

# OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY



The newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

FREE

March 2010

*Narthex is latest development in St John's life*

## Bishop opens 100th anniversary year

**B**ishop Michael has opened celebrations for the 100th birthday of St John's in Norwich throughout 2010.

Festivities planned will span the growth of the parish church from humble beginnings in Norwich's historic Maddermarket where Shakespearean actor Will Kemp began his famous dance to London to completion of the present building in 1910.

For 66 years St John's was the largest parish church in England and was elevated to a cathedral in 1976 when the Diocese of East Anglia was founded.

Bishop Michael, launching the centenary year on the feast of the Epiphany, called the Duke of Norfolk's building of the church which was to become a cathedral a gift like the gold, frankincense and myrrh brought by the wise men to the stable in Bethlehem.

The bishop now looked forward to the events of the centenary year with the cathedral at the centre of celebrations making a welcome for all nations.

### Deacon helps make dementia film

Rev Andrew Neate, a mental health chaplain and deacon at Our Lady and English Martyrs in Cambridge, has taken part in the filming of a new film exploring dementia and spirituality.

The film *It's still me Lord* was commissioned by the Caritas Social Action Network in response to a review of the issues by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

The aim was to find out how the growing issue of dementia was being tackled and what further needed to be done.

Andrew said: "The film takes an audit of what is currently going on and invites discussion in parish and similar groups to help develop voluntary support alongside professional input."

The NHS is encouraging a national debate of the growing medical and social problem of dementia.

Caritas is producing new material to support discussion groups and to help in this initiative.

Andrew has gathered a group of



*Bishop Michael celebrated Mass at St John's on the Epiphany to launch the cathedral's centenary.*

The completion of the Narthex - an extension to the Grade I listed building to provide community and learning facilities - is the latest step in the life of St John's Cathedral.

Guests at the Mass included the Lord Mayor of Norwich Evelyn Collishaw and Sheriff of Norwich Tim O'Riordan.

The cathedral's celebrations will reach a peak with a Mass of Thanksgiving on 24 June, the feast day of St John the Baptist.

More about the centenary celebrations can be seen on the centre pages of this edition.

volunteers and with the support of Fe Franklin, ward manager, and her nursing staff at a unit for Alzheimer's Syndrome care, has offered a service for patients throughout the year.

They use familiar Christian themes of Christmas, Easter, Whitsun, Harvest and Remembrance Day to help dementia patients.

Filming took place at a Harvest Festival service with the volunteers providing music, art work, flowers and fruit displays as well as home made cakes for the tea afterwards.

While filming at the unit at Fulbourn Fe Franklin and other professionals were interviewed about their work in the field.

Full details of the film and information pack are available from Caritas together with various venues around the country where they are holding introduction days.

A session is to be held at Emmanuel College in Cambridge on Friday 12 March and full details are on the website [www.csan.org.uk](http://www.csan.org.uk)



*Staff, pupils and parents from St Thomas More Junior School in Norwich appeared on the BBC's One Show and won an award for their imaginative response to the Haiti earthquake disaster.*

Led by their head teacher Tony Hedges they held a Hats for Haiti day which raised £720 in donations and caught the imagination of the country. More about their adventures on television and in the media can be seen on page 4. Picture by Paul Hurst

## 'My life has changed because I am here. My health has returned and I am happy'

Pany Pan

If you met Pany Pan today, you'd see a bright, handsome 15 year-old boy with a real love of life. He lives in a group home in Cambodia run by CAFOD partner Maryknoll Mission, with fourteen other vulnerable children and five carers who the children affectionately call 'the mothers.' He loves school and says that every day he feels lucky that he can learn.

**'I was so thin and I had no strength. I was hopeless and waiting to die.'**

But just four years ago Pany Pan's life was very different. When he was 11, Pan found out he was HIV positive. His mother was ill too and sadly she died soon after, quickly followed by his father. Pan went to live with his aunt and her two children. His aunt did her best to look after him but she couldn't afford to feed him properly, send him to school or buy the medicines he desperately needed. Pan felt all alone.

Sadly there are thousands of children like Pan in Cambodia. But thanks to the gifts and legacies of the Catholic community here in England and Wales, Maryknoll is able to provide loving homes, education, care and training to children affected by HIV and AIDS. Now Pan - and many other children like him - has a future he can look forward to.

### The transforming power of love

A gift in your will to CAFOD, however large or small, could help more young people like Pany Pan and save and change lives for generations to come. CAFOD works with more than 500 partners in over 50 countries around the world and legacies fund more than a fifth of our overseas work. Once you have taken care of your loved ones in your will, please could you consider making a gift to CAFOD? It would make a real and lasting difference.

RXXXXX  
Registered charity no. 285776.  
CAFOD is a member of Caritas International.

**CAFOD**  
Just one world

For more information without any obligation about leaving a legacy to CAFOD, or for your free copy of CAFOD's guide to making a will, please call Beth Brook on 020 7095 5525 or write to her at CAFOD, Romero Close, Stockwell Road, London SW9 9TY. You can also email Beth at [legacy@cafod.org.uk](mailto:legacy@cafod.org.uk) or visit [cafod.org.uk/legacy](http://cafod.org.uk/legacy)

Photo: Annie Bungeroth



# NEWS FROM BISHOP MICHAEL

## Lent – a time for giving more

Lent is the season for focusing on Christ's gift of himself for us on the Cross, as we prepare to celebrate his Resurrection together at Easter. It is a time for giving more of ourselves in prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

These three actions very much belong together. Prayer opens our hearts in love to God and to one another, especially to the poor and needy of our world.

Fasting should always be linked to almsgiving: we give up something in order to give more to others. What we save by going without chocolate, beer, the cinema, etc, we should give to charity, especially CAFOD, our own Catholic development agency in England and Wales.

St Augustine of Hippo once wrote:

Fasting punishes you,  
but it will not restore your brother or sister.  
Your self-denial will be fruitful  
if you provide for the needs of another.

Certainly, you have deprived your body,  
but to whom did you give  
that which you deprived yourself?  
What did you do  
with the things you denied yourself?

How many poor people could be nourished  
by the meal which you did not take today?

Fast, then, in such a way  
that when another has eaten in your place  
you may rejoice in the meal  
you have not taken.

Then your offering will be received by God.

## Chemo & Cambodia

As you receive this issue of our newspaper, I had hoped to be with our friends in Cambodia for my usual two-yearly visit. Sadly, I had to cancel my trip because of the decision that I needed ten three-weekly chemotherapy sessions over nearly seven months.

The first was on 8th January, and I have no idea at the time of writing how I will be by the time you receive this. I will have had three sessions by 1st March. Some of you have been through chemo yourselves. Everyone is different and copes differently, and only time will tell. Please keep me in your prayers.

Meanwhile, two of our seminary students – Henry and Pdraig – have been to Cambodia for three weeks on a pastoral placement. I am sure we will hear from them in a later edition. Two parish groups (from Ely and North Walsham) were also there in January/February.

## Back from Rome

Despite beginning chemo, I travelled to Rome with all the other bishops of England and Wales for our five-yearly *Ad Limina* visit to the Holy Father. As I had to write this before going, I will wait until May to let you know how it went.

## May they rest in God's peace

Two of our older priests died in November, after the materials for the January edition went in: Fr Ray Kerby (who was parish priest of Hadleigh, Haverhill and then for 20 years of St Ives) and Fr Geoffrey Jarvis (who served for over 20 years as an Anglican priest and then 12 as a Catholic priest, helping in Walsingham).

They served Christ and his Church faithfully for many years; please keep them in your prayers.

## LEARNING TOGETHER

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

### Our children not at Catholic schools

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2010

at St Mary's Parish Hall,

322 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich IP4 4BD

Deacon Mike Vipond and others lead a day for parents, catechists and others on catechising children who are not in Catholic schools.

### Oscar Romero Prophet and Martyr

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2010

at St George's Catholic Church Hall,

223 Sprowston Road, Norwich NR3 4HZ

Bishop Michael leads a day as part of East Anglia's 'Romero Week', celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the martyrdom of Archbishop Oscar Romero in El Salvador. Romero was a prophet of justice.

### Jews & Christians Together

24<sup>th</sup> April 2010

at the Parish Centre, Catholic Church,

14 Exeter Road, Newmarket, CB8 8LT

Dr Ed Kessler and Lucia Faltin Aitken from the Woolf Institute of Abrahamic Faiths in Cambridge lead a day on Jewish-Christian relations.

You can register for each module by e-mailing:  
[learning.together@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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. Tea and coffee will be provided. Perhaps bring a cushion!



*The multi-purpose Pastoral Centre in Pailin, Cambodia, that we have helped to build*

## Second Collections

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April (Good Friday)

**HOLY LAND SHRINES**

The places connected with Jesus' life and passion have always been centres of pilgrimage. This Good Friday collection supports the upkeep of the shrines in the Holy Land, as well as assisting Christian schooling there.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April (Vocations Sunday)

**TRAINING OUR FUTURE PRIESTS**

We now have six seminarians training for the priesthood studying at Oscott College, Birmingham. This is your opportunity to support the formation of future priests for our diocese. Two of them – Luke and Michael – will be ordained priests this July.

## NEWS FROM OSCOTT



## “I want to travel the world and preach your Word”

by Ben Grist (1<sup>st</sup> Year student)

These words of St Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face appear to have been prophetic, as last Autumn St Therese travelled the globe across the American States and swept across England with a response that captivated the faithful and drew them to her like few evangelists have done in recent years.

St Therese in her humility and silent witness, as her vows requested, bore witness to so many individual lives and changed them bringing them closer to the Child Jesus.

As a first year seminarian, I returned home to spend time with St Therese as she visited our home diocese. I accompanied all five East Anglian students and deacons to Walsingham's Shrine.

The wooden barn at Walsingham was glowing with warmth and St Therese's cask appeared so content in those rural surrounds, they reminded me of the quiet Carmelite priory and cell St Therese inhabited during her life. Her cell with its wooden floor and low wooden bed, so low and so safe, the warmth of those wooden walls enfolded St Therese as loving arms protecting and nurturing her in her vocation of love.

Each of us felt moved by these moments of stillness on a cold autumn night, knowing it is in such stillness that we encounter the Child Jesus and in which we explore our vocation of love seeking out the grace and gifts of the Spirit.

Canon John Udris led the Oscott community in a day of recollection with some beautiful slides of St Therese's life and priory while introducing me to her writings. One image that Canon Udris fashioned in my mind and imagination was of St Therese plucking the rose petals and flowers and throwing them at the statue of Our Lady. This practice is teaching us to throw our desires and longings to others as an act of love.

The theme of giving oneself again appears, and for a seminarian the act of giving oneself completely to Christ and the Church is perhaps the heart of our task in the coming days and weeks as we seek his will for our lives.

As some of you know, in the quadrangle in the centre of our seminary cloister there are dozens of roses lining the walls and windows.

I tend to spend my five minute breaks in the morning lessons sitting outside in the sunshine and since this retreat St Therese's practice of throwing the petals has lived in the forefront of my mind.

Knowing as we do that St Therese spent her whole vocation in the novitiate either as a novice or novice mistress, I think seminarians the world over can identify ourselves with her life writings and sharing her prayers.

St Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face pray for us.



# THE BISHOP TEACHES

**‘At this altar, Romero offered his life to God for his people’**

At around 6.30 p.m. on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1980, Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador was celebrating Mass in the chapel of the cancer hospital where he lived. As he finished his homily, he was assassinated by a death squad marksman. He was a humble but outspoken prophet of God’s justice for his people, and someone many would now like to be recognised as a saint for the whole Church.



*Romero’s body immediately after his murder*

In the 1970s, the Central American republic of El Salvador was a place of fear and violence. The land and wealth was in the hands of a small elite, and they used the army to protect their privilege. The poor who protested in any way were brutally crushed. Each month, hundreds of people were murdered, tortured or ‘disappeared’. Death squads were at work in the cities and the army killed as they wished in the countryside.

In 1977, Oscar Romero was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador, the capital. He was a rather quiet and timid man, seen as conservative and ‘safe’ by those in power. But within weeks of his appointment, one of his priests, Fr Rutilio Grande, was ambushed and murdered along with two parishioners. Increasingly from that moment, Romero spoke out against injustice, and taught that the way we treat the poor is the way we treat God! He called for conversion of heart, and for the violence of the oppressors to be defeated by Christian love.

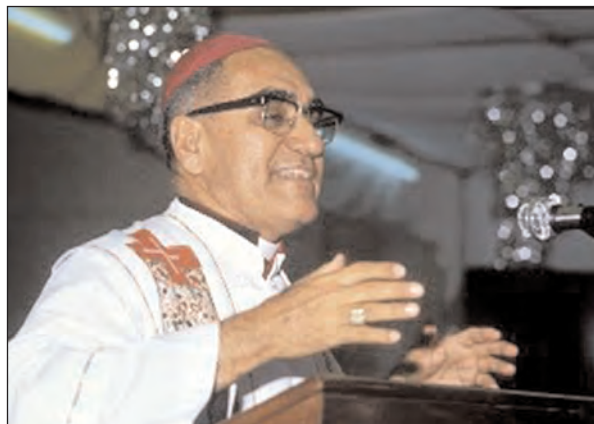


*A mural of Romero with God’s crucified people*

Crowds crammed into the cathedral each Sunday to hear his long sermons, which were also broadcast on the diocesan radio station. Inevitably some Catholics in the ruling elite accused him of being unfaithful to his role as bishop, but Romero was deeply faithful to Catholic teaching. By becoming the voice of the voiceless poor, Romero put himself in danger. The day before he was murdered, he appealed to the army and police not to kill their own people, and he ordered them – in the name of God – to stop the repression. In an interview two weeks before his death, he said:

“I have frequently been threatened with death. I must say that, as a Christian, I do not believe in death but in the resurrection. If they kill me, I shall rise again in the Salvadoran people.... Martyrdom is a great gift from God that I do not believe I have earned. But if God accepts the sacrifice of my life then may my blood be the seed of liberty, and a sign of the hope that will soon become a reality... A bishop will die, but the church of God – the people – will never die.”

## East Anglia ROMERO WEEK 2010



24<sup>th</sup> March 2010 is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Archbishop Oscar Romero. There will be several opportunities to remember him in East Anglia that week, and a prayer card – printed jointly with our twin diocese of Battambang, Cambodia - will be distributed in every parish across our diocese.

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 3.30pm

Choral Evensong at Norwich Cathedral (Anglican) followed by short talks by Bishop Graham and Bishop Michael on Archbishop Romero, and an opportunity for questions and discussion.

### Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm

Mass at St John’s Cathedral, Norwich (Catholic) on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Archbishop Romero’s death.

### Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 11.00-3.00

‘Learning Together’ study day on Archbishop Romero led by Bishop Michael at St George’s Catholic Church Hall, 223 Sprowston Road, Norwich.

## Archbishop Romero on love for the poor

There is only one rule by which to judge whether God is with us or is far away: the rule that God’s word is giving us today:

everyone concerned for the hungry,  
the naked, the poor,  
for those who have vanished  
in police custody,  
for the tortured, for prisoners,  
for all who suffer,  
they indeed have God close at hand.

The guarantee of one’s prayer  
is not saying a lot of words.  
The guarantee of one’s petition  
is easy to know:  
‘How do I treat the poor?’

Because that is where God is!

The degree to which you approach them,  
and the love with which you approach them,  
or the scorn with which you approach them  
- that is how you approach God.

What you do for them, you do to God.  
The way you look at them  
is the way you look at God.



*Archbishop Romero is included (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) among the modern martyrs at Westminster Abbey*

## Pope Benedict on Romero

Pope Benedict spoke several times in 2007 about Archbishop Romero. On 25<sup>th</sup> March, at his noon blessing, the Holy Father referred to Romero as he prayed for the many missionary martyrs of recent years: “These are bishops, priests, men and women religious, and lay people, cut down while fulfilling their mission of evangelisation and human promotion.”

And then, on the plane on the way to Brazil in May, he spoke to journalists who asked him about the process of Romero’s beatification. He is reported as saying that Romero certainly merited beatification as ‘a great witness to the faith.’



*Bishop Michael celebrates Mass at the altar where Romero was killed (on 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary)*

## The Archbishop Romero Trust

The Archbishop Romero Trust was founded in 2005, on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Archbishop Romero’s death. Its Patrons are Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O’Connor, Cardinal Keith O’Brien (Edinburgh), Archbishop Diarmuid Martin (Dublin), Archbishop Rowan Williams (Archbishop of Canterbury) and Archbishop John Sentamu (Archbishop of York). I am one of the founding trustees.

The objectives of the Trust are: (a) to promote knowledge and awareness of the life and work of Archbishop Romero; (b) to encourage and organise prayer services and memorial liturgies annually on the anniversary of his death; (c) to provide support to human rights and social justice initiatives in Latin America which carry forward the tradition of his work. You can support the work of the Trust by making a donation or by becoming a ‘Friend of Romero’. Go to: [www.romerotruster.org.uk](http://www.romerotruster.org.uk) or write to: Archbishop Romero Trust, 8 Dean’s Mews, London W1G 9EE

Reflection on the witness of Archbishop Romero can inspire each of us to offer our lives in love to God for his people.

*+ Michael*





# CATHEDRAL FOCUS

NEWS FROM OUR MOTHER CHURCH

Year full of memories and events planned for 2010

## 100 years of parish

A full programme of events is planned to make St John's Cathedral centenary year one to remember for the parish, the city of Norwich, the Diocese of East Anglia and for the many people who visit the cathedral.

A major event to mark the centenary will be a Mass of Thanksgiving on Thursday 24 June with dignitaries and clergy from across Britain attending.

Attendance will be by invitation only and parishes will be issued with a number of tickets according to their size.

Around this time there will also be a flower festival and organisers are appealing for more sponsors to take part. There will be an invitation-only viewing evening on Wednesday evening 23 June.

For more details contact Barbara Scrutton on 01603 458851.

There are also more social events planned such as a dinner on the North Norfolk Railway on 21 May at a cost of £36 per person with details from Pat Scrutton on 01603 458851, a series of concerts and more events detailed below.

During the Centenary Festival of Flowers people can sponsor a dedicated candle in the cathedral main aisle as a memorial for a loved one, for an organisation or any other purpose. The candle can be taken home after the festival as a permanent memorial.

Fr James Walsh, the Dean of St John's, said: "I want this year to be truly memorable for the people of Norwich and throughout East Anglia.

"St John's is one of the iconic buildings in the city with a unique character; it is also the spiritual home to a large and thriving congregation with a wonderful mix of cultures and nationalities.

"Throughout 2010 we will be offering a warm welcome to visitors, especially to the people of Norwich who have not yet come through the doors.

### Help needed with new book

The picture right shows the sturdy bunch of workmen, builders and stonemasons who laboured between 1882 and 1910 to build the parish church that was destined to become our Cathedral.

The formal opening of St. John the Baptist Church in Norwich took place on 8 December 1910 and now throughout 2010 a number of events are planned to celebrate the 100 years of worship and community that have passed.

The centenary is being marked by the publication of a book that will describe the history of that church and community.

The photograph (right) is just one of a collection of pictures and documents being gathered for both the book and cathedral archives.

This particular photograph appeared in the local newspapers in the late 1970s, having been lent to them by a George Chamberlin whose



View of the cathedral taken this year by aerial photographer whose work can be seen on [www.norfolkskyview.flyer.co.uk](http://www.norfolkskyview.flyer.co.uk)

"It will be a time for us to remember our past with gratitude, to celebrate our present with enjoyment and to look forward to our future with hope."

"Work on the building began in 1884, founded and financed by the Duke of Norfolk, to provide a place of worship for the city's Catholic community.

"An example of Victorian Gothic architecture in the country, St John's is included in the Norwich 12 - a collection of the city's most iconic and important buildings.

In April this year, the cathedral was awarded £70,000 to help transform the 100-year-old building into an "eco-cathedral" and install a new climate conscious heating system.

Work has started on its installation and it is hoped to be completed in time for the Chrism Mass on the Wednesday of Holy Week.



father and grandfather helped to build the church.

We would like to hear from anybody that has photographs, documents, mementoes or family members married, confirmed or baptised at the church. Do you have special memories of the church? Please leave contact details with the Cathedral Office (telephone 01603 624615) for the attention of Stephen Slack.



Clare Goddard and Naomi Perowne with the feature taken from the cathedral to make the entrance to the Narthex which is now in the refectory and below parishioners at the centenary launch.



The Narthex shop (above), the main hall (below), the refectory (above right) and Fr James Walsh making the centenary draw (below)



The choir at the Mass, above, and left, Fr James Walsh, the Sheriff of Norwich, the Lord Mayor of Norwich and Bishop Michael.

## Narthex will soon be open and bookings are already coming in to hold events

After many years of planning and fundraising the Narthex at St John's Cathedral in Norwich is complete.

Pictures on this page taken shortly after handover of the building show it almost ready for regular use.

Naomi Perowne, who has headed the development team that brought the Narthex from conception to completion, said: "Those visiting for the first time have been bowled over by the building's light, space and ambience.

"How wonderful to move seamlessly from the spiritual tranquillity of the cathedral through the archway, directly into such a warm and welcoming place!" One visitor said when they came into the building for the first time.

The Narthex has a rotunda or south porch, repository, refectory, assembly hall, loggia, small classroom, space-age kitchen, terrace and bar (not to mention the wonderful toilets and baby changing facilities!).

It provides several different areas making it ideal for many types of function.

Diocesan and parish events - meetings, conferences, social and ecumenical gatherings; school visits can be held there.

St Alban's in Ipswich was the first diocesan school to book a visit in February.

The Narthex will be an amenity for local community groups and the Irish Society kicked up its heels there on 13 February.

The first real event was on the Epiphany when Bishop Michael launched the St John's centenary celebrations and also made the

parish draw.

The winner of the first ticket out with a prize of £150 was Bishop Michael himself.

Clare Goddard, the Narthex development manager, said: "Bookings are flooding in from all kinds of groups wanting to secure a slot and from people wanting to hold private parties.

"It's already a popular choice for wedding receptions as those marrying at the Cathedral are able to take advantage of this unique venue for their wedding party, without having to travel more than a few feet!

"And just think what a difference it will make to all of us at the Chrism Mass this year!"

## Thanks to all those whose generosity made the building possible

The Narthex was made possible through major grants from charitable trusts and other organisations including:

- The Heritage Lottery Fund
- The Garfield Weston Foundation
- Norwich Town Close Estate Charities,
- Norfolk County Council
- Norwich City Council
- Biffaward
- The Theodore Trust

The Geoffrey Watling Charity  
The Maurice and Hilda Laing Charitable Trust  
Paul Bassham Charitable Trust

A number of smaller grants, sterling fundraising efforts and many, many gifts and regular donations came from individuals throughout the diocese.

The final shot in the arm was given by a £200,000 interest free loan from the Rope Trust, a Catholic charity which is

based in Suffolk. "It's really hard to believe we have got this far, a tremendous effort and all credit to so many who have supported this project through thick and thin," said Naomi Perowne.

"We still have some fundraising to do to repay our loan and get the Narthex fully up and running but this is such a molehill to overcome compared with the mountain behind us."

Anyone who would like to help should

contact either Naomi or Clare at the following address: The Narthex, Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Unthank Road, NORWICH NR2 2PA, telephone 01603 728936.

The Narthex will be formally opened at a special ceremony and reception following a service of thanksgiving on 22 May.

Information on attendance and other details will be sent to parishes in due course.

## CENTENARY EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

March	Norwich Festival 8pm and 9.30pm	clergy and diocese 12 noon	exhibition
21-27th Oscar Romero Week	21 Dinner on the North Norfolk Steam Railway	24 Flower Festival opens 2.30pm	23-29 Oberammergau Pilgrimage
21 Two bishops' Dialogue in Norwich Cathedral 3.30pm	22 Opening of the Narthex 11am	July	25 Presentation of Diocesan Certificates at Mass
24 Romero Mass 7.30pm	22 Taverham Band concert 8pm	3 Mass of celebration for married life 11am	October
	23 Confirmations 11am Mass	10 Ordinations to priesthood 12 noon	6 Fr James 70th birthday celebration
	28-30 Art Alive in Norwich churches	24 Norwich Baroque Group concert 8pm	20-22 Cathedral Dean's Conference
May	June	August	November
9 Choir from Norway at 11am Mass	11 Ordination to Diaconate tbc	8 Deanery in fancy dress Garden Party to mark 100 years	27 Keswick Hall choir concert 8pm
13 HCC National Conference	13 First Communion	20-27 Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes	December
16 Pilgrimage to St Walstan's at Bawburgh	23 Flower Festival preview evening	September	17 Carols with Salvation Army and Cathedral choir 7.30pm
20 Concert as part of the Norfolk and	24 Mass of Thanksgiving with bishop,	9-12 Heritage open days with parish groups	



The Diocesan Youth Office,  
The White House, 21 Uppgate,  
Poringland, Norwich, Norfolk  
NR14 7SH Tel: (01508) 494833  
Mobile: (0781) 2004934 Email:  
dys@east-angliadiocese.org.uk  
Leave a message if no answer.

## YOUTH MATTERS (Oh Yes We Do!)

# Preparing for WYD Madrid

**P**ope Benedict recently mentioned the eagerness of young people from the UK to take part in pilgrimages and World Youth Days, and our group from East Anglia planning to go to World Youth Day in Madrid are no exception!

Many of them gathered in Bury St. Edmunds for their first preparation day.

There were several 'old timers' having been to World Youth Day in 2008 or even before. For others, some currently only 14, it was their first time.

After eating a packed lunch, there were several 'get to know' games and a quiz. Then Hamish MacQueen gave an update of all the information we know so far.

After discussing in deanery groups how everyone was getting

on, the afternoon ended with Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael.

Hamish, who ran the day said "We started our Pilgrimage with the launch last Autumn and now we're another step closer to Madrid."

"Along the way we have preparation days to prepare practically, spiritually and get to know each other so everyone knows several people by the time we leave. They are a fantastic group"

*Although the deadline to guarantee a place on World Youth Day Madrid 2011 has passed, at the time of going to press, there are still some places available.*

*You need to be age 16 by 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011. If you are interested in going, please return a booking form as soon as possible.*

*(To download a booking form, go to [www.catholiceastanglia.org.uk/youth](http://www.catholiceastanglia.org.uk/youth) and download 'WYD Information Pack 1')*



Some of the young people preparing for the World Youth Day at Bury St Edmunds and below left a snow scene at Poringland pictured by Hamish MacQueen



## Clare parish explores good and evil

The question of 'Can good overcome evil?' was explored at a recent 'Faith and Friendship Day' run by Clare Parish.

After a couple of games the theme was introduced with a clip from Star Wars, where eventually Darth Vader comes good. Then the group split into two, each to do a drama.

One group's drama 'Hands' explored how God gave us hands but it was up to us what we use them for.

The other group did a drama based on the passage from the Bible "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it".

After lunch, there was a very moving time of prayer and meditation followed by clips from 'The Mission' and 'The Scarlet and the Black' interspersed with discussion groups. Both films, based on inspiring true stories, demonstrated the power of good confronting evil.

The day ended with a Fish 'n' chip supper which was certainly good!

Clare Parish hold 'Faith and Friendship Days' three times a year for young people in the parish and surrounding parishes. They look at a different theme each time.

Is this something you could do in your parish? Contact Hamish in the Diocesan Youth Office for more information.



## Epiphany Mass in candlelight created 'Bleak mid-winter' feel

Back at the start of January The Diocesan Youth team had the third New Year Epiphany Candlelight Mass.

This was a special Mass to bring together people recently confirmed or preparing for Confirmation from all across the diocese.

As 'In the bleak mid-winter', was sung the young people only had to look outside to be reminded of what the carol writer had envisaged. "Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow..."

Indeed it had, making roads treacherous, but still around 30 people turned out. However it was the final verse that was most appropriate to the occasion.

"What can I give him, poor as I am?"

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

yet what I can I give him: give my heart"

Referring to it in his homily Bishop Michael reminded us that all the gold, frankincense, myrrh, in fact all the wealth in the world couldn't compare to what God wanted from us most of all -to give Him our hearts and our lives.

As it was Epiphany, people were asked to bring wrapped gifts to be put into a lucky dip and given out at the end of Mass to each other. Some people came away with something much better than they had



A view of this year's bleak winter at the White House

brought, others didn't!

After Mass with glow sticks in hand, everyone traipsed to the bottom of the Bishop's garden where hot chocolate, jacket potatoes and fillings were served.

People were supposed to be able to warm themselves around the bonfire, but it didn't want to light despite persistent and inventive attempts by members of the youth council! .

The evening ended with a firework display, and despite the weather, everyone had a good time.

Thanks to the Diocesan Youth Council who planned the whole event, and especially those who provided festive music at the Mass; cooked and served the refreshments; and lit the fireworks.

## Key Events in 2010

### From the Diocesan Youth Service

#### May 3rd

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

#### Summer half-term activities at Eaton Vale

Details to be confirmed

#### 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+

#### August 20-27th Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Young people 17+ welcome

#### August 27-30th Summer camp at Eccles Hall

Faith, food and fun in the heart of the Norfolk countryside. For those aged 8 - 14

For more information, go to [www.catholiceastanglia.org.uk/youth](http://www.catholiceastanglia.org.uk/youth) and click on 'Events' or contact the Diocesan Youth Office on 01508 494833

## More news please

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.

You can also send a photograph in the post but please do not embed pictures in Word or other documents as quality is impaired when extracted.

Please send material to The Editor

Our Diocesan Family, The White House, 21 Uppgate, Poringland, Norfolk NR14 7SH.

Tel/Fax: 01603 627409 and email:

ptjbyrne@patrickbyrne.go-plus.net

**Deadlines: Our Diocesan Family is a bi-monthly newspaper and it is printed early in the month before publication. Material for must arrive by 1 February for MARCH, 1 April for MAY, 1 June for JULY, 1 August for SEPTEMBER, 1 October for NOVEMBER and 1 December for JANUARY.**





# BUILDING BRIDGES in the Holy Land

## AL-WAHADNEH Holy Land Project 2010

Our project for 2010, proposed by the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, is to provide a room for catechesis and other parish activities in Al-Wahadneh, Jordan. Fr Firas, the parish priest of Al-Wahadneh, writes to us about his parish and the project.



The Parish Centre in Al-Wahadneh

'My parish is the Parish of St. Elijah the Prophet. It is located in northern Jordan near Ajloun (Gilead in the Bible) and in the region lived the Prophet Elijah (the area is called Tishba in the Bible).

Our village of Wahadneh is located on a mountain, at an altitude of 650 metres, and overlooks the Holy Land, so we can see Betshan in Israel and the Mountain of the Transfiguration and the mountains of Nablus and Jenin. At night we can see the lights of the city of Nazareth.

There is a population of about 7000 people. There are only 800 Christians and the rest are Muslim. We have two churches, one Roman Catholic (our parish) and the second Orthodox. There are about 50 Orthodox families and about 100 Catholic families.

We have two young men from the parish at the Seminary; Farah Bader who is now a deacon and the other, Yazan, is now in the minor Seminary. There have been 10 priests ordained from our parish and they are now working in various parishes throughout the Patriarchate; one of them became a Bishop in Algeria (Bishop Ghalib Badr).

We also have 9 nuns who were originally from our parish; they are working in the congregation of the Sisters of the Rosary. As you see, every year we sent a new vocation to the Seminary, and our Rosary Sisters help us in our missionary work in Wahadneh.



Fun and games in Al-Wahadneh

At the moment we have catechism meetings for all ages; about 70 children from age 6 to age 12 years study at the parish school from kindergarten to sixth grade. There are 40 young people from age 13 to 18 who are studying in

government schools. As well as children's Religious Education, we provide on-going RE for 50 young men and women studying at the University and nearly 100 young adults who are working and not married.

Some of those who attend belong to the Orthodox Parish, but the majority of them come to our parish to benefit from spiritual activities, especially as the Orthodox parish priest is elderly and unable to do very much.

We welcome them, but without trying to get them to become Catholics, and we encourage them to pray in their church. Also we have meetings for 28 couples and young families who follow a course of meetings each month in the parish.

As you can see we take the religious education of our people seriously, but the facilities are very poor. The hall we use needs refurbishment and the resources we have are quite old. We would like to use more modern media such as DVDs and videos.

As well as religious education meetings, we have a youth group from age 8 to 17 years and meetings for adults age 18 to 30 years.

There is also a Catechism Class for students of the Government school from 7th to 11 grade every Saturday. We have a Caritas committee who take care of the poor Christians, a small committee concerned with preparing the liturgy for Mass every week and which publishes a weekly newsletter on many spiritual topics and news.

There is also a committee of men of the parish who assist with parish affairs in general and a committee of young people who plan spiritual and recreational activities for young people. Finally, every month we have a meeting for all adults where we look at how we can live our lives as Christians.



Adults discuss together

Despite being a small parish we are very active and our young people play a vital part in our parish life.

The establishment of our Parish Centre will serve the pastoral working of our meetings and activities in the church and it is one of the most important needs that we aspire to get in our church, not only for our children but for all member of the parish. Thank you for offering to help us achieve our dream.

I write with heartfelt gratitude to you and to all the donors for the Pastoral Centre, which will glorify Jesus Christ in the lives of our parishioners.'

**Bishop Michael writes: 'Good catechesis and religious education are vital for all of us, children, young people and adults together. I am pleased our diocese can help our fellow Catholics in Jordan with this important project.'**

## CAN YOU HELP?

Our two diocesan 'Building Bridges' projects this year are helping to build a church centre in Pailin, Cambodia (until our new project in April), and to provide a catechism room at Al-Wahadneh in Jordan.

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) .....

WAHADNEH CATECHISM ROOM (Jordan) .....

### 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 Ugate, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7SH  
Registered charity no. 278742

## And down in Cambodia

Our diocesan project from March 2008 to February 2009 was to pay for the building of a kindergarten in the poor village of Chrab-Viel.

Fr Pedro, priest in Chrab-Viel, wrote at Christmas: 'The building for our kindergarten in Chrab-Viel is going to be finished in February. This is a very special Christmas gift this year for our children and families.

The people of Chrab-Viel are very happy... I thank you very much for your kindness and the great support you have been given to us for our people in the Apostolic Prefecture of Battambang.

Thanks be to God, to you dear Bishop Michael, and to the many people in the Diocese of East Anglia who made it possible. Many children in need will be welcome next year in our kindergarten. A lot of thanks!'

Bishop Michael writes: 'I had hoped to be in Cambodia as you receive this, and to agree with Bishop Kike our new project there for 2010/2011.

I suggest we continue to raise money for Pailin for another month or two, and I will let you know about our new project next time. Thank you again for your wonderful generosity, which means so much to the people of Cambodia.'



# Ex-soldier emphasises links with Islamic life

**Wisbech Interfaith Forum met at the Rosmini Centre, Wisbech to present a public talk about other faiths.**

More than 40 people listened to a talk on Islam and the Common Good arranged by Sean and Hilary Finlay from Our Lady and St Charles Borromeo and his forum colleagues.

Rashid Laher who gave the talk joined staff and pupils at Wisbech Grammar School for lunch and later addressed about 24 youngsters in class about the Islamic Faith.

Rashid has been chair and now vice chair of the Kingston Upon Thames Mosque but explained he is not a

## CWL founder's day visit

Members of the Catholic Women's League gathered for their Founders Day at Buckden Towers in Cambridgeshire in December.

Members from Wymondham, King's Lynn, Southwold, Felixstowe, Peterborough and Cambridge joined Buckden branch for the day which began with a Mass celebrated by Fr Jim Kennedy and Fr Angel Ochagavia who had recently returned from mission work in the Philippines.

Both priests belong to the Claretians a mission order founded in Spain that has set up its English home at Buckden Towers, a palace owned by bishops of Lincoln in past times and the place where Katherine of Aragon was held.

scholar/Imam, but looks after the day to day running.

Hilary Finlay, from the parish in Wisbech, said: "He provides one side of the necessary collaboration – the worldly view – which together with the spiritual view provided by the Imams, form the basis of any working Mosque committee.

"As such he is likely to become involved in pastoral issues, as the figure of the Imam in Islam does not mirror that of the Christian priest, blending both spiritual and pastoral care of his/her people.

"He addressed many misconceptions that we in the West have about Islam – doing this with a gentle humour that contradicted the stereotypes as much by

At the Mass Fr Angel spoke of the work of the Catholic Women's League in Mindanao, the second largest and most easterly of the Philippine Islands, where there are few priests.

Buckden Towers is now a retreat centre and the staff provided lunch and a guided tour of the towers.

Ita Flack, from the Buckden Towers branch, said: "In the ancient Lady Chapel there is a stained glass window, the gift of a Catholic Women's League member, depicting the story of Katherine of Aragon, Queen of England.

"We were able to see her last letter to her husband, full of love and forgiveness, pleading on behalf of their daughter Mary.

his manner as by what he said.

"His own experience as a retired English army officer, who had served in Northern Ireland and later as an advisor to the Ministry of Defence, gave him an excellent overview of how Islam is seen in this country.

"The message he left was that much of the interpretation of Islam displayed in the press comes from differences of culture, and not from the religious beliefs set out in the Qu'ran.

"He emphasized the common heritage of all the Abrahamic Faiths – Christianity, Judaism & Islam.

Also a number of young Muslims came from one of the Peterborough Mosques, and they extended a warm invitation to visit them to learn more.



At the inner gate at Buckden Towers are Kathleen Waring, former branch president, with other members.

"When Queen Katherine died at Kimbolton Castle her body was taken to Peterborough Cathedral where, now, flowers and sometime pomegranates are often left on her tomb."

The Founders Day celebrates Margaret Fletcher, daughter of an Anglican clergyman in Oxford, who set up the organisation with the aim of helping catholic women to use their talents in the service of the Church.



Wisbech Interfaith Forum with Rashid Laher

## Plea to help couples prepare for marriage

A campaign to support marriage preparation has been launched by the Diocesan Commission for Marriage and Family Life.

During February's National Marriage Week, leaflets were distributed throughout the diocese in a campaign to raise the profile of preparation.

The leaflets posed several questions for couples and families.

They included - Do you value marriage? Would you like to support marriage and family life? Do you enjoy working with people?

Diocesan co-ordinator for marriage and family life, Mary Clarke, said: "Three ways to support marriage preparation are highlighted in the leaflet.

"These are by prayer, financial help and by asking to be considered for training as a marriage preparation provider.

"Bishop Michael has written a special prayer and you are all asked to make it a part of your personal prayer life."

*Lord Jesus*

*You came to the wedding at Cana,  
And changed their water into wine.*

*Come now with your joyful love  
to all those preparing for marriage.*

*Come more deeply into their lives,  
and let them know*

*the transforming power of your presence.*

*May their future married lives together  
bring your love to the world*

*for you are Lord for ever and ever.*

*Amen*

For more information, please contact Mary Clark on 01603 504667

e-mail [mflco-ordinator@east-angliadiocese.org.uk](mailto:mflco-ordinator@east-angliadiocese.org.uk)

## International perspective

The international spread of the Diocese of East Anglia is shown in the 2010 Year Book and Ordo as well as a great deal of information about parishes, clergy and activities.

Links with the Holy Land and Cambodia are illustrated alongside priests like Fr Michael Ryan working in South America and young people preparing to go to the World Youth Day in Spain.

But closer to home there is useful information about schools, organisations with links to the diocese and commissions doing much good work in parishes and communities.

The diocesan pastoral plan is detailed with caring for those in need, justice and peace, welcoming people and other policies explained. Copies are available in parishes now.

## VOLUNTEER REQUIRED

The Social Concern Commission requires a volunteer to act as Secretary, to assist the Chairman in corresponding with the Members of the commission, arranging meetings, taking minutes and sharing the commission's correspondence to the Diocese and the wider community.

There are five meetings per year, mostly in Newmarket. Basic IT skills, access to the internet, telephone and driving license will be required.

5 to 10 hours per quarter.

Please apply by email to the Chairman at [bernard@segravedaly.plus.com](mailto:bernard@segravedaly.plus.com)

## BISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS IN MARCH AND APRIL

MARCH		APRIL	
11 <sup>th</sup>	College of Consultors at Poringland	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Diocesan Personnel Board at 5.00pm
12 <sup>th</sup>	Archbishop Romero Trust (London)	24 <sup>th</sup>	Shrine Council Mass & Meeting at Walsingham Mass at St John's Cathedral on 30 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of martyrdom of Archbishop Romero at 7.30pm
13 <sup>th</sup>	College of Deacons at Poringland	25 <sup>th</sup>	Diocesan Finance Board at Poringland at 11.00
14 <sup>th</sup>	Diocesan Youth Council at Poringland 3.00-7.00	26 <sup>th</sup>	Norwich Catenian Circle at 7.30pm
15 <sup>th</sup>	Bishops' Conference Standing Committee in London	27 <sup>th</sup>	'Learning Together' study day on Archbishop Oscar Romero (St George's)
16 <sup>th</sup>	Committee for Christian Unity at Welwyn Garden City	28 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday Mass at Cathedral at 9.00am Archbishop Romero 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service at Westminster Abbey
18 <sup>th</sup>	Mass and Elections at Quidenham Monastery at 8.00a.m.	29 <sup>th</sup>	Reconciliation Service at Cathedral at 7.30pm
19 <sup>th</sup>	Suffolk Church Leaders meeting in Ipswich at noon	31 <sup>st</sup>	Chrism Mass at Cathedral at 7.30pm
20 <sup>th</sup>	Commissioning Day for Lay Ministers of Holy Communion (at St Ives)		
21 <sup>st</sup>	Evensong and 'Two Bishops Talks' at Norwich Cathedral (on Romero) at 3.30		
			1 <sup>st</sup> Mass of the Lord's Supper at Cathedral at 7.30pm
			2 <sup>nd</sup> Good Friday Liturgy at Cathedral at 3.00pm United Service at Norwich Cathedral at 6.00pm
			3 <sup>rd</sup> Easter Vigil Mass at Cathedral at 8.30pm
			13 <sup>th</sup> Cambridgeshire Ecumenical Council 10.00-3.00
			17/18 <sup>th</sup> Parish Visitation to Woodbridge
			19 <sup>th</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup> Bishops' Conference in Leeds
			25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass at Holy Family, Gaywood at 7.30pm
			24 <sup>th</sup> OLEM Youth Group at Poringland
			25 <sup>th</sup> Diocesan Youth Council at Poringland 3.00-7.00pm
			29 <sup>th</sup> Norfolk Church Leaders Meeting at noon Norfolk & Waveney Churches Together - 2.30pm