



**New school
opens its doors
to pupils
– page 3**



**Worldwide
Catholic church
celebrates in
Walsingham
– page 6**



**Triple boost for
Ignite team
– page 9**

A devoted life of faith and service

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II on September 8, Bishop Alan Hopes, has paid tribute to her extraordinary dedication, inspired by her Christian faith.

■ The sudden death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has shocked and saddened us all across the nation, the Commonwealth and the world.

The Queen, throughout her life, has made an incredible impression on all whom she has met and on a multitude of those she has not.

In 1947, five years before she ascended to the throne, the then Princess Elizabeth promised the people of Britain and the Commonwealth that “my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service.”

She kept that promise, with extraordinary dedication for over 70 years. In her service of the nation and the Commonwealth, in her witness to family life, in her love for people and her work for the common good, she has been an inspiration to so many of us.

In her turn, all that she did was underpinned and inspired by her profound Christian faith, a faith which she publicly proclaimed: “For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace... is an inspiration and an anchor in my life.”

We thank God for her life, her dedicated service and witness. And we continue to pray for her that God will grant her a place of light, peace and rest in his presence, reunited with her beloved Prince Philip.

Today we also pray that God will inspire and strengthen King Charles III in his new responsibilities as he succeeds his mother. We pray that God will console him and the members of the Royal Family in their grief.

And we pray for our country that we might be united and strengthened at this moment in our history.



“My whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service.”

Her Majesty The Queen at Windsor Castle. Picture by Randal Mackechnie.

Pope pays tribute to Queen Elizabeth

■ Pope Francis has written to King Charles III, saying: “I am deeply saddened to learn of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, I offer heartfelt condolences to Your Majesty, the Members of the Royal family, the people of the UK and the Commonwealth.

“I willingly join all who mourn her loss in praying for the late Queen’s eternal rest, and in paying tribute to her life of unstinting service to the good of the nation and the Commonwealth, her example of devotion to duty, her steadfast witness of faith in Jesus Christ and her firm hope in his promises.

“Commending her noble soul to the merciful goodness of our Heavenly Father, I assure Your Majesty of my prayers that Almighty God will sustain you with his unfailing grace as you now take up your high responsibilities as King. Upon you and all who cherish the memory of your late mother, I invoke an abundance of divine blessings as a pledge of comfort and strength in the Lord.”



Her Majesty The Queen. Picture by Jacob King/PA Wire/PA Images.

Outstanding witness to her faith says new Cardinal

■ Cardinal Arthur Roche said: "It is with immense sadness that those of us who work in the Holy See from Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Commonwealth countries, received news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

"From the moment of her accession to the throne in 1952, following the death of her father King George VI, she not only dedicated herself unstintingly to serve her people, but also entrusted this to God's protection.

"Her Christian faith, expressed so often in her annual Christmas messages and elsewhere, were moments of outstanding witness to her faith, the Gospel and the values of the common good, family life, peace and concord among peoples.

"Her graciousness and common touch, her statesmanship and love for her people in the many countries, cultures and religions of the Commonwealth have witnessed an unbroken and unique bond of dedication to the service of others. She has been greatly loved by all.

"Following the promise she made in her famous broadcast at the age of 21 in 1947, she remained steadfast to the moment of her dying in fulfilling her own words then: "I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service."

"May she rest in peace."

■ Mgr Philip Moger, Rector of the Basilica and Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady, paid tribute to the Queen, saying: "We were all deeply saddened by the death of the Queen. A monarch of great distinction, whose reign was marked by self-sacrifice and total dedication. May she rest in peace and rise in glory and may her family and all who mourn her passing be comforted."

Catholic EastAnglia

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

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



Articles and photographs for the next edition are very welcome and should be sent to the editor, ideally via email, by Monday, October 10.

Diocese website: www.rcdea.org.uk

Advertising: Contact Natasha at Cathcom on tel 01440 730399 or email at natasha@cathcom.org

Publisher: Cathcom Ltd, 0207 112 6710

Inclusion of adverts is the responsibility of Cathcom and does not imply endorsement by the Diocese of East Anglia.

Queen Elizabeth was 'a gift to the world'

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster has paid the following tribute to HM Queen Elizabeth II:



Cardinal Vincent Nichols pays tribute to Queen Elizabeth II at a Requiem Mass at Westminster Cathedral. Picture by Mazur/CBCEW.

■ "On 21 April 1947, on her twenty-first birthday, Princess Elizabeth said, 'I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service.'

"Now, seventy-five years later, we are heartbroken in our loss at her death, and so full of admiration for the unflinching way in which she fulfilled that declaration.

"Even in my sorrow, shared with so many around the world, I am filled with an immense sense of gratitude for the gift to the world that has been the life of Queen Elizabeth II.

"At this time, we pray for the repose of

the soul of Her Majesty. We do so with confidence, because the Christian faith marked every day of her life and activity.

"In her Millennium Christmas message, she said, 'To many of us, our beliefs are of fundamental importance. For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example.'

"This faith, so often and so eloquently proclaimed in her public messages, has been an inspiration to me, and I am sure

to many. The wisdom, stability and service which she consistently embodied, often in circumstances of extreme difficulty, are a shining legacy and testament to her faith. Our prayer is that she is now received into the merciful presence of God, there to be reunited with her beloved Prince Philip. This is the promise of our faith, and our deep consolation.

"Queen Elizabeth II will remain, always, a shining light in our history. May she now rest in peace.

We pray for His Majesty the King, as he assumes his new office even as he mourns his mother. God save the King."

St Bernadette relics set for East Anglia

The relics of St Bernadette, whose visions of Our Lady are closely associated with the French shrine at Lourdes, will be visiting the Diocese of East Anglia in October.

■ The English tour of the relics began with a two-day visit to Westminster Cathedral. "Lourdes has come to Westminster," declared Cardinal Vincent Nichols in his homily at a special Mass to bid farewell to the Relics. He spoke of the peace visited on the thousands of pilgrims that lit candles and prayed alongside the saint.

"I confess that when spending some quiet time before the relics, I found it to be so similar to being at the grotto in Lourdes itself," said the Cardinal. "Even though there was a constant flow of people, what struck me was the deep sense of peace.

St Bernadette was born in Lourdes in 1844, the eldest of nine children, into a humble family which had fallen into poverty. She was frail and received the last rites three times during her childhood.



The relics of St Bernadette in Westminster Cathedral at the start of the English tour. Picture by Mazur/CBCEW.

In 1858, when she was 14, she was out with her sister and a friend gathering firewood when she heard the sound of a rushing wind and received what the Church recognises as her first vision of Our Lady.

In the vision Bernadette was asked to tell the people to repent of their sins, and to tell the priests to build a chapel and invite the people to come and to pray.

The relics, which include a section of rib

and pieces of hair, will be at St John's Cathedral in Norwich from 11.30am on Thursday October 13 until 9am on Saturday October 15 and then at Our Lady and the English Martyrs in Cambridge from 12noon on Saturday October 15 until 9am on Sunday October 16.

Lourdes is especially connected with healing, and those in need of healing are invited to visit the relics while they are in East Anglia. Visit: stbernadette.org.uk



Pupils at St John Henry Newman School with Bishop Alan, Mark Cooper and their teachers. You can see a full picture gallery of the blessing at: flic.kr/s/aHBqjA75Hk

New school opens its doors to pupils

St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School and Nursery, in Hampton Water, Peterborough, has been blessed by Bishop Alan Hopes during a visit to the first new Catholic school to be opened in the whole country in more than a decade. Keith Morris reports.

■ Bishop Alan visited on September 14 to meet staff and pupils and to formally bless the school, which opened earlier in September with more than 50 nursery, reception, year 1 and 2 children already enrolled.

Once full, it will accommodate 630 children in 21 classrooms, making it the biggest Catholic primary school in East Anglia.

Mark Cooper, head teacher at St John Henry Newman, said: “After many months, planning and preparing, we are delighted to welcome our first cohorts of Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children to our school.

“The staff have worked incredibly hard over the summer to prepare the school for our children and the school is looking amazing. We are now excited to begin the

children’s learning journey with us.

“It was fantastic to mark the opening of the school with Bishop Alan blessing our lovely school building. To have all of our children and staff together with people who have helped so much on the journey of our school development project was a very special moment.”

Flavio Vettese, Chair of Governors, said: “On behalf of the Governing Body of the school, I would sincerely like to thank Councillor Lynne Ayers for her tremendous support for the school, and I am delighted that she joined us today, and indeed will in the future, to witness the growth of the school. Our gratitude is also extended to Bishop Alan for his vision, commitment and inspiration to us all throughout the journey – he will always be a guiding light for us all.

I am also grateful to our Headteacher Mark Cooper – he has already shown his commitment and dedication, and his experience and knowledge will ensure that St John Henry Newman will be an outstanding Catholic school.”

Helen Bates, Assistant Director of Schools for the Diocese of East Anglia, said: “We are delighted that St John Henry Newman has opened after more than four years in the planning. The Diocese started this process in mid-2018 in preparing its bid for funding to Government and it was the only successful bid.

“This school has been a collaborative project between the Diocese of East Anglia, Peterborough City Council and the Department for Education. It has involved many people giving their time to support the complex process of creating a school, with the building being only one part of that process. We know from enquiries we have received that many parents are interested in a place at this school and we look forward to seeing the school grow year by year to become an integral part of the Hampton community.”

The school’s construction started in mid 2021, with Eco Modular Buildings (EMB) leading the work which saw building modules constructed off-site before being transported to Hampton Water for installation.

The modular delivery approach was the first of its kind for a Peterborough school and included many benefits including decreased waste, a reduced site period and reduced site traffic ensuring less disruption for local residents.

Councillor Lynne Ayres, Peterborough City Council’s cabinet member for children’s services, education, skills and the university, said: “Along with two new schools in Paston, St John Henry Newman will be a huge asset not just for Hampton, but for Peterborough as a whole, for years to come.”

news in brief

First for parish at day retreat

■ Our Lady and St Edmund in Hunstanton have held a day retreat, the first such event for a number of years. It was inspired by Pope Francis’ call to “look others in the eye and listen to what they have to say” through the Synodal Pathway.

During the weekly meetings in the parish in response to that call, there were floods of ideas for the ways in which people could embrace the message. The idea of a day’s retreat in Hunstanton Parish arose from these weekly discussions.

The retreat took place on July 16. The group of 21 participants began with Mass, in which the facilitator, Fr Bob Eccles OP, set the scene for the day with a sermon on priesthood, reminding his listeners that we are ‘a priestly people’, that ‘Christ himself is [the Church’s] one and only priest, and the community as a whole shares in his priesthood’.

Fr Bob, of the Dominicans of Blackfriars in Cambridge, then focused on a poem called The Flower by the great seventeenth-century poet George Herbert, as a springboard to a reflection on The Great Commandment.

He challenged people to have a new perspective on the love that we should have not just for God and for our neighbour but for ourselves.

A period of reflection with Benediction brought the day to a close and people left with a sense of confidence that the strength in the parish – remarked upon by Fr Bob – offers much hope for individuals, community and friends in Christ.

The Synodal Pathway and the day retreat have inspired members of the Parish to a renewed hope of a shared mission and the desire for continued refreshment through the Holy Spirit.

New Director of Song School

■ Our Lady & the English Martyrs in Cambridge is set to welcome a new member of the music department. Lyn Alcantara is becoming the Director of the Song School, comprising the Junior and Youth Choirs.


Lyn is a mezzo soprano soloist who has appeared in concert and on disc, as well as BBC TV and radio with the Monteverdi Choir, the Sixteen, Opera North and the Choir of King’s College, Cambridge.

She is founder-director of KJV Community Children’s Choir (formerly King’s Junior Voices) and Fellow and Director of Music at Wolfson College, Cambridge.

Meanwhile, the former Anglican Bishop of Thetford and prolific hymn-writer, Timothy Dudley-Smith, now living in retirement in Cambridge, recently attended Solemn Mass at Our Lady & the English Martyrs. During the Mass, three of his well-known hymns were sung, including the ever popular ‘Tell out my soul.’

Many parishioners were keen to greet Bishop Timothy who concluded his visit with a photo with members of the OLEM choir.

Our Lady of Fidelity



The church needs religious sisters URGENTLY to bring Christ to others by a life of prayer and service lived in the community of Ignation spirituality. Daily Mass is the centre of community life. By wearing the religious habit we are witnesses of the consecrated way of life.

If you are willing to risk a little love and would like to find out how, contact Sister Bernadette

Mature vocations considered.
CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF FIDELITY

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

You must use it or you will lose it

In the latest in his Voice of Hope series, Fr Alvan Ibeh reflects on the Parable of the Talents.



to use it, he lost it.

One thing you must not forget is that no one created by God is useless. I often hear people say they are useless just because they can't do a particular thing the way the others do. Therefore, you shouldn't allow anyone to make you feel worthless or make yourself feel the same way. That you can't do this does not mean you can't do that. There must be something you can do very well. There is something God has given to each of us.

The problem is when we don't see what we have and want what others have that we feel we don't have. We can only be who God has made us be and no one else. The passage says, "He gave each of them according to their abilities", meaning that God looks at you and knows what you can handle, which He gives to you. But the fact is that you must use it. You must develop the talent that has been given to you; if you don't, the possibility is that you may lose it, just like the servant.

For instance, if you have been gifted with a singing voice, you must sing, practice continuously, and develop that talent. Only then will your gift make way for you and bring you before kings (Proverbs 18:16). Stay for a year without singing, and you will notice that your voice will gradually start going out of tune. You will be surprised that you will begin to struggle to sing, unlike before. Therefore, you must use it, or you will lose it.

How do I make use of what God has given me? First and foremost, I must believe and

affirm that God has blessed me with a talent just as He has blessed others. I must believe that I have something that the other person I am trying to be like does not have. I must acknowledge my talent is fantastic, just as I am unique. I must not forget that whatever I have has been given to me for a purpose.

Therefore, I shouldn't see myself as superior to others (1 Corinthians 4:7). Whatever God gave to me is meant to be used for His glory and the good of others, not for my self-aggrandizement. I should be proud of what God has given me but not let pride take it away. Most importantly, don't be shy to use your talent. It has been given to us, and on the last day, God will demand an account of how we have used what has been given to us.

Someone once said that the most fertile place on earth is the cemetery. This is because you will find many unused talents buried beneath the ground. You must not carry your talent to the grave without touching the lives of others with it, which is the primary purpose why God gave them to us. We must, therefore, live full and die empty.

Have a blessed month of October. May God help us to begin using our talents to the greater glory of His name and for the good of humanity. Amen.

I appreciate all those who write to express how they were blessed by reading one of our reflections. To remind you that you can also be a blessing to someone else by sharing any of the articles you feel will bless them too.

Be part of our global network.

CATENIANS

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

The Catenian Association welcomes new members to our international social network of Catholic men committed to friendship, family and Faith.

Our local Circles are active throughout the U.K., Ireland, Australia, Malta, India, Bangladesh, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Our Circles in the U.K. raised over £250,000 in the past year for local charities as well as supporting the Association's two in-house charities; the Benevolent Fund which supports members and their families and the Bursary Fund which sponsors young persons in projects contributing to wider society at home and abroad.

Our Circles meet monthly and arrange activities both for members and their families: meals together, barbecues, picnics alongside visits to theatre and music and sporting events are all popular.

Golf societies throughout the Association join together in a National Golf Championship week every year and the Catenian Caravan and Camping Fellowship have a popular range of special events.

If you join the Catenians you will find it is the basis of many lifetime friendships.

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

■ This month, I want to reflect on the teaching of Jesus in the gospel of Matthew 25:14-30, otherwise known as the Parable of the Talents. We are told of a master who was leaving his house to travel and, before he left, entrusted his property to his servants.

According to the personal abilities of each man, one servant received five talents, the second received two, and the third received only one.

The first two servants used the talents they received and were praised and rewarded by the master for being faithful. But the third, who did not even believe in what he had been given or felt he had received something too small, decided to keep it for the master and never used it as his fellow servants did. What, then, was his reward? He lost it... "so take the talent away from him and give it to the one with the ten talents". Because he decided not

SVP team boosted

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) in East Anglia has appointed Joan Wall as its Central Council President and Jacinta Welch as its first membership support officer.



Joan Wall (left) and Jacinta Welch.

■ Jacinta will be visiting Conferences with Joan to meet members, learn about the work being carried out in parishes across East Anglia and to offer support. She will also facilitate the setting up of new Conferences, be a link to the national organisation and provide safeguarding training for all members.

The SVP was founded in 1833 by a group of students in Paris led by Blessed Frédéric Ozanam to help impoverished people living in the slums of the French capital. The SVP has been active in England since 1844 and in the East Anglia diocese as far back as 1913 in Cambridge. Within East Anglia the SVP has 16 groups, known as Conferences, with 150 members.

As a grassroots organisation fighting poverty, loneliness and injustice with dignity and compassion, the

SVP is perhaps best known for visiting the housebound and lonely in parishes, but its work extends far beyond this vital support task. SVP members cook meals for families on low incomes during school holidays, donate household items, support the homeless, visit those in prison, in addition to other acts of kindness. The SVP's work in East Anglia also includes managing two houses for homeless people in Sheringham.

Schools and young people are also major part of the Vincentian family. In the East Anglia diocese there are currently nine primary school groups, known as Mini

Vinnies. Meanwhile in secondary schools, students set up and run Young Vincentian groups themselves with background support, and young adults aged 18-33 can set up SVP1833 groups.

Jacinta said: "I'm looking forward to meeting and supporting SVP members across the diocese and to welcome new members to the Vincentian family."

If you would like to know more about setting up an SVP Conference in your parish, school or other setting, please contact Jacinta at jacintaw@svp.org.uk or 07857 622603. Alternatively, to find out more about SVP, please visit www.svp.org.uk.

GAP YEAR: Residential Support Assistant (Learning Disabilities) - Ipswich



'Start dates throughout October and November 2022 for a 12-months gap year experience (6-12 months period is also an option)'

'Interviews will be held in Ipswich throughout October and November 2022'

A bit about L'Arche:

L'Arche is a network of Communities which supports adults with Learning Disabilities. Our Communities comprise of households in which people with and without Learning Disabilities live alongside one another, sharing the joys and challenges of life, and form unique friendships not often seen in wider society. L'Arche is a committed care provider that seeks to support the physical, medical, social, emotional and spiritual needs of its community members.

L'Arche Ipswich is recruiting for Gap Year adventurers to live in Community, learning care skills and sharing life with people they may not ordinarily encounter. Previous and current assistants have described the experience as life-transforming.

Learn what others had to say here: www.larche.org.uk/assistants

This opportunity is made up of Community Living activities and Personal Care tasks.

Community Living: going out for coffee | watching TV | playing games | cooking and baking | walking | eating together | Video calling friends | going shopping | assisting in a L'Arche Workshop | art classes | dance and drama activities | singing songs | household chores | community gatherings and celebrations | holidays | cinema trips | worship services/reflections

Personal Care: supporting morning and bedtime routines | administering medication | assisting with personal hygiene | supporting meal times | aiding mobility

You don't need to have prior experience to thrive in this role, we'll train you up. The main thing is that you are willing to throw yourself into Community life (which is a lot of fun!).

We think it could be a good fit for someone:

- looking for a gap year
- interested in volunteering
- exploring the charity sector
- who is unsure of their next steps, but wants to make a difference

- pursuing a career in psychology, but in need of more practical experience
- who would like space to explore personal growth and/or spirituality
- interested in the health and social care sector
- looking for a unique, hands-on experience

You will be a voluntary worker if you take part in this Gap Year opportunity, however food, accommodation and a subsistence (£309 per month) are provided. There is also the potential for retreats, holidays and reflection days.

To find out more please go to: www.larche.org.uk/assistants
To apply for the post of Live-in Assistant, please send your CV to: ipswichrecruitment@larche.org.uk



Requiem Mass prays for Queen

Civic and ecumenical guests were among a congregation of over 350 people who joined Bishop Alan Hopes for a Solemn Diocesan Requiem Mass for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at St John's Cathedral in Norwich on September 15.

■ In his homily, Bishop Alan paid tribute to the deep Christian faith of the Queen. He said: "Today, we thank God for Queen Elizabeth's outstanding witness to her Christian faith, the Gospel and the values of the common good, family life and peace, whilst always respecting people of different religions and cultures. We thank God for 70 years of faithful dedication to the service of others."

"In these recent days, the world has been reminded again and again of the late Queen's profound Christian faith. One of her former prime ministers said that what made it profound was not so much what she said about it - but the fact that she lived it to the full."

"We have also been reminded of her pledge - made when she was 21 years old - that whether her life be long or short she would always be at the service of her people," said Bishop Alan.

For the past 20 years or so, her Christmas broadcasts have become more overtly and



Pictured from the left are the Mayor of Norwich Dr Kevin Maguire, the Bishop of Norwich Graham Usher, Bishop Alan Hopes, Lady Clare Agnew Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Norwich, and Cllr Vivien Thomas.

explicitly Christian in their content. As she spoke at the beginning of the Millennium, she said: 'For me the teachings Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of

you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example.'

The Mayor of Norwich, Dr Kevin Maguire, with his consort Julie Keen, along with the former Mayor of Norwich, Cllr Vaughan Thomas, with his wife

Cllr Vivien Thomas were among the civic dignitaries who attended the Mass. They were joined by Lady Clare Agnew, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Norwich, representing the King, and Rt Rev Graham Usher, the Bishop of Norwich.

Representatives of diocesan schools, parishes and religious orders across East Anglia, invited by Bishop Alan, attended the Mass.

To see a full picture gallery of the Requiem Mass, visit: flic.kr/s/aHBqjA79qo

Paul is new operations & finance director

The Diocese of East Anglia has appointed experienced public servant and diaconate candidate, Paul Raynes, as its new Director of Operations and Finance.

■ Paul will be working for Bishop Alan Hopes and the diocesan trustees to oversee diocesan financial affairs, making sure that the church's resources are used effectively to support its mission.

Paul joins the curial team at Porlingland after a thirty-year career in public service. His most recent role has been as a director at the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, responsible for major transport projects, planning, and the environment.

Before that, he worked at the Local Government Association, leading financial and policy negotiations with the government on behalf of councils, at Essex County Council, at the Treasury, where he ran a Cabinet Minister's office, and at the Foreign Office, where he served as financial attache at in



New diocesan Director of Operations and Finance, Paul Raynes.

the Paris Embassy.

Paul has also had a spell as a financial journalist writing about investments and companies.

Outside work, Paul is an experienced

school governor and chairs the governing body at a large Catholic school. He is also a candidate for the Permanent Diaconate in his third year of formation.

His first degree is from Cambridge Uni-

versity, where his wife Sarah also studied. The couple have four children and are part of St Etheldreda's parish in Ely.

Paul said: "Pope Francis has said that each one of us is a mission. I hope I can help to make sure that the resources of the church in East Anglia are used as effectively and efficiently as possible to support Bishop Alan and the individual parishes in proclaiming the Gospel."

"I am looking forward to meeting as many people as possible over the coming months to learn how the diocesan finance team can best serve our local mission. This is also an important moment, with so many people facing financial challenges, for thinking about how we can make sure that the Church's investments and property are used wisely and sustainably with an eye to environmental sustainability, in line with the teaching the Holy Father has set out in his encyclical Laudato Si."

Bishop Alan said: "I am pleased to welcome Paul to this role and am looking forward to having his professional support in the stewardship of the resources of the diocese."

news in brief



■ Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, a Requiem Mass for the Queen was held at midday on Saturday September 10 at the Catholic National Shrine at Walsingham.

Fresh start for prisoners

■ Prisoners' Sunday takes place this year on Sunday October 9 with the theme 'A Fresh Start'. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, who is President of the prisoners' charity Pact, writes:

"I invite you to join with me in supporting Prisoners' Sunday on October 9. Pact is the major Catholic charity for the support of prisoners and their families, working in prisons across England and Wales. It is good to know that Pact is there for people of all faiths and none, supporting prisoners and their families on our behalf and with our help." You can find out more at: prisonadvice.org.uk

New university chaplain

■ Fr Paul Keane has accepted Bishop John Arnold's invitation to be the new Chaplain at Fisher House, Cambridge University Catholic Chaplaincy.

Fr Paul moved to Cambridge in the course of the summer, ready to take up the post in time for the new academic year. He is a graduate of Peterhouse, is currently Vice Rector at St Mary's College, Oscott in Birmingham, and was formerly Chaplain at Essex University.



Country Court Care and Nursing Homes in East Anglia



Our care is the kind we'd all want our loved ones to receive. Our care and nursing homes in East Anglia are luxurious and beautifully furnished whilst retaining a warm, homely atmosphere.

For more information please visit our website:

www.countrycourtcare.com

CARE AT HOME FOR ALL OF LIFE IN PETERBOROUGH

OUR HOME CARE SERVICES INCLUDE

- Help with household tasks
- Cleaning and domestic services
- Cooking and meal preparation
- Considerate Companionship
- Support to attend social and medical appointments



Prestige CARE FOR all of life
NURSING & CARE

Call us today to discuss your care needs 01733 592 852 prestige-nursing.co.uk

Worldwide chu

Nearly 3,000 pilgrims representing the worldwide Catholic Church gathered in the National Catholic Shrine at Walsingham for the colourful Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage. Eldred Willey reports.

■ It was the first time that the pilgrimage had taken place since 2019, the two-year gap being caused by the Covid pandemic. Bishop Alan Hopes and Archbishop Emeritus George Stack of Cardiff presided over the renewed event, which took place on Sunday September 4.

The pilgrimage was a celebration by many nations in many languages, with flags and banners representing diverse communities and many pilgrims dressed in traditional costume.

India, China and Africa were all well represented, and a large contingent of Congolese stood out with their matching clothes, dancing, drumming and waving of handkerchiefs.

The event began with a presentation of banners to Bishop Alan, including ones from the Keralan, Zambian, Chinese, Congolese and Ethiopian chaplaincies, along with Filipino and Sri Lankan parish groups. The Shine Director, Fr Philip Moger, invited the groups to say the Hail Mary in their own languages, which came from many corners of Asia and Africa, with a German-speaking pilgrim representing the smattering of westerners.

In his welcome, Bishop Alan said how wonderful it was to see people gathered from so many nations to make Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother known. He remembered Christians around the world who suffer persecution and prayed for peace and reconciliation, remembering especially those who have suffered and died in Ukraine or become war refugees.

He then celebrated Mass in the Church of Reconciliation, opened to include an outdoor overflow which itself overflowed all the way to the café and the Slipper Chapel behind.

Following the reading of the Gospel in English and Cantonese, Archbishop Emeritus George Stack gave a homily which took the pilgrims on a journey through the life of Mary and the doctrines which the Church teaches about her. He lingered on the words of Mary at the Feast of Cana, "Do whatever He tells you" and how she not just spoke the words but personified the obedience they call for.

The approaching visit to England of the relics of St Bernadette gave him an opportunity to speak about the Immaculate Conception, which made Mary the symbol of everything the human race could be and the paradisaic freedom this brings.

"Throughout my life," he con-



cluded, "God has wanted the best for me, but so often I choose something so much less. Woman of obedience, keep us in mind, woman who listened, remember us to God, Mother of God, be our Mother also, Amen."

The end of Mass was interrupted by sirens and milling police, and pilgrims evacuated calmly to a field opposite the Shrine. Bishop Alan afterwards thanked them for the exemplary way they had responded to an emergency which turned out to be not such an emergency after all.

After a delayed picnic lunch, the pilgrims processed, many singing and dancing, along the Holy Mile between the Catholic Shrine and the ruins of Walsingham Priory. Archbishop Stack placed the Blessed Sacrament under a marquee by the western arch of the priory, on an altar embroidered with the words 'Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus.' A reading from chapter six of John's Gospel about the Bread of Life was followed by a long silence in the evening sunshine.

Bishop Alan then called the pilgrims over to the site of the original holy house which had been destroyed along with the priory at the Reformation and led a prayer for the conversion of England, followed by a sung Salve Regina.

The pilgrimage is named after the 14th-century convention of England being known as the "Dowry of Mary" and is the principal pilgrimage in honour of Mary.



rch gathers



Pictured above are pilgrims processing, left, presenting gifts to Bishop Alan and below, at the priory ruins. View a Flickr gallery of the Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage at: [flic.kr/s/aHBqjA5QBM](https://www.flickr.com/photos/aHBqjA5QBM/)



Sr Catherine had a long and active life

Sr Mary Catherine Maguire passed away this summer after a long and active life. Sr Mary Francis Ridler and friends pay tribute.



Sr Mary Catherine Maguire.

■ Sr Catherine was born Annie Maguire in Ballyshannon, Donegal, Ireland. She was the seventh of eight children. Both her parents worked in the family pharmacy in the town and her Aunty looked after the family. She was educated by the Mercy Sisters in Ballyshannon, unlike her older siblings who attended Boarding Schools run by religious in the neighbourhood.

She loved her Irish heritage, although she was a reluctant Gaelic speaker. She took some of the Sisters to visit her hometown and her relatives and enjoy the wonders of the Green Isle which we fell in love with. She could play the fiddle and dance an Irish jig. She enjoyed taking her home leave with her family, siblings and later her nephews and nieces who called her Aunty nun. She was also proud of her Britishness and over the years there was no trace left of her Irish accent.

Sr Catherine came to Chesterfield to become a student teacher but became a postulant there in January 1955. She was clothed in Swaffham in January 1955 and Sr Thomas More joined her in the Novitiate in August 1955. They both went to Vienna in 1963 to make their final vows, together with six other Sisters from the Congregation.

Sr Catherine was a good religious with high moral principles, good manners and a strong sense of justice and fairness. She was cer-

tainly a strong-minded lady and when she drew herself up to her full height looked quite imposing. She was a great and loyal friend to many of the Sisters but particularly her fellow novice, Sr Thomas More, whom she had known for 64 years.

Sr Catherine was a lady with strong views and leadership powers. She was Superior of the Sacred Heart Community in Swaffham for 18 years. She lived at St Joseph's Convent, Chesterfield for a total of 35 years.

Sister needed her strength because she worked hard all her life almost until the time when she fell and broke her hip in January 2022. As well as teaching, looking after Boarders and managing the finances she also cleaned the school buildings in the holidays.

Her death on July 20 was a very peaceful one in hospital, she slipped away to join her bridegroom while the Sisters recited rosaries at her bedside, having had the last rites and the apostolic absolution.



Canon Paul's Cathedral farewell

■ Canon David Paul celebrated his last Mass as Dean of St John the Baptist Cathedral on Thursday September 8. He was joined by Bishop Alan Hopes and around 200 parishioners and well-wishers.

Mass was followed by a celebratory dinner in the Narthex which included culinary delights from all over the world, showcasing the cultural diversity of the Cathedral parish community.

James McGarry, former chairman of the parish council thanked Canon Paul for his eight years of service and dedication to the parish. Canon Paul expressed his gratitude for the support of the parish community and the blessings shared together over the years.

Pictured above, Canon David Paul gives the homily at his final Mass at St John's. You can watch the Mass at: youtu.be/6YmB0KvkZ1I

SCHOOLS NEWS



Children from the school in DRC.

Small Beccles seed grows on in Congo

St Benet's in Beccles is launching a new series of fundraising activities for a school in the Democratic Republic of Congo founded 21 years ago after a gift from the parish.

■ The St Benet's School for Peace is situated in the village of Tshamalale near Lubumbashi in southern DRC, in a huge country where over half of the population is Catholic. The project began as a result of a visit to Beccles by a nun from the Congolese order, the Sisters of St Joseph (Soeurs de Saint Joseph Auxiliatrices de l'Eglise).

She came to Suffolk to improve her English and made friends with parishioners at St Benet's Church in Beccles, Suffolk and other members of the community. In spite of the 'great' war, a parishioner went there in 2001 taking £500 raised by the parish.

She witnessed children on the streets, most of whom had been displaced from the civil wars in the east which have claimed millions of lives and where a thousand people a day were estimated to be dying of disease. When asked what the sisters would do with that money, they replied: "We will build a school for peace for the children of families fleeing from the war zone." And that's exactly what they have done with the wonderful support of the parishioners of St Benet's in Beccles as well as friends from further afield.

The school opened in September 2005, with a few classrooms for nursery and primary children. In 2016 the impressive two-storey addition opened and there are now 1300 children in the school aged from three to 18 years. A library has since been added as well as a medical centre next door. All the interior furniture was made by former street boys. Sponsors have been found in the UK for 75 children, who would never otherwise have had the opportunity to go to school. Some students have gone on to university, including some of the poorest who are supported by St Benet's parishioners and by friends of other religions or none. It costs £108 per year to send a child to school and just over £300 to send a student to university in Lubumbashi.

Money raised is sent directly to the sisters via the White Fathers in Brussels. The initial donation of £500 has now become £520,700. The choir has won prizes and teachers from other schools are visiting to see what can be achieved. Receiving a good education means that the children will be able to help their families and eventually help rebuild their country – a priority in Congo where it is estimated that 3.5 million children of primary school age are not in school.

Parishioners have been involved over the years in a variety of fundraising activities and after a blip during the pandemic they started to raise funds again with a garden party in July and bric-a-brac stalls in August. On Sunday August 28 they were interviewed on The Journey of Faith Slot on Radio Suffolk. On November 12 there will be a quiz evening with refreshments.

Funds are constantly being raised to provide books and equipment, and now a new toilet block is urgently needed. Small groups of people have visited the sisters several times and the parish is in weekly contact with them via WhatsApp.

The sisters have wonderful projects all over Congo and have recently opened a school in English-speaking Zambia, which a group from Beccles visited in 2019. They are keen to develop links with schools or parishes in the UK.

For details of all events or to find out more visit: www.schoolforpeace.org or contact: congoschool4peace@gmail.com

Andy takes over as director of schools

Former Catholic secondary school headteacher, Dr Andy Stone, started on September 1 in the role of Director of Education for the Diocese of East Anglia, following Julie O'Connor's retirement after 19 years in the job. Keith Morris reports.



Andy Stone.

■ Andy moves to the diocese after 29 years as a teacher and 14 years as headteacher of Holy Family Catholic School in Walthamstow, where he was also chair of the secondary heads group in Brentwood Diocese.

He said: "I am delighted to be here and looking forward to a different role within Catholic education. I enjoy meeting people and I'm looking forward to working with everyone in Catholic education in the diocese, talking with and listening to them and visiting our schools.

"Fundamentally I am here to support the work of leaders in our diocesan schools. Because I have been a head teacher for 14 years I understand the pressures and challenges of that role. We are blessed to have a really effective community of schools leaders. I see my role as doing what I can to support them in their work.

"I am also Bishop Alan's representative as far as education is concerned in all the diocesan schools which operate under his direction. It is my job to ensure that all is well in his schools standards are high and that everything is as it should be," he said.

"I expect to be visiting schools a lot and want to get to know everyone in the community. I aim to get out of the office and support heads and governors,

meet staff and pupils and be very much part of the educational fabric of East Anglia."

Despite being a head, Andy continued teaching American Politics, a great interest of his.

He said: "I feel we have a duty in Catholic schools to focus on the common good and offer that support to others. I tried to make my school outwards focused and have always believed in partnership working, including with non-Catholic schools."

Brought up in an atheistic family, Andy was introduced to the faith as a teacher at a Catholic school in his twenties, becoming more and more interested.

Andy married his wife Maura, who came from a traditional Irish Catholic family, in 2000 and the marriage Mass was held at the Church of the Holy Redeemer and St Thomas More, Chelsea. It was celebrated by Andy's future brother-in-law, a priest in Brentwood Diocese and by Bishop Alan Hopes, who was at the time parish priest in Chelsea in Westminster Diocese.

Andy had previously attended RCIA classes at Holy Redeemer, where Bishop Alan had described him as "a reluctant convert" as Andy waited until the last minute to decide to actually join the church!

"It is like coming back full circle to meet Bishop Alan again in

East Anglia," said Andy.

Andy sadly lost his wife in February 2020 after a long struggle with breast cancer and their only son has just travelled 4,000 miles away to take up a soccer scholarship in America at the University of Mobile.

Talking about his priorities for his new role, Andy said: "Bishop Alan's vision is that all our schools will be part of one of the two multi-academy trusts and so I will be working with headteachers and governors to progress that to completion over the next two or three years.

I will also be supporting schools with the new Section 48 inspection framework and helping them to navigate the challenges and pressures of being faith communities in an increasingly secular world. I also hope to be working with school leaders in their own formation as Catholics," said Andy.

A final hope is to encourage more people to come forward to serve as school governors. They perform a vital role in our schools – if you are interested you can contact Andy directly, his team, or your local school or parish priest.

"Our Catholic schools are precious and a wonderful resource and something we should be really proud of. They need our continued support, prayer and encouragement," said Andy.

YOUTH MATTERS

Triple boost for Ignite team

The Ignite Youth Team is excited to be welcoming three new members, who are giving a year to serve Jesus, His Church and the young people of East Anglia.

■ Readers may recall reading earlier in the year about 18-year-old Elliott Cannon, says Ciaran Losasso, Ignite Mission Team Leader. "He joined us from Birmingham to help share his passion for the faith with others.

"He has now begun his time with us alongside two more new team members, also 18 years old. Louisa Poole is from St Edmund's Parish in Bury St Edmunds and Sophie Shoreland-Pereira is from the Our Lady of Good Counsel and St Peter Parish in March."

Louisa Poole said: "I have been a member of St Edmund's Parish since I was a child and I attended St Benedict's Catholic School in Bury St Edmunds. My first experience of Ignite was in Year 9 when I attended the Ignite Festival which allowed me to meet other young Catholics. At the same time, I attended Celebrate and spent more time with the Ignite Team.

"I later got involved with the Chaplaincy department in school and became the leader of the Liturgy Hub which involved organising Masses and other liturgies in school. This role prompted me to search for further leadership roles within the Catholic Church

which is when I decided to look into taking a gap year with Ignite.

"In addition, I had a strong desire to learn more about my faith and to meet other people who had the same desire as me to learn about themselves and the Church."

Sophie Shoreland-Pereira said: "I attended St Benedict's Catholic School in Bury St Edmunds from Year 9 through to Sixth Form and there I first heard about Ignite through confirmation classes and attending the Ignite Festival. The festival was where I started to learn more about Catholicism and it prompted me to want to be more proactive in my faith.

"My school environment helped me to grow in my faith, as it was the first time I had attended a Catholic school and I felt comfortable being more open with my faith as I became friends with people who were also Catholic.

"I later took on more responsibility within the Chaplaincy team and became head of the Music Hub in which I helped to choreograph the music that was played at Masses. This led me to look into more opportunities for leadership within my faith and I decided to take a gap year with Ignite."

The team begin the year with a period of training and formation, explains Ciaran, "allowing time to delve more deeply into the faith, grow in prayer and prepare to meet children and young people across our Diocese. We look forward to seeing what God will do in and through the Ignite Team this year."

■ You can contact the team at igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk



Back row from the left are Fr Luke (Diocesan Youth Service Chaplain), Louisa Poole, Hamish MacQueen (Director of Diocesan Youth Service). Front row from the left are Ciaran Losasso (Ignite Team Leader), Sophie Pereira and Elliott Cannon.

Walking in footsteps of the Welsh saints

The annual East Anglia Diocesan Young Adults Pilgrimage took place in the last week of July in North Wales, walking in the footsteps of St Winefride and the many saints of that part of Britain. Ciaran Losasso and Elliott Cannon report.

■ The group comprised six young adults ranging in age from 16 to mid-30s, travelling by road from East Anglia and staying at the Vincentian Retreat Centre in Pantasaph near Holywell. Each day was spent exploring different ways to pray from the Church's rich treasury alongside day trips to holy sites across the north of Wales, associated with a multitude of saints including St Trillo, St Asaph, St Beuno, St Mungo and others.

These included holy wells, island churches and beautiful coastal scenery. In all things we sought to find ways to take opportunities to draw closer to Jesus by

asking the prayers of his saints, learning from their example and spending quality time with the Lord in prayer.

A real highlight was our visit to the Shrine of St Winefride at Holywell, where we bathed in the well that sprang up on the site of her beheading. The story of St Winefride's purity and fire for God was inspirational to us, as were the stories the many people who had visited the shrine over the years – including during persecution.

The pilgrimage was also full of laughter, fellowship, late night card games and conversation. One pilgrim said, "Looking back it was a calm time away with the Lord and a small group of pilgrims". Others felt they had learnt new ways to pray or had re-connected with their faith by taking time away from the bustle of day-to-day life.

The opportunity for Confession and daily Mass was greatly appreciated and all agreed that it was great few days in the company of God, of each other and of some remarkable ancient saints.



The East Anglian pilgrims with the Mercy Bus.

Ugandan appeal to feed people

■ The Catholic charity SPICMA is appealing for help to feed people in Karamoja, a dry region of Uganda badly hit by the current crisis in East Africa.

Jean Johnson, a parishioner from Ipswich, has been to this area many times and gathered some of the information that has led to the current appeal. "In one district of 87,690 people 228 died of hunger in July," she reports. She has had it confirmed that the two worst districts are Kotido and Napak, which are in the Diocese of Moroto.

A combination of drought and the loss of grain supplies from Ukraine is causing rising mortality in the region. Parish priests and sisters have asked SPICMA to help by setting up feeding centres in schools, parishes and dispensaries.

"People like the elderly, lactating mothers and children are dying silently in their homes. They just succumb to hunger," Jino Bornd Meri, the head of local government for Kaabong district, in Karamoja region, told Reuters. You can make a donation at: spicma.org

Parish links to cathedral wanted

■ The friends of St John's Cathedral are seeking to build stronger relations with parishes and are looking for volunteers for this liaison role.

They would be delighted for someone in each parish to volunteer to make this link with the Cathedral. This would enable them to keep parishes informed of relevant events and perhaps even arrange for a periodic group visit of parishioners to attend and get involved in one of the Cathedral services.

Those interested might like to note that the Friends AGM will follow the 11am Sunday Mass at the Cathedral on October 23 and will be held in the Narthex at 12.15pm.

For more information, or to let the Friends know you are coming to the AGM, please contact Jonathan Ellis on jfhellis@icloud.com



Pictured are Ann (front) and Mike Vipond, to Ann's right, in Lourdes. Picture by Jean Gray.

East Anglian pilgrims make a return to Lourdes

A large group of pilgrims from East Anglia returned to Lourdes in late August, for the first time after a three-year gap because of Covid. Diocesan Director, Deacon John Morrill, reports.

■ It was with joy that a large group from our diocese returned to Lourdes for the last week of August after a three-year gap. As ever, we went as part of the Catholic Association with other southern dioceses, with past and present pupils from Stonyhurst College in Lancashire and with a large cohort of children with severe physical or mental challenges and their carers (the 'Glandfield Group'). There were 54 East Anglians amongst the regular pilgrims and carers, but there were more within the Glandfield group, so probably something like 65 in all.

We were the largest of the component groups – and provided six of the eleven priests and the only three deacons, so we certainly pulled our weight within the Catholic Association! And since the Association was collectively more than 250 strong, it was the biggest pilgrimage in Lourdes for most of our week there, and as a result we had the privilege of leading not only one of the eucharistic processions which take place every day at 5pm, but also two of the torch-light processions that end each day at 9pm and are a highlight for many of us.

It was a joyful pilgrimage despite complications with the travel arrangements in both directions. With Mass and other liturgies every day, there was a solid framework for the pilgrimage but also much free time for private devotions and for meaningful conversations with one another. Above all, Lourdes once more proved a place where the weakest and most vulnerable came first. I for one was humbled by encounters with those whose faith and trust in God, whose search for healing not just, or not particularly, physical healing but a healing of spirit, was realised.

■ Deacon Mike and Ann Vipond from St Thomas of Canterbury – Woodbridge, reflected on their recent pilgrimage to Lourdes as part of the Diocese of East Anglia group.

"Visiting Lourdes for the first time as a sick pilgrim was quite an experience. Certainly the pilgrimage lived up to its reputation as a place of healing where the sick and disabled were at the very centre of care.

"As well as Deacon Mike having a roller, Ann whose Parkinson's was playing up, had a wheelchair as well. We were pushed by two generous and strong rollers for whom nothing was too much. "We're here to look after you," they repeated and they did. One of the greatest lessons that Lourdes teaches is as well as giving unconditional love we have to learn to be objects of unconditional love.

"Our pilgrimage ended with a reinforcement of Lourdes being a place where we are made whole, where we learn to accept, as Our Lady did, God's grace. To put those most in need first, to not be afraid to love, to be channels of God's love and to recognise that along with Mary and Bernadette we have a message to proclaim."



East Anglian clergy and pilgrims at the Grotto at Lourdes.

There were many post-covid changes. We could not ask our exhausted doctors and nurses to come to staff the hospital ('accueil') so it was not possible for those in need of constant medical support to come this year. We missed them. Post-covid there have been major changes in the baths where pilgrims have plunged naked into the stream that miraculously appeared at Our Lady's command to St Bernadette. Now, each pilgrim is invited to stand next to the spring and water from it is poured three times, first for a washing of the hands, then of the face and finally as a drink.

This in fact replicates what Bernadette did back in 1858 and all the pilgrims I spoke to found it as moving and uplifting as the previous full immersion.

Following the lead of the new Bishop of Northampton, members of our group also added to the ceremonial blessing and lighting of a large candle for all the people of the diocese by coming up to the candle and one-by-one placed their hands on it, offering up their prayers. Only then was the candle – which will burn for many days – placed in the special areas immediately across the river from the Grotto where Bernadette

encountered Our Lady 18 times.

There were also two entirely new events this year. All the pilgrims except the Glandfield Group went in buses up to the 'Cathedral in the trees' in 'the City of the Poor'. This is high up behind Lourdes in the hills where (mainly young) helpers camp or live in hostels while they assist pilgrims in Lourdes in a range of ways. Once there we had to trek, pushing many wheelchairs further up the hill to an outdoor altar set amongst mature trees. There we had a wonderfully peaceful and serene mass.

To crown it all, our diocesan mass, just for East Anglians, was moved up to Bartres, the unspoiled village up in the hills on the other side of Lourdes, where Bernadette lived for two spells in her early life, the second time just before her encounters with Our Lady. Fr Tony Rogers presided at our Mass there and we all agreed this was a must for future years. For many this was the highlight of a week which has many, perhaps most, would call transformative. We hope many more will be there next year when the pilgrimage will run from 18 to 25 August, assisted by a new diocesan director, Deacon Huw Williams from Haverhill.

SAMARITANS

Bury St Edmunds & West Suffolk

Whatever problems you're facing, you can share them with us

Call us **FREE** anytime on **116 123**

We're here to listen and we're here for you

You can help us too

To donate £5 TEXT BSESAMS to 70085

Jonathan Read DipFA
Independent Financial Adviser

- ✓ Retirement Planning
- ✓ Income Drawdown
- ✓ Annuities
- ✓ Savings and Investments
- ✓ Ethical Investments
- ✓ Life Assurance
- ✓ Critical Illness
- ✓ Income Protection
- ✓ Equity Release
- ✓ Long Term Care

Financial planning advice is not regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. 2plan wealth management Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. It is entered on the Financial Services Register (www.fca.org.uk) under reference 483996

Office: 01733 894100 | Mobile: 07972913281
www.jonathanread.2plan.com

Papal and royal wishes as Olga reaches 100

Devout Thetford parishioner Olga Devonish has celebrated her 100th birthday by attending Mass and being presented with a Papal Blessing.

■ On Sunday August 14, the loyal parishioner of St Mary's Catholic Church celebrated her 100th birthday. Olga Devonish has been attending St Mary's for almost 60 years, ever since she moved to the Thetford in the 1960s. Throughout the years, she has played an active role in parish life, most notably helping with the St Vincent De Paul Society (SVP)

Paul Gilbert, Chair of St Mary's PPC, said: "When St Mary's used to have a minibus that was funded by the SVP, it was Olga who volunteered to be the drivers' assistant, helping those who were sick, elderly or suffering from mobility issues. In fact, it was Olga who was the oldest on the minibus! Olga would also volunteer to help those who had difficulties in walking. On the way back from Walsingham, she would organise that the minibus would stop at a fish and chip shop. No one was left out.

"In addition, Olga would often help with fundraising activities for the parish and the local community. When there was a function she would help run raffles. Quite often, if Olga did not see someone as they came into the function, she would get them when they left so that all people contributed to the fundraising efforts. There was no getting away. When Olga had you in her eyes, that was it, there was no getting away from not paying."

Even at her great age, Olga still attends Sunday Mass on a weekly basis. In fact, she walks (or runs) to and from Mass like a 21-year-old.

Paul said: "Olga is very much a faithful stalwart of St Mary's and parishioners are very much in awe of her incredible



Olga Devonish with her birthday card from the Queen.

attitude to life.

"She is one of the kindest people there is, and there is nothing that is too much trouble for her. Olga wholeheartedly believes that her strong faith has been a determinant to her longevity and having a positive outlook on life."

Olga was presented with a Papal Blessing to make the occasion even more special and was accompanied by her family. Paul said: "Olga was overcome with emotion as this was something she never thought would happen to her."

Olga was also pleased to receive the customary Royal birthday card, signed by Her Majesty the Queen.

Historic church role

■ Matthew Champion has taken over the role of Historic Churches Support Officer for the diocese, succeeding Eloise Limmer.

Eloise left the Curia on July 22 to take up a new job of Principal Heritage Consultant, working for a planning consultancy called LanPro. The diocesan team wished Eloise every success as she furthers her career in heritage and thanked her for the excellent work that she has done in the last year.

Matthew started in this role on August 9. He writes: "I have worked for the last twenty-five years as a buildings' archaeologist and heritage consultant, specialising in church architecture, and have published widely upon the subject.

"I am also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, sit on the Fabric Advisory Committee for Guildford Cathedral, and act as an advisor and consultant for a number of national organisations including the National Trust and the Church Recording Society. I am very much looking forward to getting to know our local Catholic

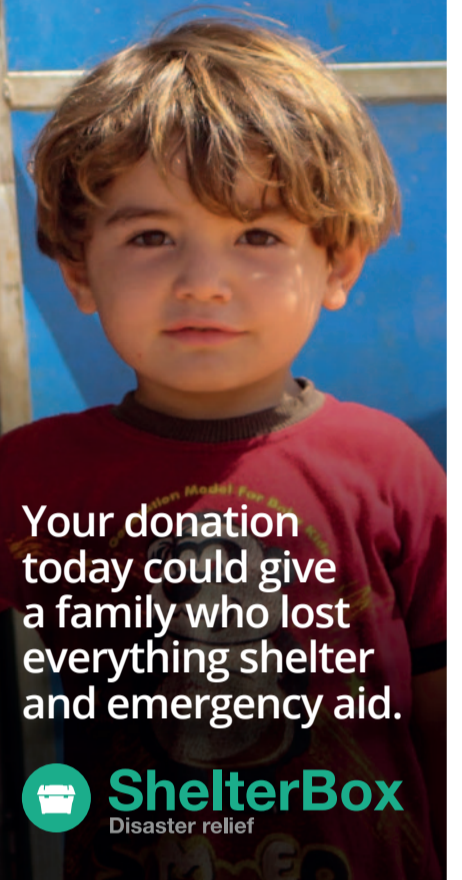


Matthew Champion.

churches, and the people who care for them, in greater depth."

Matthew is available on the same email address: historicchurches@rcdea.org.uk

WHEN CONFLICT OR DISASTERS DESTROY HOMES, YOU CAN HELP.



Your donation today could give a family who lost everything shelter and emergency aid.

 **ShelterBox**
Disaster relief



MARGARET BEAUFORT
INSTITUTE OF
THEOLOGY



Upcoming Events

MBIT Lecture: Climate Change and Global Warming by

Dr Peter Coughlan Date Wed 5 October 5 to 7:30pm ONLINE
The environmental crisis is one of the most serious ethical challenges - perhaps the most serious - that humanity has ever faced. As Pope Francis has made clear, it is also a profoundly religious question. To register go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/the-margaret-beaufort-institute-of-theology-33109216441> or email apply@mbit.cam.ac.uk Tickets only £15

Learning Catholic Belief and Doctrine with Thomas Aquinas led by Sr. Magdalene Eitenmiller OP
Dates: Tues 4 Oct to 22 Nov 2022 5:30pm to 7:00pm
Online or Onsite at MBIT in Cambridge

This 8 week, women-only course provides an overview of basic Catholic belief and doctrine, based on the treatment of the "Angelic Doctor," St. Thomas Aquinas. You will be introduced to the overall structure of Aquinas' thought in general, and learn how to utilize the Summa Theologiae, with opportunities for discussion and questions. Fee: £200 To register, please email apply@mbit.cam.ac.uk All welcome and no previous theological training is required.

MBIT is the Catholic house of the Cambridge Theological Federation
www.mbit.cam.ac.uk

Picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese

■ There was a Ukrainian theme to the annual barbecue in Felixstowe parish, as refugees sang national music in the presbytery garden.

Ukrainian refugees in Felixstowe had been invited, and on Sunday September 4 about 40 of them came - bringing up the total participants to about 130.

The proceedings began with the Ukrainians singing their national anthem, and after the barbeque meal they sang some of their folk songs. They seemed to particularly enjoy the raffle, which may have been something of a novelty.

The Felixstowe parishioners were delighted to welcome them, and the whole occasion – held in bright sunshine – was a particularly happy one.

The contact has come about by the fact that St Felix Church makes its church hall available each Thursday morning for English lessons.

Pictured right are Ukrainians at the Felixstowe parish BBQ.



■ Sr Marie O'Reilly is moving on from Bury St Edmunds after 23 years serving in the town.

Almost 100 years ago, nuns began teaching at the town's Catholic schools. In 1971, as part of local authority education changes to the three-tier system, the St Louis Sisters took their Convent School into the system to form St Louis Middle School, which combined a mix of lay teachers and nuns. The work continued until the closure of St Louis School in 2016. In 2018 Sr Marie became the last nun to remain in Bury.

She is now moving to Dundalk and a celebration in St Edmund's Church Crypt on Sunday August 14 was attended by well-wishers. Presenting her with a gift (above), Fr David Bagstaff paid tribute to her work ministering to the sick, helping those in need and establishing friendships throughout the community. "Sr Marie has been a true friend to people in her time here and she leaves with tremendous gratitude for what she has done," he said.

■ St John's Cathedral in Norwich has bought a new chamber organ to enhance its music-making capabilities, thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Cathedral.

The instrument, purchased from a private collection, was built by Vincent Woodstock in 1989. There are three registers (Wood Gedact 8', Rohr Flute 4' and Principal 2'), and an integral music desk. The oak casework has hinged panels for ease of access for tuning.

The front decorative pipe screen was designed by Frank Bradbeer (formerly of Grand Degens & Bradbeer Organ Builders), and serves to protect the smaller pipes, and is also hinged for ease of access.

The pine keys have boxwood capped naturals and ebony sharps.

Cathedral Master of Music, Daniel Justin, said: "We are very grateful to the Friends of the Cathedral for their generous support of our

music-making in this fine building. This instrument will allow us to accompany certain types of repertoire with a more intimate sound, allow the choir to sing in various locations in the Cathedral, and enable smaller groups to be directed easily from the keyboard. As the music foundation continues to expand, this instrument will be in high demand!"

To find out more about the Friends of the Cathedral, or to become a member, please visit the 'Friends' section of the Cathedral website at: www.sjbcathedral.org.uk



■ St Mary's in Thetford has successfully raised money to purchase a community defibrillator with the help of local businesses.

Paul Gilbert, chairman of the Parish Pastoral Council said: "The parish decided that a community defibrillator was needed for the estate as it was one of the few that did not have one in Thetford. It was Sally Power who approached me as she felt it was vital that this life-saving piece of equipment was purchased for the local community.

"We thank all those who have donated for their generosity. We have had immense support from the parish community. You always hope that it will never be used, but we are happy to have something here that can make an incredible difference to someone's life.

Sponsors and parishioners gathered at St Mary's to celebrate with the official switch on, followed by a light lunch in the parish hall.

Pictured left are sponsors and members of the parish.