

OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY



The newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

FREE

November 2009

Invitation to meet Pope at Madrid 2011

The diocese has launched the preparations for the next World Youth Day which will be in Madrid, Spain, 6-23 August 2011.

“Young people may be thinking “not another World Youth Day already!” but “we need to start early to give people a chance to prepare”, Hamish MacQueen, Director of the Youth Service said.

“Part of this is about raising money but just as important is getting to know each other and focusing on the theme the Pope has set.

“For Madrid it is “Rooted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith”, which will help focus our preparation days.

“WYD 2008 reminded me that the fortnight away is only a part of the pilgrimage.

“The activities in the lead up to a WYD seem to help young people develop a sense of community and ‘belonging’ both in their parishes and in the diocese, which I think is very worthwhile.”

World Youth Day was started by Pope John Paul in 1984. It’s much more than a day – usually up to two weeks.

This brings together young Catholics from

around the world to celebrate and learn more about their faith. It is also an encounter by young people of the world with the Pope and the Christian community of the host country.



Recent World Youth Days have been held in Toronto, Cologne and Sydney. Hamish said: “Young people who have been from East Anglia have not only found the pilgrimage enjoyable – it has also been incredibly faith nurturing and for some even life changing.

World Youth Day Madrid August 6th – 23rd (provisional dates)

For: Young People aged 16 and over by 1st August 2011 and adult leaders
To guarantee a place, a completed booking form and deposit must be received at the Diocesan Youth Office by 1st December 2009. Bookings will continue to be received after this time until we are fully booked.

For more information telephone the diocesan youth office on 01508 494833 or go to www.catholiceastanglia.org/youth where you can download an information pack and booking form.

People from parishes, schools and communities across East Anglia went to Walsingham to welcome and venerate the relics of St Therese. Young people from parishes, members of the Diocesan Youth Council, students from the Sacred Heart at Swaffham, seminarians and St Walstan’s gallery choir came together to provide music and readings for the vigil while also venerating the relics. Thousands of people made the journey to shrine to pay their respects and attend the services and Masses. More pictures and the full story are on the centre pages.



Notre Dame Mass begins school year



Thanks to a masterpiece of planning Friday 11 September saw visitors arriving for the Heritage Week events at St John’s Cathedral at the same time as the staff and pupils from Notre Dame High School attended a Mass to celebrate the new school year.

This reduced numbers to be escorted up the tower presented an opportunity to take this picture from the balcony at the west end.

One of the tower escorts Stephen Slack said: “I thought the pupils and staff were a great credit to the school and the Mass itself a very impressive celebration of the school’s culture and community.”

NEWS FROM BISHOP MICHAEL

Battambang to the White House

At the beginning of September, I was delighted to welcome Fr Totet Banaynal, parish priest of Battambang and Vicar General of our twin diocese in Cambodia. During his two weeks here, he visited several of our schools, and three parishes twinned with Cambodian communities, as well as Walsingham (below). His visit further strengthened the growing friendship between East Anglia and Battambang.



And tents to the White House

At the end of August, members of the Diocesan Youth Council gathered for their annual overnight camping retreat at the White House on the theme of 'Stewards of Creation'. 15 young adults joined Hamish MacQueen and Bishop Michael.



Moves and Mergers

There were no clergy moves or parish mergers in September 2009, but there will be some of both in a year's time. In September 2010, Hadleigh and Sudbury will merge into one parish, as will Buckden and St Neot's.

Diocesan theme for 2009/2010

**I OFFER MY LIFE
TO GOD**

To complement the 'Year of the Priest', our diocesan theme from the beginning of Advent this year until Christ the King 2010 will focus on 'sacrificial love'. We will explore the Mass as 'Sacrifice', as our entering into Christ's sacrificial gift of himself to the Father for our salvation, what it means to be God's 'Priestly' People, and ordained priesthood as sacrificial.

We will also celebrate the 30th anniversary of the martyrdom of Archbishop Oscar Romero, who gave his life at the altar during Mass in love for the people entrusted to him, a wonderful example of the sacrificial love asked of priests and people together as friends and followers of Jesus Christ. It will be a further opportunity to highlight priestly vocations.

The focus on the sacrificial dimension of the Mass will complement our theme in 2007-2008, 'Receiving and Being the Body of Christ', centred on Holy Communion.

2010 is the Centenary Year of St John's Cathedral, dedicated to St John the Baptist. During that year, much will be made of the parallels between these two 'prophets' who gave their lives to God – St John the Baptist and Oscar Romero.

Our theme has five key aims:

(a) To give Catholics in East Anglia an even greater understanding of the heart of the Gospel: God's Son giving his life in sacrificial love for all humanity, as the great High Priest and the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for his sheep.

(b) To give us all a deeper sense of what it means to be a priestly community, and to enrich our spiritual lives by renewing the idea of prayer as a 'sacrifice of praise', offering our lives to God.

(c) To help us grasp more deeply the sacrificial meaning of the Mass, and help parents, catechists and school teachers to present that teaching more clearly in home, school and parish. One key focus will be on Jesus as the Lamb of God.

(d) To present the vocation to the ministerial priesthood as a call to 'unite yourselves more closely to Christ and to try to be more like him by joyfully sacrificing your own pleasure and ambition to bring his peace and love to your brothers and sisters' (*Chrism Mass*). Priestly ministry and priestly vocations will be further highlighted during the year.

(e) To offer Archbishop Oscar Romero as an example of priestly service – for all God's people and for ordained priests.

Diocesan Projects throughout the year:

1. Pastoral Letters for the Baptism of the Lord (10th January 2010) and 4th Sunday of Easter (25th April 2010).
2. In addition, a letter from the Bishop to all parishioners, to be duplicated and distributed, regarding prayer and support for our priests (for Advent 2009).
3. 'The Bishop Teaches' articles in the Diocesan Newspaper.
4. Joint Diocese of East Anglia/Diocese of Battambang Prayer Card for the 30th anniversary of the death of Archbishop Romero (24th March 2010).
5. Diocesan Prayer Card and revised diocesan leaflet on the Priesthood for Vocations Sunday (25th April 2010).
6. Diocesan Act of Commitment as God's Priestly People (Baptism of the Lord, 10th January 2010).
7. Special focus on the Ministerial Priesthood at the Chrism Mass 2010.
8. A model 'Service of the Word' which could be used either as it stands or as the Liturgy of the Word at Mass
9. Two diocesan 'Learning Together' study days, one on the 'Sacrifice of the Mass' and another on Archbishop Romero (both led by Bishop Michael).
10. Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham (3rd May 2010) on the theme of 'Mary, Mother and Queen of Priests'.
11. Hopefully, Priestly Ordinations at St John's Cathedral on 10th July 2010.

LEARNING TOGETHER

These are the next two modules for our diocesan adult religious formation programme. Everyone is welcome.

Genesis & Darwin

Saturday 31st October 2009

at the Parish Centre, Catholic Church,
14 Exeter Road, Newmarket, CB8 8LT

Dr Adrian Graffy asks whether Christians can trust both the Book of Genesis and Darwin's *Origin of Species*.

Sacrifice and the Mass

Saturday 28th November 2008

at the Catholic Church Hall,

1 Norwich Road, Wymondham, NR18 0QE

As part of the diocesan theme for 2009/2010, Bishop Michael leads a day on 'sacrifice' and what it means to speak of the Mass as 'sacrificial'. He will provide support for catechists in presenting this topic.

You can register for each module by e-mailing: learning.together@yahoo.co.uk

or by going to the 'Adult Education' pages on our diocesan website and registering on-line, or by writing to:

Diocesan Learning Together Programme, Parish Office, 14 Exeter Road, Newmarket CB8 8LT

All modules are on Saturdays, with registration and coffee at 10.30 and finishing at 3.00. Bring your own packed lunch.

Second Collections

Sunday 1st November
ST EDMUND'S FUND

The St Edmund's Fund is the gift of the people of our diocese to poor or disadvantaged people in East Anglia. Our Diocesan Commission for Social Concern distributes the money to various welfare organisations to relieve poverty and distress, or to enhance the quality of life of any disadvantaged person or group. Under Charity Law, it is given only to organisations with charitable objects or to parishes; it cannot be given directly to any individual.

Sunday 22nd November (Youth Sunday)
DIOCESAN YOUTH SERVICE

This collection is only for our diocesan youth service. It supports the work of our Director of Diocesan Youth Services, the Diocesan Youth Council and the Diocesan Youth Commission, and is used to encourage and organise youth activities at diocesan level.

Sunday 13th December
SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS FUND

This diocesan fund provides support, help and care for retired priests, and also for our priests who are unable to carry on a fully active ministry through sickness or age.

+ Michael

THE BISHOP TEACHES

PLANET EARTH – OUR COMMON HOME



Since last Advent, our diocesan theme has been ‘Caring for creation as stewards of God’. At the end of this month, we move on to our theme for 2010 – ‘Sacrificial Love’ – which will give us an opportunity to explore together the sacrifice of Christ our High Priest (the Lamb of God), what it means to be a priestly people, the Mass as sacrificial, and the ministry of the priest (in this ‘Year of the Priest’).

But we cannot then forget about our responsibility to take better care of our planet and its resources. This is a sacred duty, entrusted to us by God himself. It has to be a lifelong commitment, for the sake of future generations.

Planet Earth is our common home, and it is under threat – from ourselves! We would not look after our own homes for just one year, and then give up bothering and let them fall into decay. And we must not do that to our common home either.

As I mentioned in the September edition, nineteen priests of our diocese joined me up in Leeds in June for a study week on the ‘ecological crisis’, led by Fr Josh Kureethadam who teaches at the Salesian Pontifical University in Rome. I would like to use this page to pass on some of the thoughts Fr Josh shared with us during the week.

Scientists have been warning us for decades about the impending ecological crisis and the urgency of dealing with it. Back in 1992, 1,700 leading scientists, including 104 Nobel prize-winners, issued a ‘Warning to Humanity’:

“A great change in our stewardship of the earth and the life on it is required if vast human misery is to be avoided and our global home on this planet is not to be irretrievably mutilated.”

As so often, it is the world’s poorest people who will bear the brunt of it all, but all of us will be affected. Soaring temperatures could make agriculture unviable over huge areas of the world where people are already poor and hungry, and rising sea levels will destroy substantial coastal areas in low-lying countries, causing mass movements of refugees. In other words, the current ecological crisis is no longer just an environmental issue but rather a looming humanitarian catastrophe.

As Kofi Annan (then United Nations Secretary General) put it in 2006: ‘Climate change is not just an environmental issue, as too many people still believe. It is an all-encompassing threat.’

Almost inevitably, there are sceptics about all of this, especially among champions of the economy and industry. There are those who want to attribute any climate change to natural causes rather than human activity. They say the Earth has been through numerous variations of climate and even mass extinctions of species during its long history, and that the alarm about the ecological crisis is not only overstated but misplaced.

It is true that the Earth has gone through periods of global warming in the past, but we need to take full account of the scale and intensity of current climatic changes. The crisis is not just about global warming, but about the whole way we treat and abuse our common home, Planet Earth.

Here are some extracts from Fr Josh’s talks:

- ❖ Scientists believe that a sixth mass extinction spasm is upon the earth, and predict that 15-37% of regional endemic species could be committed to extinction as early as 2050. The unique feature about the sixth mass extinction of species is that it is caused by one species alone – the human race.
- ❖ According to Harvard conservation biologist Edward O. Wilson, human-caused species extinction has accelerated from about 1,000 species per year in the 1970s to more than 10,000 species per year at present, and is bound to increase with the temperatures rising.
- ❖ The ecological crisis is above all the cry of the Earth, the groaning of Mother Earth. No one can fail to recognise the ecological threat that is looming large over our planet. The ozone layer is being depleted year after year, the process of global warming has been rapidly on the increase, the cycle of seasons appears to have gone awry, nearly half of the forests that once covered the earth have already been lost, our air and water have been contaminated and plant life as well as flora and fauna in our oceans are becoming extinct year after year.
- ❖ Pollution is a ubiquitous reality on the planet, corrupting the biosphere through the poisoning of air, land and water.
- ❖ Another major facet of the ecological crisis is soil erosion and desertification, which lead to the loss of about 6 million hectares every year world-wide, with a further 21 million hectares rendered uneconomic.
- ❖ Trees absorb carbon dioxide and turn it into oxygen. The great forests are the lungs of the planet. Every year, forests totalling the size of England, Wales and Scotland are felled.

As Lynn White noted back in 1967, “surely no creature other than man has ever managed to foul its nest in such short order.”

- ❖ Life as we know it exists only on the Earth. Life has been in continuous evolution ever since it sparked off on this planet, in the oceans as it is commonly believed, nearly 4 billion years ago, before reaching the magnificent variety and forms with which it now presents itself (biodiversity). Many of these forms are now faced with extinction. The planet Earth is poised precariously on the verge of a sixth mass extinction of species.
- ❖ The planet’s natural resources are being depleted at an alarming rate.

- ❖ Globally, we now demand the capacity of 1.4 planets! In other words, our rate of use stands at 40% more than the planet can renewably supply. By 2050, it is calculated that we will need another planet altogether. But we have only one!
- ❖ It is the poor who bear the brunt of environmental degradation.

SO – WHAT TO DO?

Live Simply – so that others (including our descendants) can simply live!

Take what actions we can to care for our common home, Planet Earth, and preserve its resources (see the September edition).

Demand that our politicians (local, national and international) take the radical actions needed.

Ensure that our family homes and lives, and our parish buildings and activities, are beacons of faithful stewardship of God’s creation.

(In September, all parish priests were sent an environmental audit for your parishes, entitled ‘How green is our church?’)

At the heart of the ecological crisis lies our alienation from nature. We need to return to a sense of Mother Earth, and to Planet Earth as the common God-given home for all humanity, entrusted to us all to share – now and in the future.

St Francis of Assisi had a strong sense of this spirituality of creation, expressed in his ‘Canticle of the Sun’ (the hymn of praise to God the Creator which mentions ‘Brother Sun and Sister Moon’):

All praise be yours, my Lord,
through sister earth, our mother,
who feeds us in her sovereignty
and produces various fruits
and coloured flowers and herbs.

‘The journey ahead is arduous, but the Christian faith sustains us in this challenge.’

We are invited to participate in the process of environmental care, sharing in the deep faith that we have not only a common Father in heaven, but also a common ‘mother earth’, to be loved and cared for.

Such spiritual paternity and earthly maternity alone can guarantee true fraternity among humanity.

The dream of weaving a better tomorrow is possible only on a greener Earth, together not only with our human brothers and sisters, but with all of God’s creation.’ (Fr Josh)

ONE TO WATCH

There is now a beautifully-filmed video on this planet as our ‘Home’, a 1 hour 33 minute film by Yann Arthus-Bertrand about the miracle of life and how human beings are threatening its future.

It can be watched by going to:

<http://www.youtube.com/homeproject>

(or just Google ‘Home Bertrand’ to take you there). It is narrated by Glenn Close.

I strongly encourage everyone to watch it.

+ Michael

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YOUTH MATTERS (Oh Yes We Do!)



Activities were fun and challenging for all



The youngsters also discussed important issues that might have an impact on their lives



Getting ready for Madrid World Youth Day

The next World Youth Day is to be held in Madrid in August 2011 and now is the time to begin preparations if you want to go.

Some things people said about previous WYDs

'I really think it's one of the best experiences for any young person to attend' - Freya Barlow, Norfolk

'It can be, and often is, a faith- and life-enhancing event.' - Fr. Michael Johnstone, Parish Priest of Swaffham who has been to five World Youth Days.

'The trip was the most fun filled two weeks of my life, period. It was also immensely spiritual' - Jean-Yves Kanyamibwa, Cambridge.

'Truthfully I came out thinking it was going to be pants...but boy was I wrong, I loved it so thank you, bring on 2011!! woo!' - Matthew Rutterford, Ipswich

Fun and faith at summer camp

Eccles Hall was, once again, the venue for the Faith Food and Fun summer camp in August and it was one of the largest in numbers for several years.

Leader Chris Storman said: "Our theme 'We are all stewards of God's creation' was explored by the younger group in appreciating all of God's creation and the beauty of all around us, plus the need to protect it for the future.

"They worked on the seven days of creation and wrote their own Psalm of thanks and praise to the Lord, which was used during our liturgy of the day.

"As well as other artwork, e.g. a large rainbow, they actually built two arks having looked at Noah's saving of all creatures. They created their own animals too!

"The older group (11-14) looked at world situations and our responsibility to protect our planet and all people in it. They heard about CAFOD's latest Climate Justice campaign and studied some shocking figures and facts about the effects of climate changes.

"They worked together to produce a huge banner depicting the seven days of creation, with a centre piece of hand prints containing messages to Gordon Brown asking him to vote for big climate change actions at the UN December meeting in Copenhagen.

"This will be sent to the Prime Minister.

"A Fairtrade exercise gave an insight

into injustices in the exploitation of the poor in developing countries and how we should work to change it – a fun game but the serious message was discussed fully.

"All enjoyed some wonderful Masses and liturgies together, led by our excellent chaplain, Fr Martin Fears, and great musicians.

"Our Reconciliation service was very special, focusing on not so much what we had done wrong, but how we could do so much more for all as Stewards of God's Creation.

"Fr Martin spoke especially well to us, using various 'props' from the lovely Eccles Hall grounds and gardens. Frs Richard Zang and David Ward assisted with individual confessions and Fr Peter Marsh visited and celebrated Sunday Mass with us."

Fun times were plentiful too. These involved team games and competitions, swimming and use of the school's low ropes course (no injuries!)

The Talent show was a highlight as always. This was hosted by Hamish MacQueen, ably assisted by Dan Greef and most of the youngsters took part!!

The evening ended with a 'Hamish Special' gig which was great Fun!

Some of the children also enjoyed visiting the nearby Carmelite convent at Quidenham for Vespers – a new and nice experience.

We're looking forward to next year already!



Music and competitions were all part of the fun



Pictured are the Diocesan Youth Council on their annual paintballing trip before spending an overnight retreat with Bishop Michael.

But that is not all they do! They regularly meet with Bishop Michael and Hamish MacQueen to plan the youth events and pilgrimages run by the diocese. They also campaign against human rights abuses.

If you would be interested in joining the Youth Council, please contact Hamish in the Diocesan Youth Office.

Meetings take place five times a year on a Sunday afternoon, ending with Mass and Pizza.

You need to be confirmed and aged 16-21.

Key Events in 2010

From the Diocesan Youth Service

January 2nd

Epiphany Eve
Candlelight Mass at Poringland
Bonfire and fireworks in the Bishop's garden.
For those recently confirmed or preparing for Confirmation.

February 7th

World Youth Day Preparation Day
For all those planning on going to WYD 2011 in Madrid.
Details to be confirmed

Spring-half term

Ice Skating
Details to be confirmed

May 3rd

Walk to Walsingham
A sponsored walk to Walsingham joining with the Diocesan Pilgrimage for Mass.

July 11th

The Big One
Our main event of the year for young people of secondary school age.

July 24th - August 2nd

Young Adults Pilgrimage to Taizé.
Our annual pilgrimage to Taizé.
For those aged 17+



Here is also some advice from Hamish and his team

Isn't World Youth Day just a bit of a holiday?

Anyone who thinks that should come! Of course there are, and should be, times to relax but most of the time it's packed. On last World Youth Day, the second week in particular was very full. Each day we had Catechesis sessions, Mass, concerts, workshops, exhibitions etc. We came back each evening exhausted!

But what about young people who want their parish to support them going on a pilgrimage when we never see them at Mass?

I agree it doesn't seem fair for young people

to ask their parish to support them when they are not involved in the parish, but isn't it better they are enabled to have some contact with the Church (in its widest sense) than none at all? And it could change their lives!

Pilgrimages can cost such a lot of money. Wouldn't it be better to put that money into other young people's projects closer to home?

Both are very valuable. Much of the money raised for young people going on pilgrimage comes from the overwhelming generosity of parishioners – pilgrimages are something very tangible that generally people are willing to support. In my experience, it's much harder to raise money for other projects for young people such as a full-time diocesan youth mission team, deanery youth workers, outreach projects etc.





Pilgrims came from every part of Britain representing many different cultures and nations



Pilgrims of many cultures

Once again, as the pictures show, the Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage to celebrate Our Lady of Walsingham was a multi-cultural event and brought together people from many nations.

Colourful and musically rich the day was enjoyed by thousands of pilgrims in an event which is growing in popularity.

The pilgrimage was led by Bishop Bernard Longley just before it was announced that he was to become the new Archbishop of Birmingham, an appointment which has been widely welcomed.

Bishop Longley was the principal celebrant and gave the homily at the pilgrimage Mass celebrated in the Chapel of Reconciliation.

Following Mass, the pilgrims processed along the Holy Mile to the abbey ruins of the original Walsingham shrine where the Blessed Sacrament was exposed and Benediction celebrated.

Bishop Michael concelebrated the Mass and took part in the pilgrimage.

In his homily Bishop Longley said: "A dowry is the property that a wife brings to her husband in marriage and England has been known for many centuries as the Dowry of Mary. In relation to the Trinity, Mary is sometimes spoken of as daughter of the Father, mother of the Son and Spouse of the Holy Spirit.

"The England that Mary brings to the Holy Spirit includes today the many nations and cultures that make up the universal Church and that is truly reflected here.

"We can see very clearly in our pilgrimage Catholics from African and South American countries, from Asia and Eastern Europe as



Bishop Bernard Longley

well as those whose families have lived for many generations in these islands.

"This is how the Catholic Church can reflect the universal call to holiness in the Kingdom of God.

"We see what it means to live side by side, united by the same Catholic faith in Christ expressed in many languages, celebrating our sacramental life in the Lord in many different cultural expressions.

"This Shrine is dedicated to the Mother of God and Mary will always point us beyond herself to her beloved Son.

"Whenever we draw close to the Mother we also see her example of discipleship and we learn to follow Christ her Son in a deeper way.

"As Mother of the Church we know that Mary's motherhood transcends our national and cultural differences because she is the mother of Jesus who is Saviour of all peoples.

"May we leave this place more deeply united in our witness and our common mission and so bring the Good News of Christ through our different languages and cultures to the many corners of England from which we have come."



The Dowry of Mary pilgrimage to Walsingham is becoming more popular every year



Thousands venerated saint's relics

Hundreds of people were at Walsingham to greet the relics of St Theresa of Lisieux as they arrived at the Chapel of Reconciliation.

The relics, in East Anglia for about 24 hours as they journeyed around England and Wales, generated a huge wave of reverence and enkindling in the thousands that came to see them at the Shrine a new feeling of spirituality.

They had spent a brief period at the Anglican Shrine in Walsingham before proceeding at a stately pace along the Holy Mile to Houghton St Giles. After installation in the chapel people queued for hours to spend a little time venerating the relics held in a large glass casket.

Fr Alan Williams presided with the words that it was the first time that he had welcomed a saint to the shrine. Bishop Michael said: "The visit to Walsingham of relics of St Theresa was a tranquil, prayerful occasion, with thousands reverently coming together to venerate a much-loved saint.

"Relics are a visible reminder that we are part of the 'Communion of Saints', called together to live



Bishop Michael and Fr Alan concelebrating a life of holiness. Why is St Theresa so popular? Because, in a way, she was so ordinary."

In his homily at the final Mass Bishop Michael said that she would not have thought of herself as special - simply a Christian trying to live her love for the Lord in the midst of ordinary life.

"The vocation she discovered was hers is ours also: 'To be love at the heart of the Church', and at the heart of our personal world - our family, friends, neighbourhood, school, work, etc.

"That is the 'Little Way' of St Theresa - to bring God's love to others in the midst of the 'nothing

St Therese brings new wave of spirituality to Walsingham



Crowds took part in the Solemn Vespers, attended Mass and prayed while others queued to touch the casket containing the relics



Seminarian Ben Grist reading

Young people venerate the relics and provide readings and music at vigil

On the evening the relics of St Therese came to Walsingham, young people led part of the vigil.

Members of the Diocesan Youth Council, students from Sacred Heart School in Swaffham, and seminarians from East Anglia joined together to recite some of the saint's writings as well as lead prayer and reflection.

Music was provided by St Walstan's Gallery band and included a performance of the theme from The Mission.

They also accompanied Ruth Waterson, who sang two pieces of music especially composed for the visit of the relics.

Deacon Luke Goymour gave a homily in which he summed up the impact the visit of the relics of St Therese was having.

He said: "The cynics and the sceptics spoke out against the bones of a 100-year-old dead nun coming to these isles.

"No-one will bother, they thought, this is some strange medieval practice, they said.

"They have been left dumfounded by the estimated 85,000 people across the UK who have turned out so far to venerate these relic," Luke told the people at the vigil.



Fr Alan Williams welcomes the relics, above, and veneration, right

special' of our daily lives."

A Walsingham parishioner who was one of the stewards at the Shrine, Antonia Moffat, who had also been to see the relics in the Midlands to gather an idea of what the visit would be like, was highly impressed with the crowds taking an interest.

She said: "The depths of faith, prayer and love with which St Therese is being received is amazing."

The crowds came from all over East Anglia to the Walsingham shrine.

There were also visitors that had come specially from France, Germany, Belgium, Poland and Eastern Europe.

Asian and African people came to venerate St Theresa. Anglicans and people from other Christian denominations came - some for the spiritual experience and others out of curiosity.

One woman who said she was an Anglican said she came because she thought it was the first time that a saint's relics had been brought for veneration to East Anglia since the Reformation and that was an event she did not want to miss.

So St Therese had a quiet and sometimes unexpected influence on many people.

NEWS FROM OSCOTT

Joy at ordination by Rev. Michael Collis

May they excel in every virtue: in love that is sincere, in concern for the sick and the poor, in unassuming authority, in self-discipline, and in holiness in life.

These words are part of the Prayer of Ordination of a Deacon which was prayed over myself and four other men on June 27th after the Bishop had laid his hands on the head of each one of us, thereby ordaining us as Deacons.

That was when the nerves stopped! Years of discernment and assessment, worries and anxieties, enthusiasm and longing culminated in this point when God, through the ministry of his Church, definitively said that he wants me to be a Deacon.

My reaction to this is similar, I imagine, to the way Peter felt when Jesus caused him to net a huge catch of fish, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man" (Luke 5:8). The gift that God has given me in being ordained is far more than I deserve; it is only possible because of the abundant mercy and generosity of my Heavenly Father.



The Chapel of Reconciliation was open throughout the night so that pilgrims could come to visit St Theresa and pay their respects. The visit was widely welcomed by the media including television, radio and newspapers as shown below when the relics' arrival was filmed



Michael Collis proclaiming the Gospel

During the past few months I have been continually overwhelmed by the way in which God works through the ministry. Immediately after the Ordination I went into a parish on placement. I was richly blessed in being able to learn a lot from the very inspirational parish priest and the very inspirational parishioners.

I can think of no way I would rather spend my day and indeed my life than in helping people to grow in their relationship with Christ, helping them to experience in the midst of their lives the presence of God, praying with them and praying for them.

When I think about all that has happened since that day when I made my promises of celibacy and obedience and the Bishop laid his hands on my head, I am reminded of the promise of Jesus to Peter, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not get back very much more in this age, and in the age to come eternal life." (Luke 18:29-30).

Now we are back at the seminary and for myself and Luke we are beginning our final year of preparation for priestly Ordination. Many new faces have arrived to begin their seminary formation, each one of them belonging to someone with a very different background to the next person but nevertheless someone who like the rest of us, thinks he has heard the call of the Lord to follow him as a priest.

The Lord continues to call and many men continue to try and respond. He may well be calling you, "Come, follow me!" (Luke 18:22).



Young people who joined the vigil at Walsingham and led part of the liturgy with readings and music



CATHEDRAL FOCUS

NEWS FROM OUR MOTHER CHURCH



Visitors saw treasured possessions, many admired the new lectern donated by the Catenians shown here by Fiona Webb, and others tasted the apple juice, above right



Heritage days of welcome

Hundreds of people came to St John's on the Heritage Open Days when they saw its treasures, the art of making vestments, the apple drink that has become an annual treat, the different



Two youngsters from the Polish community with a display depicting their heritage

cultures that worship there and its architecture.

Many visitors were residents of Norwich who had never before gone into the Cathedral.



Michael Harber demonstrates the wide variety of vestments for services



James Howman and Pat Scrutton

Farewell to Fr Tony

Many parishioners came to Cathedral House to say farewell to Fr Tony Seely who has left the diocese to retire to Nazareth House.

His large collection of books was sold to raise money for Cafod and Fr James Walsh made a presentation.

News plea

The editor Patrick Byrne needs news about activities and people in parishes. Please send a few notes and a jpg at 72 ppi and no bigger than 1MB as this clogs up the computer which receives lot of material by email or with a photograph in the post but please do not embed pictures in Word or other documents as quality is impaired when extracted.

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The Narthex at St John's Cathedral is taking shape and inside a good idea of the size it will be when finished is given to visitors. Workers are still beavering away as these pictures show and the site manager Brian Scofield says they "are getting there". This is code for they are happy they will meet the tight schedule.



Snippets of news from around the Diocese



The Ark Singers staged a musical return to Wisbech at Our Lady and St Charles Catholic Church. About 80 people listened to some outstanding gospel singing and joined in the prayers of praise. Parish priest Fr John Doman said it was so pleasing to see all ages singing and praying together with great big smiles.

Concert for Ta Hen

St Walstan's West Gallery Band put on its first public Gala Concert in aid of their twin Cambodian parish of Ta Hen.

Most of the music had been specially arranged by musical director Nick Walmsley who directed the Band from the organ.

A light and varied programme on the theme of "Around the World in 80-ish Minutes" began with Wallace and Gromit on their 'Grand Day Out' and took in

England, Europe, the Americas and the Far East with popular light classics, folk melodies, the Cambodian National Anthem, and a score from a Japanese film.

Guest artist Freddy Goymer sang from 'Stop the World I want to Get Off!', Nathan Williamson read from some atmospheric travel writing, and there were notable solos.

The concert and buffet raised over £200 for Ta Hen.

Poringland's crib festival

Our Lady of the Annunciation, Poringland is holding a three-day Crib Festival from 10am on Friday 11 December until Sunday afternoon in aid of St Martin's Housing Association and Our Lady's Church - refreshments available. Note: the festival opens at 11am on Sunday.

BUILDING BRIDGES in Cambodia



Made welcome in Battambang

Plastic rats!

by Arlene Bennett & Leah Richards,
who visited our twin diocese in May/June 2009

The three weeks spent in Cambodia over the months of May and June this year brought with them unforgettable experiences, astonishing sights, emotive encounters and a valuable insight into the active Church in the third world.

Given our strong relationship with the Diocese of Battambang, we were warmly welcomed as guests rather than tourists, and due to the great cultural diversity we relied on and were grateful for everyone's hospitality and care during our stay.

Over the three weeks we visited and spent time in the following towns: Kompong Chhnang, Chnouk Thru, Svay Sisophon, Poipet, Siem Riep, Taken and a full week in Battambang including the surrounding villages.

The heat was averaging 40 degrees most days; however, we remained refreshed by the communities' religious vitality and of course any g-force from the tuk tuks! Due to the very full and eventful itinerary prepared for us, we would like to reflect back on just a few of our experiences in Cambodia.

Our time in Battambang was a really awe-inspiring experience. We saw first hand how the Church's support has impacted those in the diocese. The young adults at the Arrupe Centre were always full of life, energy and happiness even though they suffered with great physical disabilities due to being landmine victims. We spent time with them, talking, playing and seeing how they lived. We were welcomed by all the priests, sisters, staff and volunteers at the Apostolic Prefecture.

We spent time with the Anatha group and the Outreach group who act as a support to those families in the surrounding villages; their help and support meant that the children of the family are then able to go to school rather than work. It was great to see the smiles on the faces of the families that have this support and it was clear to us how much it means to them. Each family we visited welcomed us with open arms; they wanted to show off their family achievements and were so keen to show their appreciation for the support offered.

We also had the privilege to be in Battambang to witness the ordination of Fr Jub. It was an amazing experience, seeing



Arlene and Leah with the Anatha Group

faces from all over Cambodia and how the dioceses joined together for an extraordinary celebration of a noticeably well-loved figure within the church. The celebration across two days saw dancers, singers and all types of group celebrations and it really brought the centre to life.

We had the opportunity during our stay in Svay Sisophon to celebrate International Children's Day on the 31st May with the young people of the town. This was organised in the humble grounds of the church and day school. The children all arrived dressed in what party clothes they had and congregated for fizzy drinks and biscuits. Throughout the course of the afternoon there were party games and music. Small practical prizes were handed out such as crayons and colouring books.



Fun and games in Sisophon

This gave us a great opportunity to spend time with the younger children of the community, roughly 5-10 year olds, and when the time came we were able to walk them back to their homes, which were little more than wooden shacks. The children were filled with such sincere joy and energy and their smiles could do nothing else but rub off onto the next person. We did try our hand at some traditional Cambodian dancing but this soon turned the children's sweet smiles into fits of hysterical laughter. In return we offered to the children's party a typically British disco number... the Hokey Kokey!



On the way to the floating village

Another vivid memory was that of our visit to Chnouk Thru. Here we spent an entire day and night on a floating village. We were taken here by Fr Franco Legnani who boats out to

the floating church of the village each week to say Mass for the community. Fr Franco is also the parish priest of Kompong Chhnang. It is an experience in itself to sleep overnight in a church, in the pitch black, but to sleep on a floating church with what sounded like a hundred rats scuttling on the tin roof is simply surreal! Nerves were not helped by Fr Franco's sense of humour where we would randomly find massive plastic rats planted near us!

After the Mass, with a congregation of around 30 people, we were welcomed by the community at a small relaxed meal. It was fascinating to see how people lived on a floating village when it came to practical activities such as cooking, shopping, washing etc. For instance, in the church they had an old keyboard as their organ and this was rigged up to an old car battery! This particular village has to move once a year during the flood season and they all drag their homes down river... then they come back for the church and drag that to their new location too! This natural and frequent action by the people offers great symbolism!

Overall the trip was a wonderful and overwhelming experience. We spent time in the heart of the diocese, living, eating and being with all the lovely people in the communities. We saw the happiness, contentment and faith displayed by so many across Cambodia and it will truly be an experience that will stay in our minds forever.

(Arlene & Leah are both members of the Diocesan Youth Council; 19 young adults from our diocese have been to Cambodia in the last 4 years).

CAN YOU HELP?

Our two main diocesan 'Building Bridges' projects this year are helping to build a church centre in Pailin, Cambodia and to provide drums, bagpipes, etc for Catholic Scouts in the Holy Land.

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:

CHURCH CENTRE, PAILIN (Cambodia)

SCOUTS INSTRUMENTS (Palestine)

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 tax or capital gains tax equal to any tax claimed.

Signed.....

Date.....

Please send to:

Bishop Michael, 'Building Bridges', 21 Uppgate,
Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7SH
Registered charity no. 278742

New parish priest at Clare

Fr Bernard Rolls OSA, Prior of the Augustinian community at Clare in Suffolk, has become parish priest in succession to Fr Ben O'Rourke OSA who has retired after 10 years.

Fr Aidan Power, parish priest from 1976-81, has returned to the priory as a member of the community.

Fr Ben, who celebrated 50 years as a priest in July 2006, was 80 this year. He taught English for 24 years at the order's Carlisle school and Fr Bernard was one of his pupils.

Fr David Middleton OSA, head of the order in the UK was also one of his pupils and paid tribute to the work of Fr Ben and hopes he will be able to live a little more quietly as a member of the community after a life time of dedication.



Some of the people from across the diocese who came to St John's Cathedral in Norwich to receive their certificates for the Learning Together

programme and the range of study was from level one up to ten. Bishop Michael paid tribute to their fortitude in travelling across East

Anglia to attend the sessions over the year and praised them for their application in bringing this valuable knowledge to many of the parishes.



Some of the people on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes pictured outside the Basilica include clergy, helpers and the sick. All enjoyed the experience and hope they will return to this annual August event.



Secular Franciscans from parishes in East Anglia where there are five fraternities in Norwich, Ipswich (Hadleigh), Cambridge, March and Bedford.

Franciscans celebrating

The Secular Franciscan Order in East Anglia celebrated a Day of Recollection in the barn and garden of one of its members on the feast day of St Elizabeth of Portugal.

She entered the Secular Franciscans after her husband, King Denis of Portugal, died in 1325. She had been named after her great aunt St Elizabeth of Hungary (also a Secular Franciscan) and was the daughter of King Peter III of Aragon.

The theme of the day was even greater celebration of the 800th Anniversary this year of the Franciscan Family when the first primitive Rule was approved by Pope Innocent III.

Fr Peter Hall celebrated Mass in the barn and explained in two talks that Franciscans must with the help of the Holy Spirit always be looking to the future. They must move on in the 21st century as people discerning what to do for God.

BISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

NOVEMBER

- 1st Parish Visitation to March
- 2nd Day of Reflection for Staff & Governors at St Mary's School, Ipswich
- 4th Clergy Ongoing Formation Day at Poringland
- 6th Confirmations in Wymondham at 7.30pm
- 7th Diocesan Council of Laity at Poringland at 11am
CAFOD Memorial Mass at Newmarket at 6.30pm
- 8th Diocesan Youth Council at Poringland
- 9th Mass at St Laurence's, Cambridge at 7.30pm
- 10th Mass with Diocesan Head Teachers at Poringland
- 12th Diocesan Schools Service Commission at Poringland

- 13- 20th Methodist/Catholic International Commission in Boston, USA
- 22nd Confirmations at All Souls, Peterborough
- 24th Archbishop Romero Trust in London
- 25th College of Consultors at Poringland
- 26th Catholic/Oriental Orthodox Forum in London
- 28th Diocesan 'Learning Together' Study Day (Wymondham))
- 30th British Methodist/Catholic Committee in London

DECEMBER

- 1st Cambridgeshire Church Leaders Meeting (Ely)
- 2nd Lecture at Cambridge
- 3rd Muslim College
- Diocesan Finance Board at Poringland
- 5 - 6th Parish Visitation to Great Yarmouth
- 7th/8th Visit seminarians at Oscott College
- 11th Norfolk Church Leaders Meeting in Norwich
Norfolk & Waveney Churches Together in Norwich
- Confirmations at St James, Ipswich at 7.30pm
- 13th Mass at Holy Apostles, West Earlham at 9.30am
- 21st Reconciliation Service at Cathedral at 7.30pm
- 24th Masses at HMP Wayland (tbc)
- 25th Midnight Mass at Cathedral

Top quality vestments

An opportunity to buy top quality altar vestments designed to parish's own requirements is being offered by the embroidery group at St John's Cathedral in Norwich.



Barbara Scrutton, pictured right, said they have already made several sets for parishes across the diocese.

These include sets for Fr Dick White at St Thomas of Canterbury in Wymondham, Fr John Shannon before he left St Walstan's and for Fr Matthew George who is now at St Mary's in Thetford.

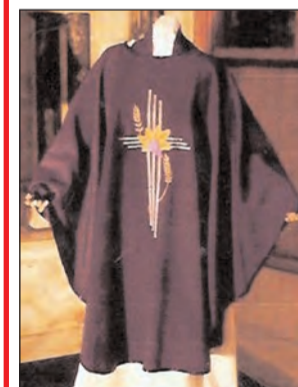
Barbara said designs will be agreed with the parish and sets can be much more reasonably priced than normally found in catalogues.

"Because they are all hand stitched on quality materials they are likely to last much longer.

"As an example of design, a set for Lent depicts three crosses, Advent vestments pictured below left show wheat ears and the green ones on the right a chalice."

Money from the vestment making will go to help run St John's Cathedral.

To find out more please contact Barbara at the cathedral on 01603 624615.



Provincial president of the Catenians Paul Abbott and Circle president Peter Godfrey display the charter which has been extensively renovated and was now in a sealed frame, right.



Below, All Souls Peterborough hosted a day conference at John Fisher High School to mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Catholic Association for Racial Justice. Pictured with Fr David Jennings are the speakers: Gillian Beasley - chief executive of the city council, Paul Philipson - former police commander and Francis Davis of the Las Casas Institute, Oxford.

