

The Grapevine



Parish Magazine

Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation and Holy Family Church

Christmas Issue

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF KING'S LYNN

CLERGY

The Very Rev. Canon Peter Rollings - Dean - Parish Priest

Father Gordon Adam - Assistant Priest, Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham

Rev John Belfield – Deacon

Rev. Martin L'Estrange – Deacon

Rev. Shaun Morrison – Deacon of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham

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MASS TIMES

Saturday	Our Lady	6:00pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday	Holy Family	9:30am	Mass
Sunday	Our Lady	11:30am	Mass
Sunday	Our Lady	4:00pm	Vespers and Benediction

CONFESSIONS

Saturday	Holy Family	10:30am	Confession
Saturday	Our Lady	5:00pm	Confession



Our Lady of the Annunciation Church



Holy Family Church

DEAR ALL, Everyone in One cannot help being the harmony, the work of art by the Dutch Balen, who painted this the love for Mary, the



this painting is beautiful. fascinated by the beauty, composition in this little painter Hendrik van cabinet picture to restore Mother of Jesus, in the

Counter-Reformation. Heaven and earth are suddenly one in the radiant joy about the birth of Jesus, our Saviour. And where does this beauty come from? After all, Mary and Joseph had been travelling on dusty, crowded roads to reach Bethlehem, Mary had given birth to Jesus in a manger on a straw-strewn dirty floor, the much older Joseph was worn from the hubbub they had encountered. Yet, they are shown in fine clothing as if nothing had happened. And true, nothing has happened that has diminished their joy and the trust, the love, the faith, the jubilation Mary expressed in her song when meeting Elizabeth: "My soul glorifies the Lord". They and also the poor, dirty, despised shepherds, have become beams of joy and wonder, adoring the naked newborn baby, and a host of naked angels is singing, praising the mystery. God "has been mindful" sang Mary and she therefore had no concern for herself. Christmas is a time of gifts.

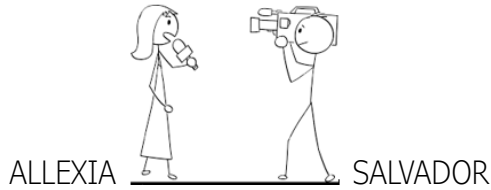
Again, there are the pre-gift-wrapped gifts that one finds in stores, but there are also the gifts that are of a different nature. Such a gift is the Advent of the two young **Junior Reporters** from St Martha's School, **ALLEXIA and SALVADOR**. They are two young, Year 6 students, beautifully focused and committed to enriching the GRAPEVINE MAGAZINE with their observations, stories, reports and ideas. I am delighted and very grateful to be able to introduce these two wonderful exceptional people. Their contributions are marked with a special



emblem. I wish you all a very happy and joy-filled Christmas.

Lotte

JUNIOR REPORTERS



SALVADOR

My name is Salvador and I am a pupil of St Martha's Catholic Primary. I am currently in Year 6 and my favourite subject is history, because it is very important to learn what our ancestors did. I do some afterschool clubs, which are: Tag Rugby club, Choir club, Basketball club and Handball club. I know how to play the piano and the guitar and enjoy spending time creating my own music. Another club I do is Kickboxing club, which is a martial art with a mix between boxing and Karate. I like football and sometimes play it with my friends and I like formula1. I sometimes watch formula1 races and my favourite driver is Oscar Piastri. My favourite footballer is Ronaldo. I like to listen to music and my favourite genres are Rock and Latin music. My favourite month is December as my birthday is in it as well as Christmas, so I get double the presents! In my family I have my mum and dad and twin brothers. Most of my family live on an island called Madeira. In future issues of the Grape Vine Magazine, myself and another reporter – Allexia, will have the opportunity discuss subjects that are important to our Parish. I hope you will enjoy them. Have a Merry Christmas and a wonderful new year. *Salvador*

ALLEXIA: My Journey through Mini Vinnies

My name is Allexia and I want to tell you about my journey as a Mini Vinnie. It all started when I was 7-years old and joined St Martha's. My parents were eager to sign me up for Mini Vinnies. I had no idea

what it was but I went anyway. When I started Mini Vinnies, it was just another club that I had to go to but then I realised that it was all about being kind, generous and charitable which I really liked. I felt really good about going there because I knew that a small something can make a difference. I really enjoyed going there because I love helping others and that's what I was doing. As a Mini Vinnie, I've had so many opportunities to represent Mini Vinnies that the Bishop already knows me. I love Mini Vinnies and it's a really big part of who I am. Now that I am older, I have been chosen to be the president. Mrs McKenna (our teacher) is such an amazing teacher and I think she deserves recognition for it. She really inspires all of us and I really want to thank her from the bottom of my heart. *Alllexia*

<div>BAPTISMS</div> <div></div> <div>Jasmine Chininso Eseti/ Ouna Dos Santos/ Jamie Marzono Zalpys/ Marion Scruby/ Chukwumeina Ifenna Dunyia</div>	<div>DEATHS</div> <div></div> <div>Mareaneta Harpen/ Lawrence Cavanagh/RENEE Thomas/ Moira Allen/ Brenda Hoptoon/ Steve Tiene/ Thomas Vascevicus/ Betty Smith</div>
<div>W E D D I N G S</div> <div></div> <div>Congratulations to Dominic and Amelia Havercroft for a long marriage.</div>	
<div>PARISH SICK LIST</div> <div></div> <div>Antonas /Pat Athey /Tony Burton /John Cairns/ Betty Dockney/ Caroline Glazebrook/ Mark Griffiths/ Mike Griffiths/ Beryl Green/ Sadie Harris/ Ann Lindley/ Cathy McNeil/ Owen McDonagh/ Maria De Rosa/ Debbie Roper/ Louise Smith/ Sylvia Waddilove/ Thomas Noone/ Susan Young</div>	

RELIC TOUR –



ST ANDREW, ST COLUMBA AND ST MARGARET Our Lady of Walsingham Council 319, King's Lynn, recently had the honour of serving as the entry point for the tour of the relics of St. Andrew, St. Columba, and St. Margaret to our region, hosting them for two blessed days of prayer, fraternity, and community.

The relics were delivered to us by our Provincial Brothers from Northampton. Upon their arrival, we held a Mass and welcome reception, both of which were well attended by parishioners, members of the Order, and their friends and families.

Our welcome reception gave us the valuable opportunity to raise awareness of the knights and inform parishioners of the meaningful work we do in our communities. It also provided us the perfect platform to share our new business cards and connect with prospective members.

The next day we were joined by Brother Knights from Felixstowe who came to support the occasion with prayer and song. Our combined brothers took turns throughout the day, maintaining a reverent vigil



over the Relics.

Both the 319 Chaplains played an important role, one leading the welcoming ritual as the Relics arrived, and the other conducted the

leaving ritual before they were reverently transported to Ipswich.

This gathering was not only a time of spiritual enrichment but also a moment to showcase our unity and commitment as a council. It also marked a proud milestone as we displayed our newly designed logo, a reminder that we are the only named council in existence.

We give our heartfelt thanks to all who attended, assisted, and prayed with us during the special visit. May the presence of the Relics, and the examples of St. Andrew, St. Columba, and St. Margaret inspire all of us in our mission of charity, unity and fraternity. **Luke**

LEST WE FORGET ...A fine bright morning marked Remembrance Day in King's Lynn with services being held at both the memorial at Greyfriars Tower Gardens, attended by Father Peter, and at the Clock Tower in Gaywood. Visiting the latter, there was a good turnout, and it was nice to see so many young people amongst those who had come to pay their respects. Father Gordon, seen here with Kyla Sørensen, Rector of St. Faith's Church, Gaywood, represented the congregation of Holy Family Church and gave the blessing and final prayer:

"Ever-living God, we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mark Collins



THOUGHTS IN ADVENT

It is too easy to say that we are in the Christmas season. But we have not reached Christmas. We are in Advent – the time of preparation for the coming of Christ. This is a very special time, one in which we prepare for Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. The Sunday Church Gospel readings tell of his first coming. Readings from the prophet Isaiah also stimulate our thoughts

good time to take stock
make sure we are
just materially but also
family members and
can easily become a



and prayers. Advent is a
of our lives. We try to
ready for Christmas, not
in our relations with our
others, This time of year
time of needless stress

and distraction dominated by Christmas shopping. The commercial world has imported Black Friday and Cyber Monday from the United States. And if not enough sales have been made on those days, they can easily be extended further. As Christmas becomes more secular, it is more difficult to find Christmas cards with Nativity scenes. Even 'Happy Christmas' seems to be yielding to 'Happy Holiday'. Sadly, during this time of year there is a spike in depression, and even suicides, among those who feel left out of the perfect Christmas as portrayed on TV, where everyone seems to be finding happiness, family harmony, and great gifts, except you. But what is the good news of Christmas? God has become incarnate. He has become a human being especially for you and me. We have reason for a new and wonderful hope. Jesus could have chosen to be born in a palace, or even perhaps in the great Temple in Jerusalem. Instead, he chose to start life in a stable, with a manger for his bed. Truly this was a scene of great contrasts, of animals and angels, of shepherds and kings, Christ chose poverty for his birth just as much as ignominy for his death to teach us all just how much he values that Godly virtue of

humility. In a world that worships the false Gods of power and privilege, this is a lesson worth learning. What could be a better preparation for Christmas than to find some quiet place and time to think about Christmas and even to read prayerfully the accounts of Jesus' birth in St Mathew's and St Luke's Gospels. What better gift could we give ourselves and our loved ones than to become more loving, more Christ-like.

John Cairns

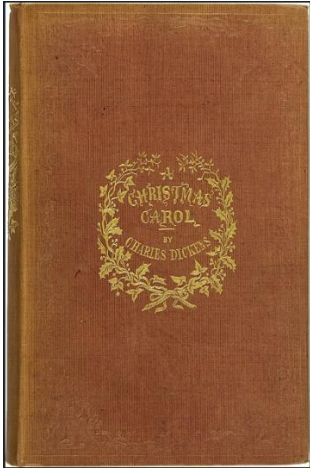
THE SECOND GREATEST CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD?

I don't have as much time for reading as I would like, but one book I always try and read during Advent is "A Christmas Carol" – the classic tale by Charles Dickens. My copy runs to just 90 pages and as I'm so familiar with the story it's an easy and quick read and one I always enjoy. One reason it's so short is that the author only came up with the idea of writing a Christmas book in October and it needed to be finished, illustrated and printed by the third week of December!

Dickens was a Christian but rarely brought his faith directly into his novels – although in this book the Christian themes of love, charity, redemption and forgiveness are woven through the plot. The main character Ebenezer Scrooge is a "tight-fisted, wrenching, grasping, covetous old sinner" who has become very wealthy by lending money to the poor at exorbitant interest rates. His pursuit of wealth has made him a lonely, bitter individual, but as the story unfolds, he's shown the error of his ways and goes on to use his money to help those in need. In doing so he not only improves their lives but

improves his own, reconnecting with his family and becoming a worthy member of the community.

The book was written in 1843, at a time when the divide between rich and poor was particularly wide, although



Dickens, aged 31, was able to enjoy a comfortable lifestyle with his wife and children. However, his own childhood had been very different as his father had got into financial difficulties and been sent to the Marshalsea Debtors prison until he could pay what he owed. At the age of 12, Dickens had to leave school, sell his books and go to work long hours in a factory to provide for the family – an experience he never

forgot, and one which gave him a lifelong concern for the poor. Remembering those days and dismayed by the poverty he saw around him he planned to produce a pamphlet to highlight the plight of the poor but instead decided to write a book which did the same thing – a stroke of genius which undoubtedly had a much greater effect and created more publicity.

Early in the story two gentleman visit Scrooge, collecting money “to buy some meat and drink and means of warmth” for the poor and they ask him if he’d like to make a donation. He refuses, telling them that he pays his taxes to support the prisons and workhouses “which cost enough, and those who are badly off must go there.” Sarcastically, he asks if the prisons and workhouses are still in operation to which one of the gentlemen replies: “Both very busy sir, I wish I could say they were not”.

180 years later, despite the establishment of the welfare state, it's disappointing that there's one thing we still have in common with those times, with the Food Bank and Night Shelter here in King's Lynn still sadly "both very busy sir." I recently visited the Food Bank with a delivery of Christmas items on behalf of our Rotary Club and was staggered to learn that last year they provided nearly 59,000 meals to local people. This year we all have the chance to help by supporting the Knights of Saint Columba with their excellent "Advent Reverse Calendar Appeal". We mustn't forget either the hard work done by those who run "Mary's Kitchen" and provide such a valuable service to the local community.

Although I don't have much time for reading, I do try and find time to study a little of the Scriptures before bed each night. This year I've been following Father Peter's recommendation from last Advent and reading the Book of Isaiah which foretells the greatest Christmas story ever told – and, of course, I'll still have to find some time for reading "A Christmas Carol" too! **Mark Collins**

E L D E R S: The Elders meetings start back on Tuesday the 13th



January 2026, from 10am to about 1pm.

R E N E E T H O M A S celebrated her 91st birthday on a lovely Spring day at the Elders meeting in March. She has been the soul and strength, the organiser and head of the Elders Group for 30 years. Her background and her ability to connect with people served her talent for bringing people together. She used to sing in the choir at the Our Lady's Church. I knew her for a short time only and therefore cannot write a long obituary. However, the short time I knew her is logged in my memory filled with unforgettable anecdotes. Renee died in August this year.

MUSIC AT THE MASS

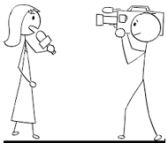


Do you enjoy the music at Mass every week? Does it enhance your participation? Full and active participation is a recurring theme in the Vatican II document - Sacrosanctum Concilium - and that “the people should be encouraged to take part by means of acclamations, responses, psalmody, antiphons and songs”. The Church teaches that the highest and most proper role of music in the liturgy is to glorify God and sanctify the faithful, whilst respecting the sacredness of the Mass. Music at the Mass plays three important roles.

A spiritual and emotional role: Music is considered a powerful way to lift up the hearts of the faithful, helping to connect with the divine. Singing enhances prayer and deepens the experience, music can communicate emotions and meaning that words alone cannot, helping to enter more fully into the mystery of the liturgy. Music also helps set a solemn and appropriate tone for the sacred rites.

A communal and participatory role: Singing together builds a sense of unity and belonging, creating a bond of mind and heart among the community; it encourages full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgy. Music allows the community to pray the same things at the same time, reinforcing important truths and allowing the faithful to participate in a shared act of worship.

A liturgical and doctrinal role: Music, especially the use of Psalms, connects the modern congregation to a long history of worship and the tradition of the church. It is used to highlight and honour the most important parts of the Mass. Singing is seen as an expression of joy and faith, a way for the community to proclaim God's praise, as encouraged in scripture. **Tim Gallier**



BRAZILIAN CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AND FACTS

Hello, my name is **Allexia**, I am 10 years old and I am from Brazil. For this festive time of year (Christmas) I have decided to write about Christmas traditions from my home country. These first ones are on Christmas Eve: I think I'm going to start with my favourite one: Amigo Secreto (Secret Friend, kind of like Secret Santa). Amigo Secreto is where you write down on a piece of paper the names of everyone you are going to see on Christmas and then you put the folded pieces of paper in a bowl or a hat and each person draws out a name and then they have to buy a gift for that specific person at a specific budget which everyone will agree upon. It is really fun! Then there's the Ceia de Familia (Family Feast) which is where families gather round for a large feast with favoured things like roast pork and potato salad that begins at around 10pm and lasts very late into the night. There is also the Missa do Galo (Mass of the Rooster) which is a significant event for many Brazilian Catholics. The name Mass of the Rooster is said to come from the belief that the rooster was the first to announce the birth of Jesus Christ. On Christmas Day it is often very relaxed and peaceful, with families enjoying leftover food from the previous night's feast. Do you want to know 7 fun facts about Brazilian Christmas? Well, here they are:

Christmas Eve

- Presents are often exchanged around midnight.
- Families put up fake Christmas trees and some may use white carpet to simulate snow.
- Nativity scenes called Presépio, are also a cherished tradition.

- Father Christmas is called Papai Noel because 'Papai' means Father and 'Noel' means Christmas.

Christmas Day

- It's common for families to visit each other's relatives and friends for lunch.
- Large firework displays often follow the Mass of the Rooster.
- Christmas lights and decorations are usually taken



down on January 6th, Epiphany, the day the 3 kings showed Jesus to the world.

Junior

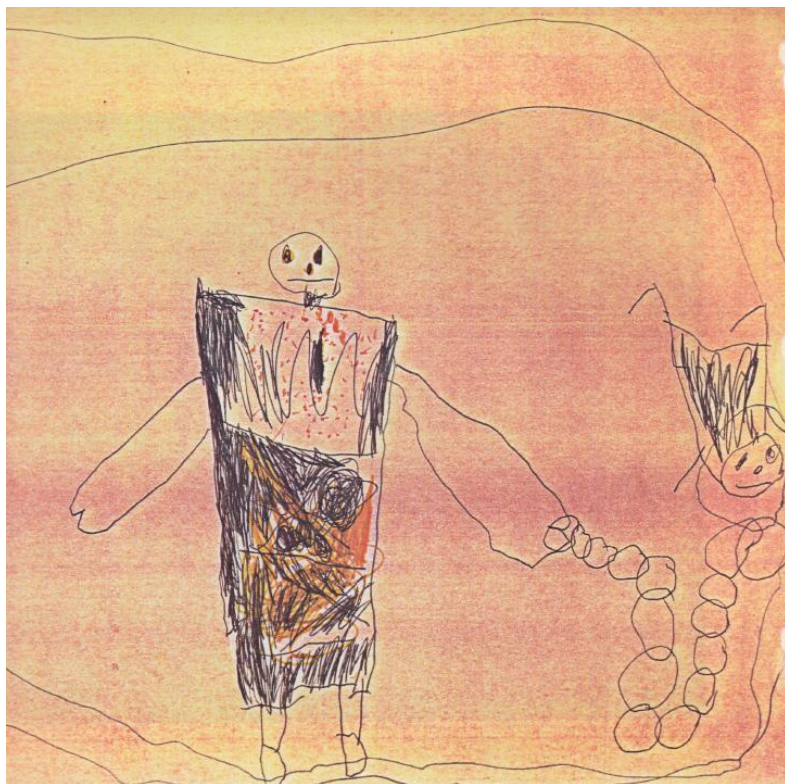
Reporter Alexia.



Pheasant – Harry



My Christmas Wishlist – Harry



Messenger and Angel – Max

WHEN YOU GO ON AN OVERGROUND

When you go on an overground train you rock from side to side and bounce up and down and stop at each station and pass the planes and fields, trees, hedges, roads, villages, telephone posts, tractors, trucks and vans waiting to pass.

The conductor taking tickets walking through the carriages, the train rumbling along the tracks.

Different trains going the opposite direction, passengers talking, watching boats down below. Watching cathedrals or churches go by, watching the sun reflecting in a stream or listening to the tic of raindrops hitting your windows. Whistling or humming to yourself, sleeping, dosing, watching factories go by etc.



Albert

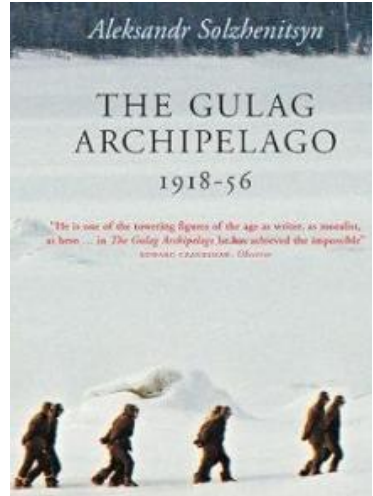
Owen Cooper , the 15-year-old teenager who starred in the Netflix drama 'Adolescence' said "Honestly, when I started these drama classes a couple of years back, I didn't expect to win at the Emmy's in Los Angeles.



But I think tonight proves that if you listen and focus and you step out of your comfort zone, you can achieve anything in life."

ONE DAY IN THE LIFE

Russian writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn who died in 2008 wrote about the horrors of the Soviet prison system in his most famous work - the Gulag Archipelago. Images of grey skies, snow, prison barracks and a harsh regime under the Soviet prison guards filled most readers with cold horror. As a Christian, Solzhenitsyn accepted as a matter of faith that humans were created in God's image, as the Scripture reveals, and derive their dignity from Him, as God's beloved. Christopher Hitchens in his eulogy to Solzhenitsyn said "Every now and then it happens. The state or the system encounters an individual who, bafflingly, maddeningly, absurdly, cannot be broken." From the depths of Gulags, strengthened by his beliefs and prayer, Solzhenitsyn wrote his own prayer as a gift to mankind:



“How simple for me to live with You, O Lord,
How easy for me to believe in You!
When my mind parts on bewilderment or falters,
when the most intelligent people see no further than this day's end
and do not know what must be done tomorrow,
You grant me the serene certitude that You exist
and that You will take care that not all the paths of good be closed.
Atop the ridge of earthly fame, I look back in wonder at the path
which I alone could never have found,
a wondrous path through despair to this point
from which I too could transmit to mankind a reflection of Your rays.
And as much as I must still reflect, You will give me”

Tim Gallier

M E M O R I E S

In the last grapevine there was an article regarding Royal Trains with an article: being in the railway sidings at Scrooby on a grimy team locomotive, with a train of coal wagons for Doncaster; and having to await the passing of three special trains for York, carrying Guests for the Marriage Ceremony between Prince Edward; Duke of Kent (Cousin of Queen Elizabeth II) to a Miss Katherine Worsley. That was in 1961, 64 years ago.

But, why the memories now: in 1974 I was appointed as Traffic Manager at Kings Lynn, which included being Manager of the station. Being the station closest to Sandringham House there were always special guests travelling to and from the house especially around the Christmas time. However, at that time The Duke and Duchess Kent resided in Anmer Hall on the estate, The Duchess regularly Commuted to and From London. I was always advised by our Divisional Office when '**Katie**' (her codename) was travelling and by which train, it being my duty to escort her between the train and her car, I was always met with a wide smile and warm handshake.

There were three special occasions: The first was one Friday in Summer, she was travelling home on the 16:35 arrival from London; as the train was coming into the platform, I made my way to her exit door when the guard opened it and said, the Duchess is in the brake van. Surprised I walked back 4 coaches with the porter who was bringing a wheelchair ramp and opened the Parcel compartment door. There was the Duchess sitting on a parcel with a book on her lap reading to a small group of disabled children around her in wheelchairs. She looked up startled and said "Mr Athey! – we're there"? "Yes Ma-am here you are" she said her goodbyes to the children and I helped her out onto the platform. "What a tragedy seeing children like that, it's awful" "I think you made their day Ma-am" I replied. "Where are they going"? I told her there was a place in Hunstanton called Sunshine Homes, for disabled youngsters and there was a Coach

waiting for them in the rear car park. I saw her to her car and then helped with the wheelchairs.

The second occasion was I would say about a year later. It was a Saturday morning; I was in the Garden and suddenly realised I had an important meeting on the Monday and needed to look something up but I had left it in my office on the station. I went there and saw quite a few people waiting for the arrival of the London train, I got the book I wanted and was going out of the door onto the platform when Pat, the Station Supervisor saw me and said, "Thank goodness, Katie's on the Platform". "Come off it, Pat, where? He pointed her out. "Where's the train"? "It's 10 minutes late" he replied. There was the Duchess clad obviously in her gardening clothes. I too was in mine. I went over to her and said quietly "Good morning your Royal Highness" as usual, she looked round and her face lit up. "Mr. Athey; well good morning have we both been gardening"? "Yes Ma-am. I forgot something yesterday and came back for it." She said her handyman was off this weekend so I'm picking George To... Oh sorry I mean Lord Tonypandy up - he's with us for the weekend. I said, "by the way the train is about 10 minutes late" we chatted for 5 minutes or so, I



forget about what, then I saw the barriers go down on the Tennyson Ave Crossing and said, "Here it comes". "We'll go and meet him off the train", she replied. We met and I was introduced to the Lord as the Station

Manager, we all laughed and walked to where she had parked her car.

- The Duchess of Kent and a Station Manager in scruff clothes together with a peer of the realm, no one took the slightest bit of notice.

On the third occasion, a party of schoolchildren from St Martha's School had been on a daytrip to London and were due home on the 18:45 arrival. Earlier in the day I had received the message that Katie would be on the same train. So, I was able to do two jobs – Meeting the Duchess and also my son Steven who was on the school trip. As the train arrived, while awaiting the Duchess at the carriage door, the school party walked up. To cut a long story short the whole party of us walked along the platform together, the Duchess chatting away to the children.

Those are just a few special moments of my time as Station Manager, over 45 years ago now. Katherin Worsley – Royal Highness – Mrs Kent was one of the most gracious Lady's I ever met. She died on 4th September 2025. A Mass was said for HRH the Duchess of Kent on October 26th at Holy Family Church for the repose of the soul of the Duchess of Kent. May eternal light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. David Athey

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TAKING STOCK

CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF ENGLAND & WALES



“Taking Stock” is an architectural and historical review of Catholic churches and chapels in England and Wales and is a partnership between the Catholic Bishops’ Conference, individual dioceses, and Historic England. The person with responsibility for looking after the buildings in our Diocese is Heritage Officer Matthew Champion, and parishioner Clive Bond, in his role as Chair of the West Norfolk and King’s Lynn Archaeological Society, was able to arrange for him to give a talk at Marriott’s Warehouse in October. Sadly, only a handful from our congregations attended, but those who did were rewarded with a fascinating evening introducing us to “The Historic Buildings of the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia”.

Three churches featured heavily. Firstly, our cathedral at Norwich, which surprisingly was on the “at risk register” but now finally has a watertight roof after a project to replace the leadwork from the 1970’s – the lead used back then was apparently thin and of poor quality. This majestic building, whose tower is the highest point in the city, was the first cathedral in the country to have electric lighting. This was thanks to the shrewd actions of Henry Fitzalan-Howard, 15th Duke of Norfolk, who paid for the building and persuaded the authorities to extend Norwich’s tram system to the cathedral – not for the benefit of travellers but so he could tap into the power supply!

Next up was the huge Cambridge church dedicated to Our Lady and the English Martyrs (OLEM) where Mass is celebrated no less than 6

times on a Sunday to a congregation that exceeds 4,000. Until recently the church was shrouded in scaffolding following the fall of masonry from the tower but it's now safe once more, with the tower shining brightly after a deep clean.

Finally, we learnt something of the history of Walsingham's Slipper Chapel which was built in 1532 and dedicated to St Catherine, the patron saint of pilgrims. After the reformation the chapel became a poor house, a blacksmith's forge, a barn and even a cow byre. In 1894 the ruin was bought by Miss Charlotte Pearson Boyd, who paid for it to be restored and returned it to the Roman Catholic Church.

Of the 90 churches in our Diocese there's a huge range of buildings of varying styles covering several hundred years of structural design. We got to see a selection of these, including Our Lady's here on London



Road - one of only two churches in the Diocese to feature carrstone, the other being St. Dominic's at Downham Market. One building that stood out for me was Our Lady of Lourdes at Sawston, a

simple prefabricated structure from the late 1950's. Built by local parishioners, it was originally the church hall for the adjacent but much smaller church of similar design, and as the congregation grew the two buildings exchanged roles. Its unique design has led to suggestions it should be given listed building status, and it serves as a timely reminder that whatever a church may look like from the exterior it's what's inside that really matters...

RED WEDNESDAY



'On Sunday 14th September, Aloma Do Rozario, a speaker for Aid to the Church, gave a talk about the aim of the charity at the Our Lady Church's morning service. The charity is committed to aid persecuted Christian Communities.'



Here is an updated list on some of the headlines informing us of atrocities that have been committed from September to November:

- 'Persecution and killing of Christians in Cabo Delgado – Mozambique.'  European Parliament August 2025
- 'More than 40 killed in DR Congo attack linked to Islamic State.' (BBC) Oct 2025
- '20 Christians Beheaded, More Killed by Jihadists in Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique' Nov. 2025-CBN
- 'Why does the beheading of Christians not make headlines?'
THE SPECTATOR March 2025
'The world notices the persecution of Nigerian Christians.'
-  GENOCIDE WATCH-October 2025

Millions are persecuted for their faith, says Aid to the Church in Need
CHURCH TIMES 07 NOVEMBER 2025

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Mondragon

In 1941, a young Catholic priest, José María Arizmendiarieta settled in Mondragón, a town with a population of 7,000 that had not yet recovered from the poverty, hunger, exile, and tension of the Spanish Civil War. In 1943, he established a technical college which became a



training ground for managers, engineers and skilled labour for local companies, and

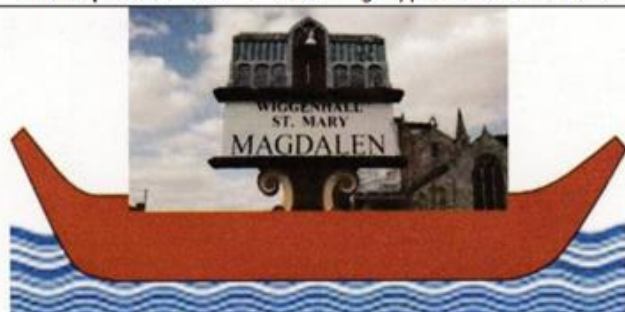
primarily for the co-operatives. Arizmendiarieta spent a number of years educating young people about a form of humanism, based on solidarity and participation, in harmony with Catholic social teaching. He added to this the importance of acquiring the necessary technical knowledge before creating the first co-operative. In 1955, he selected five young people to set up the first company of the Co-operative becoming the beginning of the Mondragon Corporation. Today it employs over 70,000 people and is the world's largest employee-owned enterprise. Two things we can take away from this story, firstly it's good to see a large corporation whose logo is "Humanity at Work", secondly to be inspired by the unrelenting determination of this young priest who, in spite of being arrested and imprisoned, planted a 'mustard seed' that remains an example of how to make the world a better place. José María died in 1976 and in 2015 Pope Francis decreed him to become Venerable.

<https://www.mondragon-corporation.com/en/>

My wife gave me a nativity there is any spend it on



me £100 and said, "buy set for Christmas, and if money left over you can beer."



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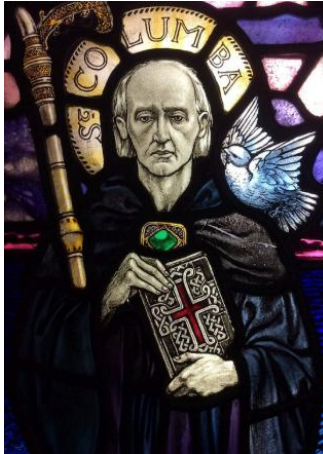


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