

Newsletter - May 2022

Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady - Walsingham <shrine@walsingham.org.uk>

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The Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady Walsingham - England's Nazareth

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From the Rector



The Rector reflects on the recent Organ Recital on the newly restored Schumacher's Organ

On Saturday 30th April, we were blessed with lovely weather at the Shrine. This was fortunate, because that afternoon, Daniel Justin, the Diocesan Director of Liturgical Music and Organ advisor was to give an inaugural recital on our newly-restored Schumacher pipe organ. Refreshments followed, and, thanks to the sun, were taken outdoors. People's enjoyment was by no means marred by views of the scaffolding on the north side of the Chapel, there to aid the roofers!

Daniel played a judicious selection of old music (Nicolaus Bruhns and Dietrich Buxtehude) and modern (his own, newly written Variations on the hymn tune 'Lady of Walsingham) and pieces in between. His selection displayed the versatility and strengths of this fine instrument, and his own virtuosity!

Fr Clive Birch SM, the Shrine Director when the Chapel of Our Lady of Reconciliation was built, had commissioned Schumachers, a Belgian firm, to build the organ, which was inaugurated in 1982. The years took their toll on the two manual pipe organ, and so the time was ripe to get necessary repairs and improvements done. It was fitting to have the instrument restored in time for its Ruby Jubilee.

The newly-restored organ now happily sounds in the Chapel accompanying Paschal music, glorifying God and edifying the worshippers and listeners. We're indebted to donors large and small for the necessary funding. Happy Easter!

Mgr Philip Moger



**Momentous Reunion at Our Lady's Shrine in
Walsingham to celebrate 40 years of Priesthood.**



Many, many congratulations to you all. Thanking God for your faithfulness and the grace of priesthood. *Ad multos annos*. Our Lady of Walsingham pray.

Our Rector, Mgr. Philip Moger, together with some of his Ushaw College Seminary Group, came together in Walsingham to celebrate Holy Mass. A time of thanksgiving amidst joyous brotherly relaxation in Walsingham. Among the group are two Bishops, Bp Paul Swarbrick (Lancaster), Bp Thomas Neylon (Auxiliary in Liverpool), along with Fr John Cullen (Liverpool), Fr Paul Cannon (Salford), Fr. Bernard Wilson (Salford), Fr John McGowan ODC, Canon David Grant (Middlesbrough), and Mgr Philip Moger (Leeds). Not all the year were present but were fondly remembered.

Chapel of Our Lady of Reconciliation Roof Restoration Appeal

After 40 years of service, the weather-beaten tiles on the north-facing side of the Chapel roof have deteriorated and, with a helping hand from Storm Eunice, are disintegrating and sliding to the ground. Approximately 8500 tiles, along with the felt and wooden batons, are being replaced throughout April and May,

and an ingenious copper strip system put in place to keep the moss at bay. The roofers, AT Cornfield, are doing a sterling and sympathetic job!

While some funding has been pledged for the restoration, we have a shortfall to cover. If you would like to donate to this project, please link to our [donations page](#).



[Make a Donation](#)

From the Archives: Ukrainian Pilgrimage to Walsingham, 1971



*Our Archivist Tim McDonald, recently found this beautiful photograph of a great **Ukrainian Pilgrimage to Walsingham which took place on September 12th 1971**. The photograph is taken outside the old Catholic Parish Church of the Annunciation in Friday Market Place. We wonder if you recognise anyone?*

This photo is yet another reminder to us to increase our prayers, our solidarity and charity for suffering Ukraine and her peoples. O Lord Have Mercy.

**A prayer from Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski,
Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy, UK**

God of peace, your prophet Isaiah promised swords would be turned into ploughshares, and your Son's mother, Mary, proclaimed the mighty would be put down and the humble exalted: visit the people of Ukraine; deliver them from fear, violence, attack, injury, destruction, death; and give them courage, solidarity and allies in their hour of vulnerability and sorrow. Turn the hearts of those bent on war and invasion. Strengthen the hand of all seeking to halt conflict, restore order, and pursue justice. And make this moment of peril an occasion for your Holy Spirit to show your world the cost of conflict and our dependence on one another. In Christ our Lord, who went to his death because of our hatred, and rose again because our hatred is never stronger than your indomitable love. Amen.

From the Shrine

Meet our staff: Janice Wells - Office Assistant

I have worked at the Bureau for about eighteen years now and have enjoyed every minute. My job is to make sure your time with us is safe enjoyable and spiritually rewarding.

When you arrive, I will greet you and book you in, ensuring you settle in nicely. If you require a pillow or a blanket or just a friendly chat, I'll be around or on the end of the phone.

If you lock yourself out of your room, I will be there to let you in. If you have any problems I will help as best, I can.

I've been trained in first aid so if you are poorly, I can call you a doctor, or just reassure you, if that's all you need.

Sometimes a friendly face is all you need to make you feel better.



Thank you!

We would like to thank you all for your generous support over the last few months! If you would like to [contribute to the running of the Shrine](#), we would greatly appreciate your help!

If you are unable to visit the Shrine in person, there are a number of things you can do to participate online:



Light a candle



Request a Mass



Visit our Shop



Watch live!



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2022 SPECIALS

**SPECIAL RATES AVAILABLE
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Contact us for further details

From our Shop

See our range of beautiful statues of Our Lady of Walsingham, cast in resin, and hand-painted brown to give it a wood effect. Made in Italy, it comes in various sizes.



Events

Mass to Celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM the Queen

*12:00, 6th June 2022
at the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady,
Houghton-St-Giles*

All are welcome

King's Lynn - 125th Anniversary Year for the Pontifical Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham 1897 - 1934

The Holy House in the Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation.

The Pontifical Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham 1897 - 1934



Dates for your Diary in celebration and commemoration

3rd – 10th June: Flower Festival in Our Lady's Church and Shrine

Friday 10th June: 125th Anniversary of the Opening of the Church in 1897.
12:00 Solemn Mass and Consecration of the Altar by the Bishop.

Sunday 12th June: 11.30am Sung Mass. The choir of St. Austin's, Wakefield, on tour in Norfolk will sing plainchant and polyphony.

Sunday 10th July: Garden Party with King's Lynn Town Band

Sunday 14th August: Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady. 3pm: the Red Mount Procession. Our Lady's Statue from the Shrine is taken in procession to the Red Mount Chapel and then returned to the church for Benediction of the

Blessed Sacrament and Tea.

Friday 19th August: 125th Anniversary of the Restoration of the Shrine in 1897. 7pm Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving. The preacher will be Monsignor John Armitage. Master of the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom.

Saturday 20th August: 125th Anniversary of the first pilgrimage to Walsingham in modern times. On 20th August 1897 a group of pilgrims (including Charlotte Boyd) went by train from King's Lynn to Walsingham and walked the Holy Mile to the Slipper Chapel for devotions. The 12 noon Mass at the Chapel of Reconciliation will commemorate this first pilgrimage which will be preceded by a procession from the old railway station (now St. Seraphim's).

Wednesday 2nd November: 12 noon Requiem for all the dead of the parish. This Mass will include the dedication of a plaque recording the names of all those buried in St. Mary's Burial Ground around the church.

Wednesday 14th December: Anniversary of the death of Fr. George Wrigglesworth 1900. After the 12 noon Mass a visit will be made to the grave of Fr. Wrigglesworth in Hardwick Road Cemetery.

Would you like to learn more about England's treasured title as the Dowry of Mary?

Edmund Matyjasek is offering the opportunity of Talks and Presentations to Parishes on England as the dowry of Mary, in and around the Home Counties and beyond.

The rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary took place in 2020 in the most unusual circumstances. For two years, a national pilgrimage of the Shrine statue of Our Lady from Walsingham toured English Cathedrals. The tour was to culminate at Westminster Cathedral in March 2020, to coincide with the

national re-dedication. Then Covid struck!

Miraculously, the rededication was able to go ahead online, on the appointed day of March 29th. Over half a million people logged on to participate, showing the extent of engagement throughout the country.

There is now the opportunity to complete the final act of this pilgrimage with the Shrine Statue visiting Westminster Cathedral on October 28th-29th 2022.

To help prepare for this unique opportunity to renew the Dedication of our country to Our Lady as her Dowry, Edmund Matyjaszek author of both *England: The Dowry of Mary, Meaning & Mission* & *The Rosary: England's Prayer* (St Paul's Publishing) is available to give talks and presentations to parishes, groups and schools on the Dowry, its history, importance and meaning for our time.

Edmund gave talks in 2019 to the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom and the Catholic Women's League on the Dowry that were collected and published in 2020.

ENGLAND: THE DOWRY OF MARY

MEANING & MISSION

Booklets

A4 £5.00

A5 £3.50

available from:

St Pauls Bookshop,
Westminster

or direct from:

Edmund Matyjaszek
ems@emsbase.co.uk
07860756127

*"...incredible. ...No one has
ever put into words the
meaning of England as
Mary's Dowry as you have."*

Antonia Moffat
Walsingham Shrine



In light of the rededication of England as Mary's Dowry on 29th March 2020, the Isle of Wight Catholic History Society sponsored publication of a sumptuously illustrated 24-page A4 booklet by Edmund Matyjaszek, author of "The Rosary: England's Prayer" (St Pauls Publishing), who writes:

"This ancient title was first publicly proclaimed by King Richard II in 1381. In the months preceding the 2020 re-dedication, the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham toured all English Cathedrals, accompanied by an exhibition, talks and services. During this time, I was invited to give a talk to the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom, and later, in place of Mgr John Armitage, then Rector of the Shrine, to the Catholic Women's League at their AGM. This booklet is a record of these talks and is both a historical survey of the Dowry and a personal journey of how I came to understand its meaning and mission."

With the forthcoming visit of the Shrine Statue to Westminster Cathedral in October 2022, postponed from March 2020 due to Covid, Edmund is available to give talks to groups and parishes from May 2022 to prepare for the Statue's visit.

Date:

Time:

Place:

Rosary Mission May 2022

Rosary Anchor with Our Lady Help of Christians

ROSARY ON THE COAST & HEAVEN'S PEACE PLAN

In these worrying times for world peace we encourage you to join in our Rosary on the Coast initiatives.

We invite you to come and pray for peace in the Ukraine, whose free existence as a nation is under attack, and to pray for the world as global tensions are rising

Perhaps we can best understand Our Lady's messages to the visionaries of Fatima as 'Heaven's Peace Plan' for the world: for nations, for the Church and our families.

It is a humble and simple plea to pray the Rosary daily for peace and to practice monthly the First Saturdays of Reparation, and we want to commend it to you in the year ahead.

Let us be boldly confident in our intercession! We are united in prayer for peace and for the conversion of peoples.

Bishop David Oakley,
DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON, ENGLAND

Bishop John Keenan
DIOCESE OF PAISLEY, SCOTLAND



We encourage you to pray a daily rosary for the peace of nations and the salvation of souls and to practice the devotion of the First Saturdays of Reparation. We encourage to pray, to the start of First Saturday devotions in your own parishes and perhaps to ask for permission for the rosary to be prayed communally, either before or after weekday Masses. We are encouraging people to 'bloom' where they are planted! National events are important but the daily witness in our own parishes is of paramount importance. Our priests and bishops need our daily prayer, our Church needs this witness of the faithful praying publicly the rosary.

Our world needs the rosary to be prayed daily for peace as Our Blessed Lady has incessantly asked! The practice of the First Saturdays of Reparation are integral to the Peace Plan of Heaven - for the peace of nations and for the salvation of souls. Our Churches are mainly empty during the week and we need them to become places of prayer with people interceding day and night - for the times we are entering into are going to be difficult, difficult - wars, moral decline and persecution of Christians are increasing everywhere!

Bishop John and Bishop David have encouraged you - let us now all commit to greater and more serious intercessory prayer through the daily rosary and the practice of the First Saturdays at both parish and diocesan level. Ave Maria!

[Read more](#)

Michael Robbins (1930-1992)

A little piece of heaven - Pilgrimage to Walsingham

Here is a remarkable [interview](#) and witness of faith with Michael Robbins, entitled '**Little Piece of Heaven - Pilgrimage to Walsingham**'. The interview was hosted on location in Walsingham by Rev. Richard Collier for Anglia TV. So interesting and from the heart of a man who treasured his Catholic Faith. His understanding of Walsingham is remarkable; such love for Our Lady of Walsingham.

*Michael Anthony Robbins (14 November 1930 – 11 December 1992) was an English actor and comedian best known for his role as **Arthur Rudge** in the TV sitcom and film versions of *On the Buses* (1969–72).*

Walsingham Restored

A Poem by Peter Clarke

Along the Norfolk lanes the pilgrims trod
To visit the Shrine of the Mother of God
The rich, the poor, the sick and the lame
To England's Nazareth on foot they came
Flowers for Mary the children bring
They came to Walsingham to pray and sing.

Kings and princes, the great and the lowly
To Mary's shrine, hallowed and holy.
Across this pleasant land so green
They came to pray to the Virgin Queen.
Hymns were sung, prayers and petition
To ask for Mary's intercession.
Then Cromwell's men to Norfolk came
The wreckers to their eternal shame
And on that fateful August day Mary's image was taken away.
No more celebrations of her feast.
The statue gone, the pilgrims ceased.
The holy Priory razed to the ground.
Mary's image was no longer found.
Yet with the Slipper Chapel Charlotte bought
The return of the pilgrims she clearly sought
For return they did and in a while
Again they walked the holy mile
For now the Church of the Annunciation
Thence the Chapel of Reconciliation
Both individuals and those in procession
Find in Our Lady their consolation.
With Mary's shrine now fully restored
With her we grow in the love of Our Lord
And proudly proclaiming our faith, hope and love
We worship Him in heaven above.

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