those baptised who no longer or rarely attend Church:

Diocesan Learning Together 2015

These days are particularly relevant to New Evangelisation and are designed to help everyone learn how to share the Catholic faith.

The sessions are free but bring a packed lunch. They start at 10.30am with coffee, then presentations begin at 11am. The day closes at 3pm.

Please make these days part of your parish calendar and discuss with your parish how you can help people get to them.

Saturday 19 September: Wymondham parish hall

Family Prayer - members of the Family Life Commission will look at how we can develop new and better ways of praying in families.

Saturday 14 November: Newmarket parish centre

Answering Awkward Questions with a speaker from “Catholic Voices” - a project which began in the UK to improve the Church’s representation in the media, above all in news programmes and debates, in preparation for the UK visit of the Pope in 2010.

The CV project is an approach and a method which allow Catholics to understand why the criticism of the Church can be intense, and how to identify with the (usually distorted Christian) values behind that criticism. The method, which we call reframing, is designed to avoid the defensiveness and self-defeating responses which many Catholics instinctively deploy in the face of hostility.



Diocesan Schools in Focus

Learning French at first hand on study trip



Welcome for bishop

St Bede's Inter-church School in Cambridge welcomed Bishop Alan, pictured above, to celebrate a Whole School Mass on 26 June.

The sports hall was transformed into a place of worship, as students, staff, governors and members of the PTFA gathered in a shared celebration.

Afterwards the Bishop commissioned new, recently elected, senior students and blessed the chaplaincy reps for their work in support of the school.

The school said Bishop Alan has a great gift for making everyone feel included by taking the trouble to greet as many of the congregation as possible.

"It was a pleasure to host the Bishop's visit and we look forward to strengthening our relationship with him through our links to the Diocese."

Students in Years 5 to 9 took part in a study trip to France to give them a chance to put their knowledge of the French language into practice.

Head of languages J Ahrenfelt said it would encourage their interest in another culture and allow them to sample the everyday realities of 'real life' France.

"We were based in the Nord Pas de Calais region, staying three nights at a residential centre near the seaside town of Stella Plage.

"The visit was packed full of exciting excursions, such as a visit to one of the largest aquariums in Europe, a wheat farm, where students learnt the art of wheat plaiting and baking bread, a traditional chocolaterie, a bee centre, a World War I and II English cemetery and a traditional French bakery, where pupils tried rolling their own croissants.



"One particular highlight of the visit was a morning spent in a French school, where students had the opportunity to meet and socialise with their pen pals they have been writing to throughout the year," she said.

"It was wonderful to see the pupils

experience a genuine purpose for putting their knowledge of French into practice: both the French and British students intermingled so well and the difference in language was by no means a barrier.

"We look forward to visiting again in 2017."

Former head's commitment and skills bring medal reward



Former head teacher Jan Southgate at St Laurence Primary in Cambridge received one of the first Diocesan Medals at a school Mass on 21 June.

Fr Patrick Cleary is pictured (left) presenting the medal to mark her great achievements for the school and also in recognition of her many good deeds for the diocese, parish, parents and especially the children of St Laurence.

"The very attractive silver medal on

a blue and yellow ribbon was bestowed with an accompanying certificate during Mass," Janet Scally, chair of governors, said.

"The school was even fuller than usual for our regular 9.30am parish Mass as friends, parishioners, pupils and staff attended to celebrate with Jan.

"Afterwards the congregation enjoyed a special cake, coffee and biscuits while they waited to congratulate and greet Jan."



Roisin's story reaches for Moon

Roisin Scanlon, pictured left, from St Laurence School in Cambridge triumphed in last term's Writing on the Moon competition with the judges all agreeing that she approached her story with the right balance of creativity and careful structuring.

She was one of four finalists from Eagle Class invited to a space event, featuring Cambridge Science Centre, at Mayfield Primary School in June.

In addition to a generous gift voucher from Heffer's Bookstore, Roisin has won a truly spectacular prize: her story will be sent to the moon on Lunar Mission One!

Her story is produced on page 5

Five students' A Level art recognised

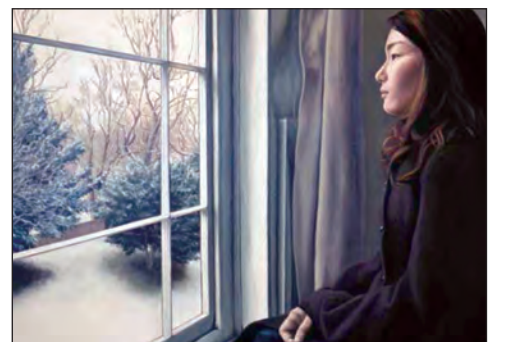
Five students from St Mary's in Cambridge were selected to participate in the Young Arts Sixth Form Competition 2015 with The Granta and Cam Decorative and Fine Art Society (DFAS).

Judges had visited Cambridgeshire schools looking at Upper Sixth Form students' A Level Art.

Lara was awarded the prestigious President's Cup by Cambridge Drawing Society for her large scale mixed media piece, 'Abandonment' which depicts a derelict factory and is haunting.

Phoebe was awarded the Granta and Cam DFAS second prize for her large scale mixed media piece, 'Scrum' which shows a group of opposing rugby players mid-tackle, and is quite masculine in interpretation, especially considering Phoebe's school career has been in an all-girls' school.

Kathrine was awarded the Granta and Cam DFAS third prize for her large expressive acrylic painting 'Norfolk Seascape', a painting which depicts the power of nature and the impact of waves



crashing against the man-made breakers and groyne of a Norfolk beach.

Abigail was Highly Commended for her 'Portrait of Mia', whilst Constance earned two Highly Commended certificates, for her pencil drawing 'Portrait of a Lady' and her figurative painting 'Girl at a window', above.

Headmistress Charlotte Avery said: "The art work across the board was of an excellent standard and we are incredibly proud of our students, as were the girls' parents, some of whom were able to attend the exhibition to see their daughters' achievements."



Diocesan Schools in Focus

Reizel's work with SVP earns national award

Reizel Angela Quiachon, a student at Notre Dame High in Norwich, has been honoured by the national Celebrating Young People Awards for her work with the school's SVP Conference as well as other charitable acts beyond school life.

The awards ceremony was held in London's Leicester Square and was hosted by national youth charity, Million Minutes.

"It was so unexpected and such an honour to be nominated," said Reizel. Nominations and Awards were made in eight categories, including The Dorothy Day Award which Reizel received.

Guest of honour, Cardinal Vincent Nichols gave the first ever Pope Francis award on the night, the overall youth award.

The young person who receives this award is able to go on a bespoke study trip to Latin America to talk in the footsteps of Pope Francis.

"Young people all too often get a bad name," said Danny Curtin, Director of Million Minutes. "But they are amazing. Million Minutes is all about giving a voice to the



young people that get overlooked - we're delighted to have held these awards to celebrate all that young people are and all that they give to our world."

The awards are intended to celebrate and

inspire young people to get more involved in social action projects, as well as helping everyone to reflect on how Catholic social teaching is being lived out in the everyday of our lives. The awards have been organised and promoted by Million Minutes, a charity that supports projects helping young people to transform their lives and put Catholic social teaching into practice.

Miriam Sharif, who nominated Reizel and is her teacher and fellow parishioner at St. George's R.C. Church, Sprowston said, "Reizel is such a selfless and positive person with a great faith; it was wonderful to see her receiving this award on such a joyous occasion."

Million Minutes is a charity founded in 2011. It raises money and supports youth action and advocacy activities that give voice and support to young people to transform their lives and their world, inspired by Catholic social teaching. It supports young people making a difference through participation in society, assuming responsibility and developing as leaders.

Ignite Fest making lasting impression

The Ignite Festival has made a lasting impression on many people including Vicky Shreader Bidwell from Haverhill who wrote in the parish magazine.

"At the Ignite Festival, one of the things I enjoyed most were the mimes by Steve Murray as they were interesting and entertaining.

"Another activity I enjoyed was the rosary making because it was something I had never done before and it was very easy to learn. I have since made more rosary bracelets!

"One other thing I liked about the weekend was the prayer ministry during Matt's key talk. I felt like this was the highlight of the weekend because it was an amazing experience that has deepened my faith."

'Happiest day of life' at Taizé

Staff and students of St John Fisher Catholic High School in Peterborough went on their second youth pilgrimage to Taizé in France on 5 July after having successfully fundraised over two years to cover the cost.

Once again the experience did not disappoint for the Year 10 and Year 11 pupils who attended.

The pilgrims overwhelmingly agreed that Taizé far exceeded anything they could have hoped for.

Artur Tomasevic described it as "the happiest week of his whole life", and Euridice Silva said she felt the experience had "changed her outlook on prayer and community".

She could not remember ever before taking time in silence to reflect on her life or her faith. She said it made her want to be "a better person" when she returned home.

For the staff that attended, it was most touching to see the gentle transformation that each and every

member of the group went through in this time in the South of France.

Brother Paolo from the Taizé community, who deals with the English speaking pilgrims, was very taken by the students' openness and growing enthusiasm towards even the more challenging aspects of the experience.

This included standing in line with over 4000 young people for breakfast, lunch and dinner in very high summer temperatures.

It certainly was testament to the amount of friends the group made when a large number of children from six countries turned up, some in tears, to wave goodbye to the St John Fisher students on the morning of departure.

The group, some pictured above right, said it agreed no matter what you read, research or hear about Taizé nothing really prepares you for the Taizé experience until you go for yourself.

"We look forward to returning in 2016/2017," they said.



'I Wish' by Roisin Scanlon

Luna loved the sky, especially at night, the inky blue backdrop the mesmerising lights gleaming. She would just stand there and stare out of her bedroom window, and wonder and wish.

Thoughts of the night sky never left Luna's head she became engrossed in the sky. Luna discovered people had been to the space. And that was when ambition and curiosity took over Luna's head. Although it was then that Luna decided going to space wasn't optional, she had to go. And the launch pad (for rockets that is) was the first place to go (luckily it was only 3 miles or so away).

Luna discovered the time of the soonest rocket launch (TOMORROW!). Luna was going to go on a luna adventure, (in the morning).

Luna sat up in bed wiping the sleep away from her eyes, she stood up and walked across the raw cold tiles as a cold shiver ran down her spine. But nothing could stop her, (Luna's parents thought she was going to the science centre) but little did they know there daughter could soon be in space.

The rocket was launching in minutes and Luna was aboard. Suddenly a big gust of wind flue in and the door opened. Two large blue eyes met Luna's, and that was when Luna's luna adventure ended. She was escorted out of the rocket, but she had forgotten something. Her story ...

3, 2, 1... Blast off the rocket shot up into the air faster than a built, and Luna was not aboard.

The astronauts were high in the sky when out of the corner of the astronauts eye saw discoloured sheet of folded lined paper. He reached down and picked it up; they both became instantly consumed with the story, and then the rocket went out of control .The astronauts went hurtling to the back of the rocket. As the speed doubled a large grey blur approached and BOOM! The rocket crashed, exploding into 1000's of pieces the radio crashed and they were never heard from again.

That night Luna peered through the telescope at the beautiful glowing moon and on it was her story.



More than 150 couples came to the Cathedral to celebrate marriage and family life and renew their wedding vows



Bishop Alan greeted each couple in turn and some of them came to the altar with their families and he made all welcome

Report by Kerry Urdzik
Pictures by Paul Hurst

Couples celebrate family life 'Marriage is part of God's plan' - Bishop

"Marriage has been inscribed in God's creation by God," Bishop Alan told over 150 married and engaged couples at the Annual Marriage and Family Celebration Mass at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, on 20 June.

Thanking all married couples for their faithful witness, he went on to explain that marriage is not simply a social structure that we can change, but has been revealed to us by God as part of his divine design. "Man and woman, so distinct and so different, are meant to find their fulfilment in each other", he said.

"As the night has no meaning without the day, so man and woman have no existence apart from one another."

This plan of complementarity is not meant to be self-absorbed, but is to be open to new life whereby we assist God in his work of creation.

"Marriage not only means being open to the gift of children, but raising them to be men and women of faith, love integrity and holiness" the Bishop continued,

"And your teaching is not that of words only, but the everyday witness of fidelity, sacrifice, and self-gift that you offer to each other in married love." Families are, as St John Paul II said, the Domestic Church and as such they enrich the Church. Exhorting families to speak to all people of the untiring and merciful love of Jesus, especially during the three year programme of evangelisation, Bishop Alan reminded all those present that "it is Christ who is the fulfilment of Christian marriage".

All married couples present were invited to renew their commitment, and certificates were awarded to those married one, five, 10 and every multiple of five years thereafter, as well as those who have had a baby in the past year. A beautiful reception followed the Mass, with Pimms served on the lawn, a lunch buffet and celebration cake cut by the Bishop with a couple married 60 years and a couple celebrating their first anniversary that day!

"This was a very special way for Carl and me to celebrate 25 years of marriage by having a blessing from the Bishop," said Angela Pereira. "The mass was very moving as we renewed our commitment to each other. I would encourage others to attend in the future as we would definitely go again."



The celebration of family life was enjoyed by all whatever their ages



NEWS

from
THE
CATHEDRAL
OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST



Norfolk dragon heart

There be dragon at the Narthex as visitors following a train around Norwich poured into St John's to see its colourful beast. The dragon's surface was covered in pictures that Teresa Hill designed to express the Heart of Norfolk. It included landmarks in 15 towns, Swallow Tail butterflies from the Broads, poppies, seals in the sea and Cromer crabs. Sponsors APR Telecoms said the towns and cities were close to its owner's heart.

Volunteers needed for popular Heritage Days

Hundreds of people are expected to come to St John the Baptist Cathedral during Norwich's Heritage Days beginning on 10 September.

Visitors want to look around local places they have seen from the outside but never entered.

The Cathedral is looking for volunteers to make these families, individuals and groups welcome.

In the past a large proportion of

visitors have made the effort to climb the tower to see the wide sweep of the city of Norwich and further afield.

As well as the sweeping vistas from the heights the visitors also ventured into the cathedral's "hidden places" and were fascinated by the woodchip heating system, the Duckett Library, the gallery chapel out of view of the congregation in the Nave and other "secret features".

But visitors are also able to see

displays of the work of the Cathedral. Parishioners working with foodbanks, fundraising for twin parishes in South America, altar servers, SVP and other groups are represented.

This will be an insight into the life of the cathedral parish often hidden from view from the rest of Norwich.

It is hoped that many will return to explore and to enjoy the catering at the newly relaunched Narthex.

Forum displays win interest of visitors

For the second time St John's Cathedral was involved in this ecumenical exhibition in the Forum.

It provides an opportunity to reach out to local people and introduce them to the Cathedral and all that it offers.

"This year we doubled the space and were right by the entrance to the library," Angela Thomas said.

"Visitors were attracted by DVDs on the Cathedral and details of recent activities put together by Deacon Patrick Limacher. Displays and leaflets were provided by parish and diocesan organisations.

"Our parish priests and volunteers shared their experiences with visitors and enjoyed meeting people from other Christian organisations."



Work has started to replace the lead roof on the north side of the Cathedral following the receipt of a £180,000 grant from the World War One Memorial Trust



This giant icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus made by staff and pupils at the Swaffham convent school has been a feature for some months at the Cathedral. Pictures surrounding the icon depict scenes from around North Norfolk including churches, windmills, animals and landscapes.

It was sponsored by Emily van Cutsen in memory of her late husband Hugh.

Alice through the Looking glass event

TO COME

ALTAR SERVERS EVENT

TO COME



News from communities and parishes around the Diocese



Mary Scott, Stephen Matthews, Sr Anna Hawke, Sr Pat Robb, Mary Watkins and Bernard Shaw on the banks of the Thames and Judith Tooth running for Cafod

Campaigning for Pope

As Pope Francis was announcing his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, people from across East Anglia were meeting in Westminster to join CAFOD supporters and others to ask their MPs to take action and raise concerns with the PM and other world leaders.

Judith Tooth, from Diss parish, said: "I was inspired to join the lobby because it's part of a bigger story. I don't want to be part of a community that turns its back on people. I want to be part of the solution."

"The Pope's encyclical will be challenging. That's brilliant - it's what we need. Pope Francis has captured the world's imagination. I hope and pray that what he says will have influence and momentum."

Peter Coates, from Burnham Market parish, said: "I feel anxious about the poor of the world who are suffering the worst effects of climate change. The control of climate change is a project that will bring all the countries of the world together and I think that is what God wants."

"God, rather than money, could become the motivation for our work to control carbon emissions and help to bring different religions together."

Place of reflection hidden in plain sight

A reflection on the influence of those involved in the ministries of Clare Priory in Suffolk, pictured right, by Alan Turner.

It was vital for me to get away for a few days. The pressure of work had been relentless. And stop I must. Quite by chance, or perhaps I pressed the wrong key, I found myself on the website of Clare Priory in Suffolk.

Perhaps I could go there for a night so I phoned. The warmth of the person who took my call was very welcome and "yes" I could go on the following day, Tuesday, and stay until the Sunday.

Clare Priory is certainly not a lifeless historical monument to the past. My first encounter was with the Father Prior over a cup of tea and he sketched for me an outline of the daily routine and said that I could join in or not as my mood dictated.

And someone would be on hand, he said, if I wanted to talk.

The recovery of my spiritual health would be my focus and I would join the group for the Be Still day on the Thursday.

This was the first step on my journey of exploration into the wide range of ministries at Clare Priory that benefit the people of East Anglia and beyond.

My ears pricked up at the mention of the prison no more than 20 minutes drive away.

The Prior had been saying Mass for the prisoners every Saturday for the past 12 years.

I listened attentively as I heard of the response of the prisoners - several baptisms, others returning to faith after years of separation and a renewed interest in prayer stimulated by a Clare friar's book "Finding your hidden treasure".

On one of my many return visits I was a

Pope Francis places concern for the environment alongside encyclicals that addressed lifestyle and behaviour.

So, before setting out to attend the Climate Rally in Westminster, a group from the Catholic parishes in Cambridge met and compiled a short study course reflecting on the themes Pope Francis addressed in his letter.

Stephen Matthews, from Cafod, said: We explored the experience of people in some of the poorest communities of the world, who through floods and famines had watched the encroaching tide of climate change, and seen the gap between rainfall widen and rivers run dry.

"The title *"Laudato Si'"* is taken from St Francis of Assisi's poem and prayer, Canticle of the Sun.

"We found ourselves standing on the banks of the river Thames in the sunshine and light breeze, surrounded by almost 10,000 'people of good will' as they speak to their MPs.

"Days like this, when we can speak up for the poor, are when we feel our faith having an impact."



little bewildered because I couldn't join a group.

Later I discovered that this group consisted of Alcoholics Anonymous members. AA really does mean anonymous.

On another occasion I met a woman with bulimia rescued from her addiction by attending a retreat at Clare Priory.

Anyone, of any faith or no faith, will also find a welcome and a compassionate listening ear.

Not only does Clare Priory call people in, It also responds unhesitatingly to requests to go out to places around East Anglia and beyond.

Over the past four years requests have come from Derbyshire and Worcestershire, from Woodbridge, from Lowestoft and Kesgrave and many other places.

All are requests to introduce people to the practice of silent prayer.

And this Outreach Ministry is wholly inter-denominational. Requests from Anglicans, Baptists, Free Church and from the unchurched.

What a gem of a place I have discovered. And it is hidden in plain sight.

Parishes meet to form ideas

Representatives from parishes all across the diocese were welcomed by Bishop Alan to a day for the New Evangelisation held at Our Lady, Mother of God church in Norwich on 27 June.

Each parish was asked to send at least one delegate to the event in preparation for the Diocese's second year of New Evangelisation starting in September which focuses on the evangelisation of parishes.

Using some ideas from the work of evangelist Sherry Weddell, author of *Forming Intentional Disciples*, the day explored the different steps a person takes in his or her journey towards relationship with Jesus.

Delegates shared a whole range of ideas for how to reach out to people who come to church and to non church going Catholics.

Fr Sean Connolly, one of the event organisers, said: "The day was highly practical, with plenty of opportunity for delegates to share with one another the good things already taking place in so many of our parishes."

Co-organiser Rebecca Bretherton added: "Our parishes already have enthusiastic people doing amazing things. We now have a group of people who can help our communities to plan their year ahead."

The day itself was rooted in prayer, beginning with Mass and punctuated before lunch with a period of *lectio divina* - a prayerful reading and re-reading of the bible.

One of the concerns of the group was how to 'break the silence' - how to encourage the majority of Catholics coming to Mass on a Sunday to share something of their faith with one another.

"When was the last time you turned to the person sitting next to you at the end of Mass and shared with them why you really liked the psalm response?" Rebecca challenged the delegates.

"Or talked about the words of one of the hymns you've just sung, or shared with them something that struck you in the first reading?"

Another focus was how to build on the opportunities to evangelise that arise naturally throughout the year. How to welcome the many 'resting' Catholics who make an effort at Christmas and Easter to join us for Mass; how to encourage those whose relatives have had funerals celebrated in our churches to come again; how to involve young couples in parish life beyond their wedding day.

One delegate from a Norfolk parish said of the event: "The day was thought provoking and inspiring in terms of content and a great opportunity to meet and share ideas with people from the whole diocese".

A delegate from a Suffolk parish summed up the enthusiasm of the day: "I know God is in my life and I want to tell everyone about Him."

'Faith alive' at Celebrate weekend

"I want to see all of you back again next year and to bring someone new with you".

This was the invitation Bishop Alan gave to everyone at the end of the 3rd Celebrate Weekend, held in St Benedict's School in Bury 30/31 May. Bishop Alan presided at the final Mass of what had been a full and amazing weekend.

The event was promised as a way of showing that faith can be alive and relevant to everyday life.

"Rise Theatre were great, especially the photograph sketch, which really made me think how Christ walks beside me at every moment of my life" - one comment from a feedback sheet.

"The mood of joyful celebration that characterised the weekend was thanks in no small part to Joe Wells and his music group," Philip Walters said.

"One or two new songs helped us to explore the theme Your Word is a



Joyful Celebrate



Lamp to Guide my Feet.

"International speaker David Wells engaged the 200 adults in the hall with a moving talk illustrated with pictures and images.

"One moment people were rolling around with laughter, while the next struck by some heartfelt truth about living out our faith and relating to the God who loves us.

"He shared his own efforts to trust God and be led by the Spirit with illustrations from his own life.

"David also gave a workshop on Popular Misconceptions about God."

Other workshops included Expectant Faith, What is the Charismatic Renewal All About?, Christian Unity, Moving in the Gifts of the Spirit, Missionary Work in Cambodia, and Why is it always Winter in the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe?

"The Weekend celebrates the best things about being Catholic and many people said the Adoration time was special for them and the opportunity to go to Reconciliation important," Philip said.

New for some who attended was the opportunity for Prayer Ministry - the opportunity to be prayed with by two trained prayer ministers. For next year's event keep an eye on the website www.celebrateconference.org and your parish newsletter. For more details contact Philip on 07910157584.

Integrated education in Holy6 Land aim of Nazareth Trust

In May, Bernard Whyte, a parishioner of the Sacred Heart Parish in Ramsey had the honour of meeting His Beatitude, Archbishop Twal in Southwark Cathedral.

Bernard is a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, and chairs the Cambridge Nazareth Trust, a charity which over the past 30 years has donated over £600,000 to help educate Christian in the Holy Land.

One of the 2014 summer camps was held in Rafidia, a city in Nablus. Children from three different religions: Christian, Muslim and Samaritan attended this camp.

For almost a month during the summer vacation, children and



youth are engaged in various activities that include: drama, arts, religion, music, voluntary work and social services.

This year, there is a need to support 26 parishes which lack funding to conduct the 2015 summer camps. These have proved to be one of the best ways for the parishes to continue with their pastoral mission and catechism programs, offering both youth and children a

safe haven where they can have a chance to grow within the parish campus and become productive members of their communities.

This is especially true for children who come from unprivileged socio-economic backgrounds, children who live in impoverished areas, as well as areas of conflict and war zones.

The Cambridge Nazareth Trust relies on donations from individuals and parishes.

Please contact the chairman on bernardwhyte@btinternet.com or www.cambridgenazarethtrust.org website. Bishop Alan is the patron of the Trust that hopes to launch an appeal during next year.



The Miraculous Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadeloupe

Parish welcomes relic

The Miraculous Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was recently welcomed to St Peter and All Souls in Peterborough attended by John Smeaton from the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child.

Angela Lobo and Joe Rodriguez arranged the visit and the Service of Reception at which the principal celebrant was Rev David Paul, the Dean of St John's Cathedral. More than 300 people, 10 priests and two deacons as well as two children's choirs attended. Many pilgrims remained to venerate the Relic Image.

"During the following few days the devotions continued, not least among the East Timor community who met at 3.00pm each day to pray the Rosary and sing devotional hymns," Susan Sarsfield said.

John Smeaton visited St Peter's to venerate the Relic Image and also to give a very impassioned talk on respect for life, against euthanasia and our disposable society, and defence of the family. His talk followed the service of Vespers.

"All too soon for the people of Peterborough the visit came to an end on Thursday 16 July," Susan said,

"Each day prior to this, hundreds of visitors came including parties of school children from all the Catholic Schools in the city as well as a party from the Peterborough Cathedral (Anglican) choir school.

The Mass on the Friday was led by Fr Adam and concelebrated with priests from other churches in the town as well as visiting priests from Warsaw and Louth in Lincolnshire.

He had viewed the web site by chance the evening before and decided to come. Present in the congregation were the head teacher of St John Fisher School and the leader of the city council.

BUILDING BRIDGES in The Holy Land

Story of two sisters working among the Bedouins by Andres Bergamini

JERUSALEM – A report on the nursery school in a Bedouin camp in the Judean Desert with the Combonian sisters: a dramatic reality on the ground, often ignored, on the sideline of society.

The rendezvous was fixed near Maale Adumim settlement, on the road running downhill from Jerusalem to Jericho. Sr Azezet and Sr Agnes arrived in a jeep, the only way to travel easily through the desert and gave a ride to a small team made of Andrea and Lorenzo, two brothers from the Family of the Visitation, Henrique Abreu, in charge of LPJ projects, and Sr Azezet's niece.

After Maale Adumim and the settlement of Kedar, they went through the Judean desert next to the famous Muntar Hill, not far from the Monastery of Mar Saba, where the natural scenery is stunning as sand dunes blend with old stones and thorns with wild herbs. Finally they discovered a combination of tents, sheds and shacks for sheep: that's where the Bedouins live. It is there that the sisters founded their nursery school.

Local families come from seven Bedouin communities who used to live on hilltops in the east of Jerusalem, a desert area, with the only natural resource being seven water springs. There in the 60s, the Israeli Settlement of Maale Adumim was built illegally (beyond the Green Line).

It houses now more than 50 000 inhabitants. These seven Bedouin communities, swept out, started roaming about in the adjoining valleys. Today, the communities are spread over some ten camps and live in unstable social and working conditions.



The sisters' home in the desert

Five years ago, the Combonian Sisters decided to respond to the needs of this community. They came back to live in the village of Azareya, in the vicinity of Lazarus Tomb, a community separated by the separation Wall, finished some years ago, that cuts them off from their mother house in Bethany which remains in the area of Jerusalem.

They work as a team together with the Israeli charity "Rabbis for Human Rights" and with the NGO "Vent de Terre" making visits to the most remote Bedouin communities.



Children need education and the sisters responded



One of the sisters with the young children

This work was launched by many visits in order to strengthen the trust, start new friendships and to explore the needs of these people. The Sisters thus became full members of the larger Bedouin family. They focused on two basic aspects: health and education.

A mobile clinic run by the Palestinian Ministry of Health, goes from one village to another to provide care for the sick, including vaccination of children and follow-up of pregnant mothers. Some Bedouin women became auxiliary nurses and three of them were hired by the Palestinian Ministry of Health to work in the Azareyah-based regular clinic.

For education, the sisters relied on help of village women. They secured the training of some of them to become schoolteachers for their children, three for each school. There are now seven schools embracing around 25 children each in the villages of Al Muntar, Tabana, Anata, Abu Hindi, Al Jabal, Abu Nawar I, Abu Nawar II, where about 45 Bedouin women are employed as teachers. Twelve new young girls finished their training on 31 May 2015.



The Bedouin chieftain appreciates the sisters' work

The teachers are united as they say: "These Christian sisters, our friends, have helped our lives by pulling us upward. In involving us they have changed our daily lives and we are thankful for them."

The visit concluded with lunch under the tent of the village chieftain, the one whom Sr Azezet and Sr Agnes call lovingly Abraham, a name easily understood because of his white beard and his sense of hospitality.

Along this "periphery of the periphery" in the Holy Land, these people who are victims of on-going injustice, welcome many of these Combonian sisters knowing that nothing would stop them; nothing would push them back.

They have so many plans to bring to fruition and to promote the advancement and support of local women, so now they need helpers, contributions, benefactors and of course the Church.

CAN YOU HELP?

Our two 'Building Bridges' projects this year are renovating the Taybeh Old People's Centre in the Holy Land and a new formation centre for children, youth groups and adults at Battambang in Cambodia.

Would you like to support these projects? Cheques should be made payable to the 'RC Diocese of East Anglia'.

First Name.....

Surname.....

Address.....

Postcode..... Amount enclosed.....

Anything you give will be divided equally between Cambodia and the Holy Land, unless you indicate below by ticking one or other that all your money should go to that project:

CAMBODIA (Battambang Centre)

HOLY LAND (Taybeh Centre)

GIFT AID DECLARATION (if appropriate)

I wish the RC Diocese of East Anglia to reclaim tax on this donation. I have paid an amount of UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the tax amount claimed by all the Charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) to whom I have donated in that tax year.

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

Signed.....

Date.....

Please send to:
'Building Bridges', 21 Uppgate, Poringland,
Norwich, NR14 7SH
Registered charity no. 278742

Sr Teresa celebrates 100th birthday

Many former pupils will remember Sr Teresa Walsh of St Louis Convent in Newmarket who reached her 100th birthday on 18 June 2015 at nearby Kentford Manor Nursing Home.

Known fondly by her extended family as Auntie Teasie, and by those she taught as Sr Brenda, she was surrounded by loving family, friends, St Louis Sisters and carers for the occasion.

The arrival of the card from the Queen and the letter from the President of Ireland caused great ripples of excitement.

At noon Mass was celebrated by Fr Simon Blakesley who knelt by Sr Teresa's wheelchair and delivered the homily by counting her blessings with her and giving thanks to God for her long healthy life of service.

Lunch was followed by cutting the birthday cake and the toast was affectionately proposed by her eldest nephew David.

Sr Teresa was born in Ballylongford, County Kerry, before the Republic of Ireland existed, on the centenary of the Battle of Waterloo, as she liked to remind people. Educated at St Louis in Monaghan, she entered the convent there in 1933 and was sent to teach in Great Yarmouth in 1939.

When the school children were evacuated to Retford in 1940 she was billeted there for up to four years, helping to teach and take care of the children.

Later she attended Notre Dame Training College in Glasgow and became a renowned infants school teacher for several generations of children in Great Yarmouth, with short spells spent in Newcastle, County Down and Bury St Edmunds.



Fr Simon Blakesley with Sr Teresa Walsh on her 100th birthday

Roisin Hannaway SSL said: "She is well remembered by her numerous past pupils, many of whom kept up correspondence with her to this day.

"Over the years she enjoyed travelling and telling stories of her travels to Lourdes, the Holy Land and the Oberammergau Passion Play; she liked going on holidays and being with her family.

"After her official retirement in 1980 she stayed very active in Great Yarmouth parish until 2006 when a deterioration in her health led to her coming to the Convent in Newmarket where she has been since."

Contributions please
News email address
editor@east-angliadiocese.org.uk
Before next deadline on
28 September 2015



Joe Bates, of Our Lady and St Walstan parish, Costessey, receiving the East Anglian Diocesan Medal from parish priest, Fr David Ward. Joe has sung in the choir at the church for over 78 years.

Eileen one of UK's oldest drivers

Eileen Ash, from St George's parish in Norwich, was recently featured on an ITV documentary programme about people over 100 who are still driving.

Her "speedy" yellow Mini is often seen at the churches of the parish.

The former England Women's cricketer and enthusiast for the game said that she would not get around to church, yoga and other places without her car.

She told the programme that she preferred the small car because "it had great acceleration".

There are currently 230 drivers in the UK over the age of 100. Over 101 that number shrinks to 140. But in a pool of only 19 drivers over 103 is Eileen Ash.

Active Eileen, 103, wants to drive to go is to is church, bowls, bridge, the driving range and yoga.

She says: "I love driving. Oh just being free I think, being on four wheels and going where I want to go. For my age I'm pretty lucky.

"I haven't many aches and pains although my knees are beginning to creak a bit, but



Eileen Ash likes to stay active and is pictured here with her Mini

you put up with those sort of things."

Former England cricketer Eileen says she wouldn't do without her Mini.

She says: "Cricket is the love of my life and the Mini's the second. I've owned four Minis.

"I like a small car, and it's quite speedy, the acceleration is good.

"It does stand out in the crowds, yes... If I couldn't drive I think I'd have a motorbike and that wouldn't be very safe."