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The Papal Nuncio (centre front) with Bishop Peter, Bishop Alan and pupils at St John's Cathedral. Picture by Keith Morris. For a full picture gallery visit: www.flickr.com/photos/diocesefeastanglia/



Fr Sean Connolly.

Fr Sean named as a second Vicar General

■ Bury St Edmund's Parish Priest Fr Sean Connolly has been appointed as a second Vicar General for the Diocese of East Anglia by Bishop Peter Collins, alongside Canon David Bagstaff.

Bishop Peter said: "I have appointed Fr Sean to assist Canon David Bagstaff and myself in the governance and administration of the diocese. Fr Sean brings significant knowledge, experience, and wisdom to this task, and I thank him for his willing generosity in accepting the appointment. I will be well served by both as they assist me in the exercise of my episcopal responsibilities."

Fr Sean was ordained in 1994 and has served in parishes across the diocese, including Great Yarmouth, Wymondham, Newmarket, Brandon & Mildenhall, March, Wisbech and St George's in Norwich, as well as his current posting at St Edmund's in Bury St Edmunds.

Fr Sean was the Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation from 2014 -2017. He also has significant school experience, having served as chaplain to a number of the diocesan schools over the years as well as having taught RE at secondary level.

Fr Sean said: "I was surprised when Bishop Peter first asked me to consider this role in the diocese and, to be honest, a little daunted by it. I am delighted Canon David is continuing and that we will be able to work together in supporting the Bishop and serving our diocese."

Papal Nuncio visits East Anglia Diocese

The Papal Nuncio to Great Britain, His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, paid a three-day visit to the Diocese of East Anglia in mid June and visited Newmarket, Poringland, Norwich, Quidenham, King's Lynn, Oxburgh Hall and Walsingham meeting priests, pupils and parishioners. Keith Morris and Joshua Clovis report.



my privilege and joy to welcome you to the Diocese of East Anglia. You come to us on visitation and we rejoice for your

presence in our midst represents and manifests our bond with His Holiness Pope Francis as successor of St Peter.

"The Holy Father calls upon us all to mould all our undertakings in fidelity to the Gospel. Without such a linkage, all of efforts would be in vain.

"Within the spirit and processes of synodality, here in East Anglia we are facing the spiritual and pastoral challenges of the future. As we strive to evolve our vision and structures, we continue to draw strength from the prophetic and apostolic foundations of the church."

In a Q&A session with clergy, Archbishop Miguel Maury remarked that "someone important in the Vatican has said to him 'the English Catholic church is small but is very thinking'. He spoke about his experience as a Vatican ambassador in Rwanda, Uganda, Morocco, Egypt, Ireland, Kyrgyzstan and Romania before coming to England a year ago.

■ **story continued on page two.**

■ The visit began with a Mass for diocesan priests and deacons on Wednesday June 12 at Our Lady Immaculate and St Etheldreda in Newmarket.

Bishop Peter Collins welcomed the Nuncio, saying: "Your Excellency, it is



Extra special Pentecost

■ St Anthony of Padua Church in Fakenham had an extra special Pentecost this year with the celebration of Confirmation at both its Pentecost Masses, conferred by its parish priest Fr Andrew Neate.

During the Vigil Mass of Pentecost, Amelia Jastrzebowska received the sacrament of Confirmation, with her mother Ilona as her sponsor. Following the Mass, the congregation was able to enjoy light refreshments and a beautiful cake.

During Sunday morning Mass, Charlotte Harrison was confirmed with Sr Thomas More of the Congregation of the Daughters of Divine Charity Hunstanton as her sponsor. Sr Thomas More was accompanied by Sr Danuta. For Charlotte, Confirmation was the culmination of a long journey with the Sisters, having been taught by them when they ran the Sacred Heart Convent School in Swaffham.

Following the Mass, the congregation was able to make the most of a beautiful May morning and continue the celebration with refreshments in the church grounds.

Pictured above is Amelia with her mother Ilona.

Catholic EastAnglia

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

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Articles and photographs for the next edition are very welcome and should be sent to the editor, ideally via email, by Monday August 12.

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The Papal Nuncio with Bishop Peter and East Anglia clergy in Newmarket. See a full picture gallery of the whole visit at: www.flickr.com/photos/diocesefeastanglia/

Nuncio in East Anglia

■ story continued from front page.

England is now a land of mission, he said.

He also brought a message from Pope Francis: "I want to give a real thank-you for your fidelity. One good example of a priest is worth many words – smile and be joyful."

The Nuncio and Bishop's party later paid a private visit to The National Stud in Newmarket where the Nuncio blessed the Duke of Roxburghe Stallion Unit and met the Ascot Gold Cup winning racehorse, now stallion, Stradivarius.

A formal reception was held at the Bishop's White House during the evening.

On Thursday, June 13, The Nuncio celebrated a 10am public Mass at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich attended by parishioners, Cathedral Canons and pupils from Notre Dame High School, Notre Dame Prep School and the St Francis and St Augustine's primary schools in Norwich.

Pupils did the readings and prayers and afterwards met the Nuncio and had their picture taken with him.

During his homily, Bishop Peter spoke direct to pupils about the Nuncio and his position and role as a diplomatic representative of the Vatican across the world. He also gave them some homework about St Anthony of Padua.

Lunch with the St John's Cathedral Canons was followed by a private visit to the Carmel Convent in Quidenham in Norfolk and then a visit to the Anglican Shrine in Walsingham, having already visited the Catholic National Shrine earlier in the year.

The Nuncio was accompanied to the Anglican Shrine by Bishop Peter, Fr Robert Billing, Rector of the Catholic National Shrine and other visiting clergy.

Fr Graeme Rowlands, the current Administrator of the Anglican Shrine, led the visiting clergy, including Fr Ben Eadon, who is set to assume the role of Administrator of the Anglican Shrine in November, in the recitation of the Rosary.



Pictured above is the Nuncio at Oxburgh Hall and left at the National Stud in Newmarket.

Following this, Fr Graeme gave the Nuncio and Bishop Peter a tour of the shrine, showing them the beautiful high altar, a few of the 15 various chapels around the church, the well, and in conclusion a visit to the replica of the Holy House, whilst speaking to them about the shrine's history and the significance of

the various chapels.

The visit concluded with a meal at the Administrator's house.

On Friday the Nuncio visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in King's Lynn and paid a private visit to Oxburgh Hall where he met Sir Henry and Lady Mary Paston-Bedingfeld.

Pictured from the left, Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes, Fr Anthony Asomugha and Bishop Peter Collins. Pictures by Joshua Clovis. For a full picture gallery visit: www.flickr.com/photos/diocesefeastanglia/



Fr Anthony Asomugha is ordained

On Saturday May 18, in a joyous celebration, Dcn Anthony Asomugha was ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich. Joshua Clovis reports.

■ The ceremony was led by Bishop Peter Collins, with Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes, also in attendance. Many other clergy members, family, friends, and parishioners joined in the celebration.

Fr Anthony Asomugha's family moved to the UK in 2006 and settled in South East London. He initially applied for priestly formation in the Southwark Archdiocese but was unsuccessful.

Following advice to pursue a university degree, he joined the diocese in 2011 as an undergraduate student in Economics at the University of East Anglia. Towards the end of his time at UEA, he reapplied for priestly formation and was accepted by Bishop Emeritus Alan. In the year of his graduation, 2014, he joined Allen Hall Seminary in Chelsea, London.

Bishop Peter delivered the homily during the Mass, emphasizing the true calling of a priest. He said, "Understand clearly, from the outset, that the project

and the intention that you are called to embrace is not that which is fashioned by yourself but rather that which is fashioned by Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. A priest is called to offer himself, to sacrifice himself, in communion with Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. In the midst of his fellow disciples, in the midst of all his brothers and sisters, the priest is called to empty himself to the point where he has nothing to offer up other than Christ himself.

"In allegiance to the teaching of St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, which presents the earliest account of the institution of the Holy Eucharist, the priest must serve the "project and intention" of Christ himself and proclaim: this is what I received from the Lord, and in turn pass on to you – this is my body, which is for you – this cup is the new covenant in my blood." After the homily, Fr Anthony Asomugha took his sacred vows, marking the start of his priestly journey.

Fr Anthony's journey began very young. "I knew I wanted to be a priest from a very young age – about 6 or 7 years old," he recalls. "As a child, I was fascinated with God, and I had (and still have) an appetite for philosophy and theology. I regard this appetite as a gift – to be interested in the truth, and in the meaning of life. Jesus said "no one can come to Me

unless the Father draws him" (John 6:44) – this curiosity, fascination, or interestness, was me being drawn to the mystery of God. The liturgy with its drama and awesomeness fed my fascination with the transcendent. And it was upon seeing my parish priest ascend the sanctuary vested in his chasuble that I knew that I wanted to pray in that way – and so I did, with my altar, crucifix, Bible and (makeshift) chasuble – and I was genuinely praying, not acting."

Reflecting on the day, and his first Mass the following day, Fr Anthony said: "The ordination ceremony was like a dream, as was the first Mass on Pentecost Sunday. Many thanks to all who attended, and to those who work to make these occasions a success. I am grateful to Bishop Emeritus Alan for his steadfast support of my vocation and to Bishop Peter for his confidence, support, and for the gift of Holy Orders. I am also grateful to all my friends for their support, to my family who never doubted my vocation, and to my parents who nourished my faith as a child. I look forward to being that definite instrument through which the mystery of the Eucharist draws more people unto eternal life."

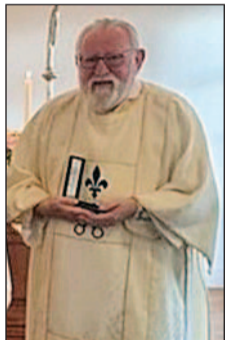
Following the Mass, there were photos, a large shared buffet, and an opportunity to receive a blessing from Fr Anthony.

Deacon Mike is honoured

■ Bishop Peter Collins presented the East Anglia Diocesan Medal to Deacon Mike Vipond for over 30 years of service during the celebration of Mass at St Clare's Church in Framlingham on May 22.

Deacon Mike Vipond was among the first group of people to be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of East Anglia by Bishop Alan Clark in May 1991. The award of the Diocesan Medal recognises Deacon Mike's 33 years' service to the Church.

Before moving to Suffolk, Deacon Mike had been the Headteacher of Saint Joseph's Primary School in Walthamstow in the Diocese of Brentwood. At Framlingham, he has been a school governor and trustee of a local charity. For over 20 years he was the Catholic Sessional Chaplain at HMP Hollesley Bay and HMP Warren Hill. He and his wife Ann are actively involved in the Framlingham Churches Together



group and for many years he has been a member of the Knights of Saint Columba.

During his homily, before the presentation of the Diocesan Medal and Certificate, Bishop Peter thanked Deacon Mike for his service to the Church and to the community at Framlingham, and he also thanked Mrs Ann Vipond for supporting her husband in his ministry.

Deacon Mike writes: "Thank you so much for the wonderful celebration on the occasion of my reception of the East Anglia Diocesan Medal; to Father Edmund for the beautiful liturgy of the Holy Mass over which Bishop Peter presided so sensitively. Thank you to all those who could attend and whose participation meant so much to Ann and me and for all the good wishes which reflected just how much the medal was also for the whole parish, for their faithfulness and support throughout the years."

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Missing person

■ The following individual, **Stephen John Taylor**, or anyone knowing his whereabouts, is hereby requested to contact the Ecclesiastical Tribunal of the Diocese of Austin so that he may be notified of an important matter regarding his status, rights, and obligations in the Catholic Church. The Tribunal may be contacted by email at tribunal@austindio-cese.org, by phone at 1-512-949-2478, or by mail at 6225 E US 290 HWY SVRD EB, AUSTIN, TX 78723-1025, USA.



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The power of pressure

Fr Alvan Ibeh takes a look at the power of pressure in his latest Voice of Hope column.



■ Someone seeing the headline of this column might wonder if I am sure what I am up to. This is because, as human beings, pressure is not one of those things we like to have in our lives.

No one goes to God in prayer and asks God to give them pressure in their lives. All of us will want to live stress and pressure-free lives. I also don't think God will want to see us **always** passing through stress or being pressured up and down. Did you notice that I laid emphasis on the "Always"? This means that pressure and stress are not always needed in our lives. You can imagine what it would be like if we were always under pressure every day of our lives. That would be awful and not a life worth living. But one thing is still certain, at one point or the other in our lives, we must have pressure, the power of pressure must be exerted.

St Paul, in 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, wrote, "We

are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed" There is no doubt that our life as believers is summarized in these four statements. They are always true, even though we may have varied experiences of them.

We may not always be pressured, but we often are. We're not always perplexed, but it happens more than we think. We do not always face opposition, but sometimes we do. We may not be struck down every day by the circumstances of life, but it does happen to all of us eventually.

No one is exempt from these things, even if you are the greatest prayer warrior on earth. No amount of prayer and fasting can avert this basic fact about every human being on earth. They don't come to us because we are righteous or sinners, it is because we are all humans, living in an imperfect world. Jesus had his own share while He was with us in the flesh, as you can imagine.

One will still ask at this point, "If God truly loves us, is it fair then that He should allow us to be pressured at all, even though Jesus experienced pressure Himself? Since He died for us, shouldn't He have carried away anything that will pressurize us in this life?"

The truth is that God loves us just as we are. He accepts us just as we are. But "He

can't use us just as we are". You are precious in His sight and that is why He allows certain things to come to you in order to keep you spiritually awake to all things. If there is no pressure in our lives, there is the tendency for us to remain in spiritual inertia. For God to use us, He must press us, He must squeeze us – but He does not crush or allow us to be crushed by the circumstances He has allowed.

God presses you because there is something He sees in you. Feeling pressure means you are doing something that matters, so you must not stop, just keep pressing forward. "God changes caterpillars into butterflies, sand into pearls and coal into diamonds using time and pressure. He is working on you too."

God sometimes uses pressures from circumstances in our lives to bring out the best in us. Until olives are pressed, the oil can never come out. Until crude oil is refined, it will remain crude and may not be of any use. Until that precious stone is refined under hot temperature, that diamond or gold will not appear.

Until you are pressed, that value you carry may not be noticed by your generation. "Every branch in me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit" (John 15:2)

The third Caritas East Anglia deanery festival took place on Saturday May 25 in Gorleston and brought together organisations involved in social outreach from across St Peter's Coastal deanery, reports Jane Crone from the Caritas Commission.



Coastal Caritas festival

■ Each Caritas festival is unique, reflecting the nature of the local community and the talents and interests of the people living in it and this one was no exception.

The day began with Mass in the church, celebrated by Bishop Peter Collins and the priests of the deanery. Bishop Peter drew our attention to the colourful display of flags in the church – representing the cultural diversity and vibrancy of the deanery and thanked clergy and parishioners for encouraging an active youth ministry in the area.

Reflecting on the Trinity as a community of love, he said it could be seen as a good image for Caritas festivals; reminding us of why Christians engage in social action and how Caritas enhances the mission of the church.

After Mass, there were refreshments in the church hall and an opportunity to

meet with representatives of organisations to find out more about their work. Groups represented included local organisations: such as On Your Side, which empowers young people from ethnic minorities to overcome marginalisation and low educational expectations, GYROS which supports migrants in the east of England and the Stella Maris Parent and Toddler group in Lowestoft, which has been welcoming carers of preschool children to weekly meetings for 33 years.

Catholic involvement in social action is always changing and developing and it was a pleasure to welcome the new Diocesan initiative to combat modern slavery to a Caritas Festival for the first time. Caritas Social Action Network members represented included SVP and Stella Maris.

Fr Anthony, Dean of the Coastal deanery expressed the feelings of the groups attending pointing out that they were 'energised and encouraged' through finding out that 'we are not alone'.

After the meeting David Livesey, the Caritas East Anglia administrator, said, "Parishioners from the Coastal deanery were able to discover and celebrate what was going on in their local communities. Thanks to the support of Canon Anthony and the Catholic community, Caritas East Anglia has also found out about other organisations, unable to be present, such as the local foodbanks, who are addressing the needs of their neighbours in many ways".

The next Caritas Festival is on November 30, in Norwich Deanery at Our Lady and St Walstan Church, Townhouse Road, Costessey NR8 5AA.

Around 600 children and parents joined the Diocese of East Anglia's annual Children's Pilgrimage to Walsingham on May 28, led by Bishop Peter Collins. Joshua Clovis reports.



Pictured is the Children's Pilgrimage to Walsingham. For a full picture gallery visit: www.flickr.com/photos/dioceseofeastanglia/

600 young Walsingham pilgrims

■ The pilgrimage, attended by young pilgrims from all around the Diocese, including Norfolk, Suffolk, Peterborough and Cambridgeshire, began at 10.45am in Friday Market Place, outside the Church of the Annunciation in the Walsingham village, where they were welcomed by Bishop Peter.

The pilgrimage began with a procession along the old railway line, known as the Pilgrim Way, leading to the Walsingham Shrine. Fr Pat Cleary led the procession, with children taking turns carrying a miniature statue of Our Lady of Walsingham.

The pilgrims paused periodically for prayers along the way.

Upon reaching the Walsingham Shrine, some of the young pilgrims greeted the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham with flower petals.

The day culminated with the Mass cele-

brated by Bishop Peter. During the service, several children participated by reading the Readings and singing the Responsorial Psalm, while others brought the offertory gifts to the altar.

In his homily, Bishop Peter addressed the pilgrims, saying, "Now you've come from all over and you're different ages for our children's pilgrimage today. And it's a joy to see you all."

He spoke about the significance of Walsingham, often referred to as England's Nazareth. "The revelation that was given many centuries ago was that there should be a holy house, a place that reminded us where Mary grew up at Nazareth 2,000 years ago. And with Joseph then, Mary would care for her son, Jesus," he explained.

Bishop Peter further elaborated on the family life of Mary and Joseph: "Mary and Joseph had to create their own house

because Mary grew up with her parents. We give them the names Joachim and Anne. We don't know anything about them really. But tradition gives us those names. And they nurtured Mary when she was a little child. And all of us, all of us, need our mum and dad and all the other members of our families to help us to grow."

He then addressed the challenges of growing up, stating: "Growing up is hard work, isn't it? Not only in terms of going to school, but there's so much to learn, so much to do. How many of you are very good at your chores at home? If I were to come to your houses and you invited me to visit your own room, would it be in good order? Or would it be a complete mess?"

"If you came and you have a messy room, that'll be three Hail Marys for you," he joked.

Bishop Peter also emphasized the importance of prayer and doing good. "In our readings from scripture today, we are told to do all that is good, all that is right, to be caring for each other, and to pray. And it is when we pray that we find the strength to do what is good and what is right. And when we pray, we learn how to care for each other," he said.

He encouraged families to create a prayerful environment at home. "I hope, mums and dads too, brothers and sisters all, I hope that as families you will pray. That your homes will be homes of prayer. Just like Joachim and Anne taught their daughter Mary to pray at Nazareth. And how Mary and Joseph, with Jesus, who was God in our midst, they prayed together."

After the Mass, there was the opportunity for attendees to enjoy packed lunches.

news in brief

■ The New Dawn Pilgrimage this year takes place from Monday August 5 to Friday August 9 at the National Shrine in Walsingham. It is a family event with a programme of liturgy, sacraments, praise and worship, speakers, workshops, children/youth ministries and more.

Highlights will include the attendance of the Apostolic Nuncio to GB, His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendí, and the visit of the Pericardium Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis from Assisi! Speakers include the Archbishop of Southwark, the Most Rev John Wilson, Franciscan Friar Fr Columba Jordan CFR and Deacon Larry Oney, from New Orleans and Chairman of HGI Global.

Further information at www.newdawn.org.uk

■ A May crowning of Mary and subsequent procession, took place around the grounds of Our Lady Immaculate and St Edmunds at Withermarsh Green reports Sarah Ward.

"It was a lovely sunny day and very well attended, with people singing hymns to Our Lady as we processed around the grounds at Withermarsh Green."

■ The Church of the Sacred Heart in Ramsey held an Intercultural Family Fun Day on Sunday May 5, including food, live music, art and a procession of dance and costumes, reports Karen Prestage.

Over 150 attended and were entertained by the local Ukelele band playing English folk songs, plus a mixture of Sri Lankan and English songs and worship.

Catholic Pilgrimage

New Dawn Walsingham 2024

Monday 5th - Friday 9th August
Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham
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Bishop Peter's engagements

- **Jul 1, Mon:** Bishop to Confirmation Mass at St Felix, Haverhill at 19:00
- **Jul 2, Tues:** Bishop to say Mass at 09:30 at St Pancras Catholic Primary School, Stratford Road, Ipswich, and then to visit with staff and children
- **Jul 2, Tues:** Bishop to Confirmation Mass at St Edmund, Bury St Edmunds at 19:00
- **Jul 4, Thurs:** Council of Priests, 10:30 for 11:00 Start in Poringland.
- **Jul 7, Sun:** Bishop to Confirmation Mass at Sawston at 11:15
- **July 7, Sun:** Bishop to Confirmation Mass at Cambourne at 17:00
- **Jul 8, Mon:** Bishop to visit St Alban's Primary School, Cambridge at 10:00
- **Jul 8, Mon:** Bishop to Confirmation Mass, OLEM at 19:00
- **Jul 9, Tues:** Bishop to visit St Laurence Catholic Primary School, Cambridge at 10:00
- **Jul 9, Tues:** Bishop to St Laurence's Confirmation Mass, Cambridge at 19:00
- **Jul 10, Wed:** Bishop to St Philip Howard, Cambridge Confirmation Mass at 19:00
- **Jul 11, Thurs:** Bishop to celebrate Confirmation Mass at The Sacred Heart, St Ives at 19:00
- **Jul 12 – 13, Fri – Sat:** Bishop Peter to attend The 70th anniversary (Platinum Jubilee Vigil) of the re-founding of the EOHSJ Order at St Mary Immaculate Catholic Church, Warwick
- **Jul 14, Sun:** Bishop Peter's to Celebrate Mass at the Cathedral for the 40th Anniversary of his Priestly Ordination at 11:00
- **Jul 16, Tues:** Bishop to Birmingham for the Episcopal Ordinations of Bishop-Elect Menezes and Bishop-Elect Walker
- **Jul 18, Thurs:** Bishop to visit St Albans High School, Digby Road, Ipswich from 09:30
- **Jul 18, Thurs:** Confirmation Mass at St Mary's, Thetford at 19:00
- **Jul 19, Fri:** Bishop to Our Lady of Good Counsel and St Peter, March at 19:00
- **Jul 20, Sat:** Bishop to Altar Servers Mass and BBQ at the Cathedral – 11:30 Mass
- **Jul 21 – 29, Sun – Sun:** Bishop to join Youth Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela.
- **Jul 30 – Aug 22:** Bishop Peter on leave.
- **Aug 23 – 30, Fri – Fri:** Bishop on Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes.
- **Sept 1, Sun:** Bishop Peter will lead the Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady, Walsingham.
- All future dates at: www.rcdea.org.uk/bishop-peter-collins/bishops-diary/

■ On Sunday, July 14, the St John's Cathedral choir will be joined by a number of visiting choirs for the last Sunday of term. They will welcome Bradford Catholic Youth Choir and Huddersfield Catholic Youth choir, who are visiting from the Diocese of Leeds.

The choirs will also be joined by the choir of St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, Costessey. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Peter, who is marking his 40th anniversary of ordination.

One Mass in Peterboro



Over 1,500 parishioners packed out Peterborough's Anglican Cathedral on Saturday June 15 for the biennial Catholic One Mass. Keith Morris reports.

■ Parishioners from all of Peterborough's Catholic churches including St Peter & All Souls with the community of Our Lady of Lourdes, St Luke's, Sacred Heart & St Oswald, the Polish Mission, St Olga's Ukrainian church and the Syro-Malabar community all gathered in the cathedral by kind permission of Cathedral Dean the Very Rev Chris Dalliston.

Over 70 nationalities were represented with their national flags and costumes in a colourful opening procession, along with all Peterborough priests and deacons, at the Mass, held once every two years.

Also present were the Catholic Mayor of Peterborough Cllr Marco Cereste and his wife Maddelena Cereste and former MP (now Parliamentary candidate) for Peterborough Paul Bristow and pupils from the local Catholic primary and high schools.

During his homily, Bishop Peter said: "We all work for the sake of the Kingdom, day after day. There are days when we will see some progress, but there are days when we must have patience to wait for the fruits of our labours.

"It is our privilege to be in this place in communion with our brothers and sisters from the Church of England. We must share as much as we can in our common faith bearing common witness in our



world to the Kingdom of God."

Prayers in many different languages were said and there was a wonderful multi-cultural feast afterwards in the cathedral and a First Communion cake was cut by Bishop Peter and the Mayor and Mayoress.

Chief organiser of the Mass was Fr Adam Sowa MS from All Souls with the

help of many dedicated parishioners who worked hard and volunteered a lot of their time to put the event together and to make the celebration a very special one. At the end of the Mass, Diocesan Medals were presented by Bishop Peter to; Deacon John Bedford, Angelo Cuenca, Jude Antony, Mary Jane Ahearn, Tomas Ahearn and Henrietta Conmy.

ugh Cathedral



Pictured is the biennial One Mass held by the local Catholic parishes in Peterborough's Anglican Cathedral. For a full picture gallery visit: www.flickr.com/photos/diocesefeastanglia/



Brenden Thompson, left, and Keith Morris at the workshop.

Workshop extols benefits of open communication

Senior clerical and curia staff from the Diocese of East Anglia have attended a media training workshop where they explored the positive opportunities offered by a strategy of open communications.

a positive way.

During the day, on May 22 in Poringland, Keith took participants through various difficult communications scenarios and gave them the chance to discuss how they would approach them.

Keith then spoke about the diocese's communications strategy and principles for communications which include: Integrity, honesty; openness, transparency; timeliness; clarity and accuracy.

Keith said: "The aim of the day was to get people thinking and talking through difficult situations and to see open, timely and accurate communications as a positive tool to help work through them. The church as a whole is facing a challenging secular environment and we want to be able to communicate in a positive but realistic way about our way forward."

■ Led by diocese Director of Communications Keith Morris and CEO of Catholic Voices, Brenden Thompson, the workshop examined media coverage of the diocese over the past few years, together with lessons learnt from it.

Brenden then led a session on Reframing – Telling the Church's Story, in which he looked at how to address difficult subjects in

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■ Around 50 priests gathered for the Celebration of Priesthood at a special Mass led by Bishop Peter Collins, on May 23.

Bishop Peter, along with three priests, marked special anniversaries this year, Canon John Minh celebrating his 25th anniversary, Bishop Peter celebrating his 40th anniversary, Fr Gordon Williams celebrating his 40th anniversary and Fr Peter Raj celebrating his 25th anniversary.

In his homily, Bishop Peter discussed the meaning and significant importance of the priesthood to the Church as a whole. He

spoke on the lives of several saints to illustrate how their examples can guide and inspire priests in their vocations.

He also spoke on the teachings of the Church and how they can help priests in their journeys.

Following the Mass, the priests enjoyed a shared lunch with Bishop Peter. This annual celebration honours the vital role of priests and their contributions to the Church and community.

Pictured above is Bishop Peter with all the priests in attendance.

Double boost for city school

St Alban's Catholic Primary School in Cambridge has become a part of the Our Lady of Walsingham Multi Academy Trust and also achieved an "outstanding" rating in a recent Section 48 inspection.

■ Flavio Vettese, CEO of the Trust, said: "St Alban's is an outstanding Voluntary Aided school. Its mission statement, Believe, Achieve, and Succeed, resonates throughout the school. The light of Christ illuminates every aspect of its vibrant community, where children are loved, cared for, and encouraged to become independent, confident, and reliable individuals. St Alban's promotes a strong Catholic ethos and serves families from all over the city, fostering cohesion and unity.

St Alban's headteacher, Joe McCrossan, said: "Our school has a very strong family feel, where everyone is valued and loved. The children are given exciting opportunities to become independent and autonomous learners and

achieve highly. We look forward to working in partnership with the schools across the MAT and maintaining this high standard."

Flavio said: "St Alban's recently underwent a Section 48 inspection, which resulted in an outstanding rating. The inspectors praised the school's Catholic life, religious education, and collective worship. This achievement reflects the dedication and values demonstrated in all our schools.

"I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all of the people who have made the joining of St Alban's into the Trust possible. It is a very exciting time for us all and I am confident that together our schools will continue to flourish long into the future. This exciting union gives us a total of eight schools dedicated to nurturing faith, academic excellence, and community spirit.

"As we celebrate this new partnership, let us continue to pray for the success and growth of St Alban's within the Our Lady of Walsingham Trust. May God's blessings be upon both schools and their shared journey of faith and education." stalbanscatholicprimaryschool.co.uk www.olow.org.uk

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■ Bishop Peter Collins has joined with other Norfolk and Waveney senior church leaders to encourage Christians to engage with candidates, draw attention to the big issues of our time, to pray and then to vote in the forthcoming General Election

The statement included: "This election is being contested against the backdrop of deep and profound challenges around issues such as poverty, the cost-of-living crisis, access to health and caring services, social justice and inclusion, as well as how we welcome refugees, manage migration, and respond to the ongoing debate about assisted dying. The threat to the environ-

ment from climate change and the ongoing tragic wars in Sudan, Ukraine and Gaza add to a sense of crisis, which represents a significant challenge for whichever party is elected.

"We believe that all have a duty to cast a vote and should actively, but respectfully, engage with and listen to the candidates so that our vote is well informed.

"We believe that the General Election is a real opportunity for all Christians to bring attention to the big issues of our time, to encourage our politicians to focus on the common good and value the human dignity of all."

Celebration of Pentecost

Parishes across East Anglia have been marking Pentecost with a blaze of colour, flags and cultural celebrations.

■ **St Michael the Archangel parish in Huntingdon** celebrated the great diversity of the parish on Pentecost Sunday, May 19 with international Masses and a shared international lunch, reports Fr Philip Shryane.

All Masses over the weekend had an international flavour to reflect the diversity of the parish with readings in Polish, Portuguese, Malayalam, and Tagalog. We enjoyed music from our African, Filipino and Indian communities.

Every nationality in the parish had its own flag – a total of 36. The flags were carried in procession at the beginning of Masses and placed near the altar, symbolising the diversity of our parish coming together in unity to celebrate the Mass. There was a great sense of the oneness of our community and the unity of the Body of Christ, the universal Church; although we are different, we are not separate, and we come together in prayer and celebration.

After the final morning Mass, we shared a wonderful lunch with food from many different parts of the world, laid out in the Good Shepherd Room. Fortunately, the weather was very kind to us, and we were able to eat outside in the garden, the only space we have big enough for our community to gather.

It was a very joyful event and a wonderful celebration of Pentecost, showing our unity in diversity.

■ **St Edmund's Church in Bury St Edmund's** was a blaze of colour on May 19 as Mass was celebrated in true international style, reports John Saunders.

Always a packed church, the congregation swelled to over 250 as many dressed in national costumes for the occasion and families from countries around the world carried in flags representing their origins.

The parish choir, directed by Patricia Mason, quadrupled in size as it joined the parish music group led by Mick Truman, and was boosted with singers from the Polish, Nigerian, Malayalam, and Filipino communities. Hymns were sung with gusto in a variety of languages and everyone tried their best to join in.

"Parish priest, Fr Sean Connolly, noted at the end of Mass that he'd never heard such joyful singing in a parish. The prayers of intercession were also said in a variety of languages, with English translations given.

In his homily, Fr Sean jokingly compared



Pentecost celebration in Huntingdon (bottom), Bury St Edmunds (top left) and Gorleston (top right).

Pentecost to the musical, the Wizard of Oz, where the scarecrow, tin man and cowardly lion sought the gifts of wisdom and knowledge, love, and courage, only to discover that on their pilgrimage along the Yellow Brick Road, they already possessed these gifts and only had to use them.

The same, Fr Sean suggested, was true of us: as baptised and confirmed Christians, we already possess the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit and are called to be alert on our journey through life to the opportunities to use them for others.

The celebrations continued after Mass with a gathering in the crypt where parishioners shared national food dishes with one another and a wonderful sense of international friendship and unity was on display. As one

parishioner commented about the celebration: "I think we have experienced a bit of heaven today. We need to do our best to make it happen more regularly."

■ The feast of Pentecost was an ideal opportunity for an International Weekend at **St Peter the Apostle Parish, Gorleston**, led by Fr Alvan, and what an amazing weekend it was, reports Janet Rust.

Saturday evening's social and presentation gave an insight into the cultures and traditions of some of the nationalities of our parishioners, including a beautiful floral dance from our Filipino community, followed by international snacks. The entertainment continued spontaneously with many singing and dancing. It was a memorable occasion for all.

The Sunday Mass on May 19, was both moving and unique. It was a joyful, multicultural, multilingual celebratory Pentecost mass. 22 flags processed in, with four different choirs singing (English, Nigerian, Indian and Filipino). There were bidding prayers in six languages, all the children joined the offertory with gifts and there was a special Sign of Peace with everyone turning to all four points of the compass.

This was followed by a happy celebration in the hall, including Steve from Great Yarmouth Borough Council's Cultural Connections, who had helped fund these events.

There was then a massive international buffet with umpteen dishes so loving prepared by the parishioners, enjoyed by over 70 people. A very special weekend.

East Anglia Modern Slavery initiative takes off

■ The new initiative to tackle Modern Slavery in East Anglia has taken off since its launch in February with volunteers now numbering around 30, reports Simon John.

The new group has met twice virtually since the launch on February 8, the feast day of St Josephine Bakhita, regarded as the patron saint of Modern Slavery. Its principal aim is simply to learn the signs of Modern Slavery and safely report them on the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700.

At its most recent meeting in April, members heard from John French, the Suffolk

Police Modern Slavery advisor. He made a brief reference to two recent cases involving arrests in Bury St Edmunds in the middle of the Diocese, involving a car wash and a brothel, two common settings for exploitation.

John emphasised the extent to which the police rely on the public to be their eyes and ears because, for many reasons, people trapped in Modern Slavery cannot self-report. In one of the above settings of exploitation, all of the information leading to recent arrests has come from members of the public.

Recent Home Office statistics show the

number of people found enslaved has increased in the first quarter of 2024 to 4,524, a 9% increase from the previous quarter.

There were 2,148 souls actually found in Modern Slavery in the same period in 2019, so in five years we have seen the numbers found more than double.

Of course, most people in Modern Slavery aren't found. In 2018, the estimate by the United Nations of the total number of people in Modern Slavery in the UK was around 136,000.

At that rate there will be more than 1 million

enslaved people in the UK by 2040.

Pope Francis says he wants us to do something about it. Modern Slavery is amenable to reduction. The new group is looking for more volunteers. It follows that the more people who are on the lookout, then the more people will be found and the problem as a whole will gradually reduce: meanwhile every rescue is a soul freed from torment.

The group is still looking for new volunteers. No particular skill or experience is necessary – only a desire to reduce slavery. Email Simon at john_simong@hotmail.com

RELIGIOUS LIFE

The Marist Fathers and Sisters

The Society of Mary – Marist Fathers (SM)

■ The Society grew out of the initiative of a group of seminarians in the Diocese of Lyon, early in the nineteenth century, in the aftermath of the French Revolution. As the Society of Jesus emerged in response to the Reformation in the sixteenth century, it sought to bring about a society under the name of Mary to represent in the modern world Her vital role in the early days of the Church.

When a group of priests were ordained in 1816, all of them pledged to form a society of four branches - priests, brothers, sisters and lay people in Mary's name. This division was made possible by the restoration of the Diocese of Belley in 1823, and gradually one member of the group, Fr Jean-Claude Colin (1790-1875), emerged as the Founder.

The Society gained Papal approval in 1836, having accepted responsibility for missions to the islands of the western Pacific. Half of its members were immediately dispatched to those islands; the others

remained in France working in re-evangelisation and education.

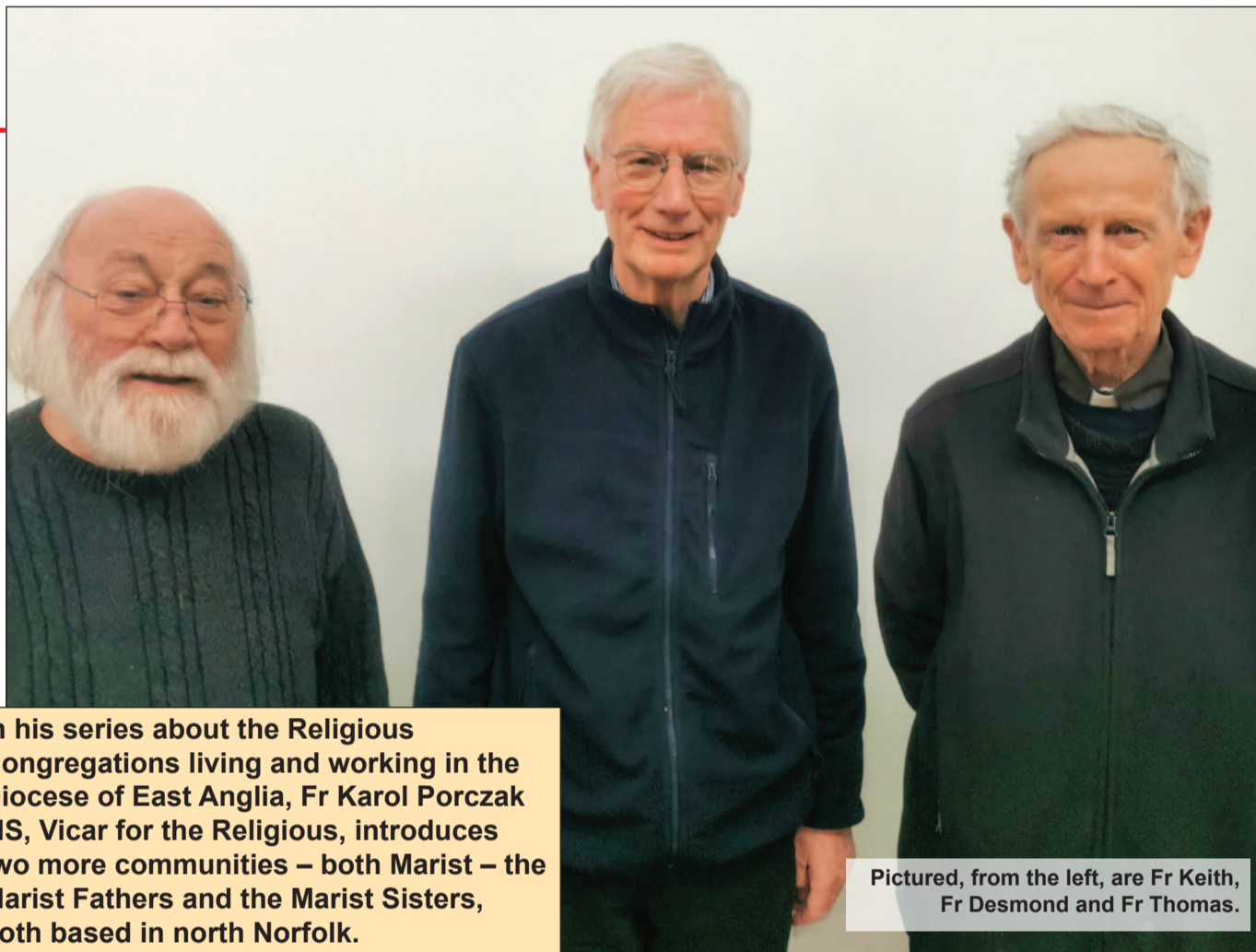
From their common origin, they share a family connection and spirituality with

Marist sisters, brothers, missionary sisters and groups of lay people. Fundamental to the Marist project was the conviction that it was Mary's initiative: "Here is what I want ... a Society, which

will have my name, which will call itself the Society of Mary, whose members will call themselves Marists." In order to be effective evangelisers, Marists take Mary as their model for their way of living. Like her, they want to be instruments of Divine Mercy, gradually coming to think, judge, feel and act in a new way – Mary's way.

As well as in Europe and Oceania, Marists work in Australia, New Zealand and the Americas. In the UK they live in two communities in Hull, Yorkshire and Wells-next-the-Sea, north Norfolk.

In the Diocese of East Anglia, between 1968 and 2014, they were instrumental in the modern development of the National Catholic Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Now they are in charge of the Catholic Parish of Walsingham, residing in the Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Well-next-the-Sea, where Fr Keith Tulloch SM (superior), Fr Thomas Goonan SM and Fr Desmond Hanrahan SM currently serve.



In his series about the Religious Congregations living and working in the Diocese of East Anglia, Fr Karol Porczak MS, Vicar for the Religious, introduces two more communities – both Marist – the Marist Fathers and the Marist Sisters, both based in north Norfolk.

Pictured, from the left, are Fr Keith, Fr Desmond and Fr Thomas.

The Society of Mary – Marist Sisters (SM)

■ The Congregation, similarly to the Marists, was founded by a group of seminarians in Lyon, France, in 1816, as a society for religious sisters, one of the four branches of Marists which were developed at this time.

A young woman, Jeanne Marie Chavoïn (29 August 1786 – 30 June 1858), a close friend of Fr Jean-Claude Colin, the founder of the Marists, felt that God was calling her to found a congregation of religious sisters, wished to be part of this project.

After a period of discernment, and in collaboration with Fr Colin, the first community of Marist Sisters came to live together in Cerdon, in the Ain region of eastern France, in 1823.

Miss Marie Jotilon (1791-1838), a close companion of Jeanne Marie Chavoïn, formed part of this first group. The Community grew from strength to strength, and soon moved to larger accommodation in Belley, about 20 miles from Lyon, where the Sisters worked in the formation of children and young women.

The dream of Jeanne Marie, the Foundress, was to live the spirit of Mary wherever the Community was and in whatever ministry it adopted.

It was not long till they spread to Ireland and England and gradually to other parts of the world, namely Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, North America, Canada and Africa.

In the 1960s, responding to the call of the Second Vatican Council to 'make an option to serve the poor', the Community extended its mission to Latin America. By this time, the number of Marist Sisters had grown to over 700; living the simple charism, striving to be the presence of Mary in the Church and the world, engaged in teaching, nursing, parish ministry and social work.

Today, even though greatly reduced in numbers, they have communities in all five continents.

Here in the UK, there are three sisters in Walsingham, Norfolk: Sr Beate Heutger SM, Sr Marina Brady SM (Leader of the Community) and Sr Pauline O'Neill SM, where they are engaged in parish ministry and the care of the elderly.



Pictured, from the left, are Sr Beate, Sr Marina and Sr Pauline.

Summer family reading ideas

As summer rolls around and we jet off on our holidays or enjoy a stay-cation, families may find that they have a bit more time on their hands, and what better way to while away the summer hours than with good books, says Marriage & Family Life Co-ordinator, **Antonia Braithwaite**, in her **Faith in the Home** column.

■ For children aged 8-12 years, an excellent series is the Narnia books by C S Lewis (but they can be enjoyed very much by those in any age bracket!). Begin with *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and journey into the magical land of Narnia with Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy as they encounter mythical creatures, talking animals and Aslan the lion.

Written as an allegory, this book weaves in themes of loyalty, bravery, sacrifice, selflessness, good vs evil, and forgiveness, and invites readers to explore the Christian message through the story.

After this first book, the other six books in the series will not fail to captivate the hearts, minds and imagination of all readers.



■ For teens and adults I recommend the non-fiction book "Popes, Emperors and Elephants" by Roy Peachy. In this captivating historical journey, Peachy takes readers through the first 1000 years of Christian culture. Starting in Athens, Rome, and Jerusalem, the narrative spans diverse locations and time periods and extends as far as China, Ethiopia, and Iraq shedding light on lesser-known aspects of history. Along the way, we encounter saints, sinners, sailors, popes, emperors, and even the occasional elephant.

Written in a highly accessible and engaging style this book introduces us to many forgotten aspects of Christian civilization and breathes life into historical figures and events, making them relatable and engaging.

The book answers intriguing questions such as "what was found in the city of the sharp-nosed fish?", "were the barbarians truly barbarians?" and "what is the history of the number zero?"

Whether you're curious about the history of liturgy, the fall of Pompeii, how books were selected to be part of the official canon of Scripture, the significance of hair in history or how there came to be an elephant at the court of Charlemagne, this engaging book provides a fresh and fascinating insight into a diverse range of aspects of our history.

Marriage is celebrated at St John's Cathedral Mass

Over 200 people gathered for the annual Marriage Celebration Mass on Saturday June 1 at St John's Cathedral in Norwich to celebrate the joy of holy matrimony and significant anniversaries. Antonia Braithwaite reports.

■ The couple celebrating the longest anniversary were Terry and Rodger Germany (pictured right with Bishop Peter), who were married 64 years ago in Our Lady of the Assumption and the English Martyrs (OLEM) in Cambridge.

In his homily Bishop Peter reflected on the prayer of Tobias from Book of Tobit. On their wedding night Tobias and Sarah pray together for their marriage. Tobias says that he takes Sarah to be his wife "in singleness of heart". This is an attitude that all married couples should emulate in their love for one another, said Bishop Peter. The singleness of heart requires a couple to lovingly sacrifice for each other, putting the good of the other first. If both husbands and wives love each other in this way their marriage will be a source of deep love and joy.

On their wedding day couples are asked if they have come to enter into marriage 'freely and wholeheartedly' and are prepared to love and honour their spouse for as long as they both shall live. In singleness of heart married couples freely frame their singular autonomy within a commitment to forge a balanced, wholesome and fruitful communion together, continued Bishop Peter. "This communion between a man and a woman forges the bond that confronts and overcomes all selfishness."

Over the course of the years of marriage we all fall short and will inevitably each do things that hurt our spouse. This singleness of heart, as Bishop Peter reminded married couples, often requires them to ask forgiveness of the other. These moments of asking for, and giving, forgiveness are an indispensable part of a happy and healthy marriage. "Love is sustained by our willingness to reveal sorrow for fault and sin", said Bishop Peter.

"Jesus Christ reveals the unlimited depths of love, the magnificent endurance of love," Bishop Peter continued. "Jesus Christ enables us to embrace the sacrifice of love". Each year of married life that passes demands an ongoing recommitment to that love. In the book of Tobit, Tobias ends his prayer to God with the invocation; "Be kind enough to have pity on her and on me, and bring us to old age together." This is prayer is surely echoed by all loving married couples as they rejoice in all that is authentic and wonderful in the sharing of a life together.

After the Mass the couples, together with their family and friends, were invited to the Cathedral Narthex to enjoy refreshments and cakes baked by the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham.



Bishop Peter Collins with Terry and Rodger Germany who were married 64 years ago at OLEM in Cambridge. For a full picture gallery of the Mass and couples visit: www.flickr.com/photos/dioceseofeastanglia/

Live – in Community Worker

Opportunities in the Ipswich Community
Life sharing can be life changing

Considering how to use your gap year before university? Just graduated and unsure what's next? Contemplating a career break?

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<https://larches.livevacancies.co.uk/#/applicant/2>



Picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese



■ The Cathedral of St John the Baptist celebrated the Feast of Corpus Christi on June 2, led by Bishop Peter Collins. The celebration included Solemn Mass, a procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

After the homily, Bishop Peter called forward those who were received into the Church this Easter for a special blessing. "Heavenly Father, look kindly on these, your children, who have become members of your Son's mystical body, the Church. In the sacraments they have now encountered your power. In the scriptures they have heard your word and through their parish

community they have shared in the life of your holy people," he prayed.

Following the Mass, a procession of the Blessed Sacrament took place, starting in the Cathedral, moving through the grounds, the surrounding streets, and into the cathedral garden. The choir led the congregation in hymns as they processed. The celebration concluded with Benediction in the Cathedral.

Following Benediction, people were invited to join in a shared buffet in the Cathedral Narthex. For a full picture gallery visit: www.flickr.com/photos/diocesefeastanglia/



■ Over the past few months the group Catholic Mothers East Anglia has hosted two retreats, reports Katy Torcat.

The idea of this group is to help nurture and provide a community for all mothers living the faith, so they can connect, meet up, grow and support each other.

We held a Mothers' Day retreat in the beautiful Suffolk parish of Withermarsh Green.

Mothers from around the diocese travelled to attend for a day of peace, prayer and friendship. We attended Holy Mass, prayed devotions, adoration and were inspired by Fr Henry Whisenant to grow in the many virtues needed for motherhood.

There was still time for plenty of coffee and chats and it felt truly special to be together with so many inspiring mothers and to celebrate this incredible call to motherhood that we all share.

During Holy Week, 30 families travelled to Walsingham for our first Family Day (pictured above).

The Ignite Youth Team animated dif-

ferent children's workshops focusing on preparing for the Triduum, Sarah De Nordwall challenged the teens with some Catholic media training and Mrs Helvi Moore from The Marriage and Family Life Commission enlightened parents on the topic of the Four Temperaments.

The day was a busy one, with Mass, a fantastic shared lunch, workshops, Stations of the Cross and children walking the Holy Mile. We finished the day with beautiful family friendly Adoration in Walsingham village. Parents and children were filled with joy as we had a chance to pray and spend time together as we prepared our hearts for Easter.

A special thanks to those who gave up time to make these days possible, we look forward to hosting more in the coming months. For details, please contact: catholicmotherseastanglia@gmail.com.

Catholic Mothers East Anglia is one of many subgroups around the country and part of the larger community Catholic Mothers UK – you can read more on the website: www.catholicmothers.co.uk

■ The parish of St Felix in Felixstowe celebrated the feast day of its patron saint in a special way this year, with the unveiling and blessing of a new statue of St Felix.

For years, the church has been without a statue of its patron. The journey to acquiring one began a decade ago when Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes inducted Canon John Barnes to the parish. At the time, Bishop Alan asked Canon John to find a suitable statue of St Felix. This task, however, proved to be more challenging and time-consuming than initially anticipated.

Last year, a fitting statue was finally located. The statue, crafted from wood in the Tyrol region, was purchased thanks to the generosity of a benefactress. The next challenge was finding the right spot in the church to place the statue. The solution came in the form of a stone bracket, designed and made by Abbeygate Stonemasons of Bury St Edmunds, which now supports the statue on one of the piers of the Chancel arch.

Canon John shared insights into the history of St Felix, he said: "St Bede, in his famous Ecclesiastical History, tells us that St Felix was centred upon Dunnoc. Precisely where this was is not known. It has often been assumed that the place was Dunwich, mainly because the name sounds similar. However, some suggest that Felix may have lived in the ruined Roman fort of Walton Castle, now under the sea at Felixstowe, just as St Fursey lived in the ruined Roman fort at Burgh Castle. St Felix had been brought to East Anglia by King Sigbert, and certainly Walton Castle would



have been nearer to the royal hall at Rendlesham."

On May 21, Bishop Peter blessed the new statue during his visit to Felixstowe to confirm seven candidates. Canon John said the statue had been carved in the Tyrol region of Europe. He added: "St Felix is shown vested as a Bishop. He was the first Bishop of East Anglia. He's depicted carrying a pastoral staff in one hand, signifying his role as a bishop, and in the other hand, he holds a book of the Gospels and a model of a church, symbolizing his role in bringing the Gospel to East Anglia and establishing the Catholic Church in the region."