

March 2023 E News of the Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady

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

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To: parishpriest@sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk <parishpriest@sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk>

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

Newsletter - March 2023



The Rector's Reflection

St Maximilian Mary Kolbe once said, “Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much - you can never love Her more than Jesus did. Our love for Our Lady will always lead to a deeper love for Our Blessed Lord. So, let us be bold and generous in our love for Our Lady. In Her humility, She points the way to Her Son, so remember that our love for Her can never be too much – only too little.”

Our Lady is the gateway to the Heart of Christ. She was the first tabernacle, safely carrying the Word Incarnate within Her womb. Therefore, She is the means in which we return to Jesus. Think of all the perils we encounter on a regular basis and compound them with the spiritual sufferings which assail each one of us. Could we possibly overcome them all? Of course, we rely upon

God's grace to resist temptation. But we have at our assistance the most beautiful Mother of God, who can swiftly and assuredly resolve our troubles by pleading to God on our behalf.

During this Lenten season, beseech Our Blessed Lady's intercession often and you will draw nearer to Heaven. When we come to Mary's Immaculate and Sorrowful Heart, we come to love Her Son even more than we did before. Once we develop and deepen our devotion to Her, we cannot even fathom our interior life without Her presence within our souls, without Her guidance and Her Motherly gentle mercy. What a joy to remember that She is our Mother, She loves us and knows our weaknesses, we have nothing to fear under Her mantle.

As our Mother, She is intuitive and able to discern the nuances of our hearts and souls that others may overlook. Mary our Mother is able to do this concerning our sins, weaknesses and failings. She is capable of reaching into our hearts, to those most vulnerable places in order to bring healing. She meets us where we are, with the kindness of a mother. Within Her heart, we shall find rest and refreshment.

I entrust all of you to the Immaculate Heart of our Most Blessed Mother, as we journey through Lent. Know that you are always in our prayers and hearts.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, we consecrate ourselves to You.

Father James Mary

News

Appointment of Acting Rector of the Catholic National Shrine



Bishop Peter Collins, Bishop Alan Hopes and the Trustees of the Catholic National Shrine at Walsingham, are delighted to announce the appointment of Friar James Mary as Acting Rector of the Catholic National Shrine.

We congratulate him on his appointment and offer our prayers of encouragement and support for his ministry here in Walsingham.

Bishop Peter said:

On behalf of the Diocese of East Anglia I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to Friar James Mary for his agreement to serve as Rector of the National Shrine and Basilica until a permanent successor to Bishop Philip Moger is appointed in the summer.

I am most grateful to Bishop Alan Hopes for his willingness to continue serving as Chair of the Walsingham Trust until a new Rector is appointed.

We entrust the great mission of the Shrine to God's protecting grace through the intercession of Our Lady of Walsingham. I call upon all faithful pilgrims to join me in offering the Acting Rector the assurance of our sustained prayer and support.

*Yours in Christ,
+ Peter Collins
Bishop of East Anglia*

Friar James Mary responded:

I am most grateful for all your prayers and support for this time I have been asked to be Acting Rector of the Catholic National Shrine at Walsingham. Ever trusting in Our Lady's Guidance and maternal protection.

[Read more](#)

Sharing the Church's Story

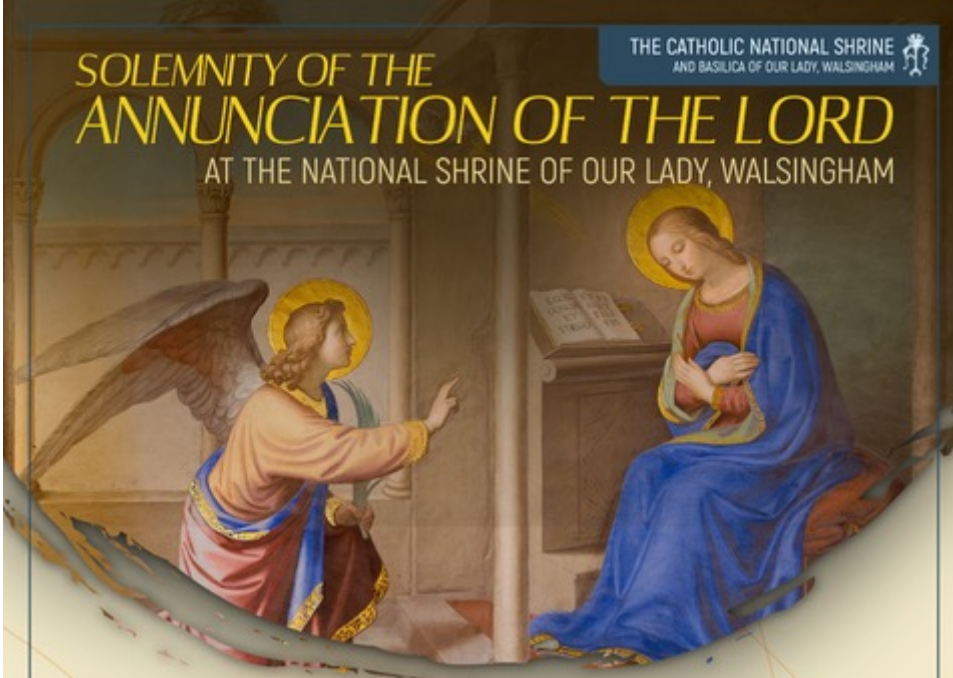


It was a joy for a team from the Basilica & National Shrine supported by volunteers and a Walsingham Association trustee to be present at the Sharing the Church's Story conference in February. Hosted jointly by Catholic Voices and the Word on Fire Ministries from the USA, the event was held at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre next to Westminster Abbey and attracted some 1300 Catholics from across the country and beyond.

Look out for a further bulletin which will follow in due course ...

Events

We look forward to welcoming you to Our Lady's Shrine for our Patronal Feast



THE CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE
AND BASILICA OF OUR LADY, WALSINGHAM

**SOLEMNITY OF THE
ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**
AT THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY, WALSINGHAM

9.30am – *Holy Mass*
11.00am – *Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary*
12.00pm – *Solemn Holy Mass, celebrated by Bp Peter Collins*
2.00pm – *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
3.00pm – *Divine Mercy Chaplet*
3.15pm – *Solemn Vespers ending with procession
to the Slipper Chapel*

www.walsingham.org.uk

Pray the Annunciation Novena

Easter

Easter Triduum 2023

AT THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY, WALSINGHAM

HOLY THURSDAY - 6TH APRIL

11.00 - Rosary
19.00 - Mass of the Lord's Supper

GOOD FRIDAY - 7TH APRIL

10.00 - Office of Tenebrae
11.30 - Stations of the Cross
15.00 - Solemn Liturgy of the Passion

HOLY SATURDAY - 8TH APRIL

10.00 - Office of Tenebrae
12 noon - Rosary of the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady
20.30 - The Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter

EASTER SUNDAY - 9TH APRIL

09.30 - Holy Mass
11.00 - Rosary
11.00 - 11.45 Confessions
12.00 - Angelus and Holy Mass
14.00 - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
15.00 - Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet
15.15 - Solemn Vespers & Benediction



**An Easter Sunday Roast Lunch
at Elmham House in Walsingham!
Please pre book by April 3rd.**

Bookings can be made any time from
12pm up until 3.00pm.

Book in person at the Pilgrim Bureau

Call and book - 01328 820 217

Email: reservations@walsingham.org.uk

**EASTER
ROAST LUNCH**

Elmham House
Friday Market Place, Walsingham, NR22 6EG

SERVED BETWEEN 12PM AND 3PM

Celebrate Easter Sunday With Us

2 COURSE LUNCH £20
3 COURSE LUNCH £25

(Half Price for children aged 5 to 16, children 4 and under free)

BOOKING AND PRE-ORDER BY MONDAY 3RD APRIL
Please call on 01328 820 217
or email reservations@walsingham.org.uk

**Come and celebrate the sacred Triduum & Easter in
Walsingham!**



TRIDUUM RETREAT - WALSINGHAM
5TH - 9TH APRIL

Places are still available on our Triduum Retreat. The retreat runs from Wednesday to Sunday.

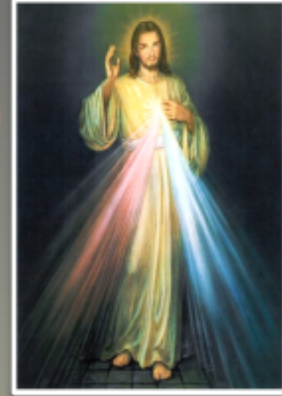
If you can't manage a Wednesday arrival, there is also the option of joining us on the Thursday.

We would be delighted to welcome you to Walsingham at this most special time of year!

[Find out more](#)



16th April 2023
Pilgrimage to Walsingham
*England's National Shrine
of Our Lady*



Feast of Divine Mercy

Programme

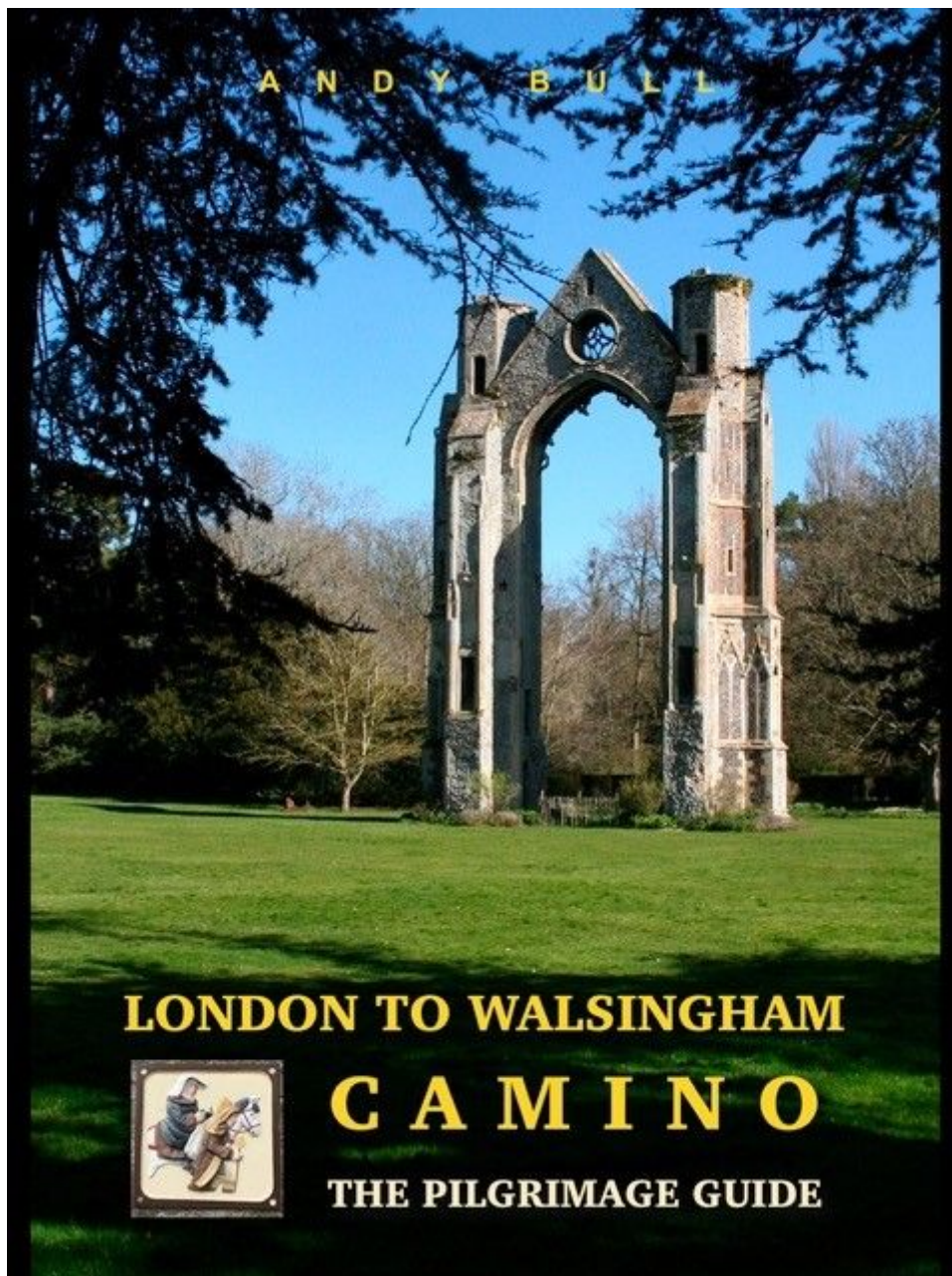
- 9.50 am Gathering by the Abbey Grounds in Walsingham High Street for the Divine Mercy Chaplet and silent procession along the Holy Mile to the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham.
- 11.00 am Confessions available.
- 12.00 pm Holy Mass of the Feast of Divine Mercy with solemn blessing and enthronement of the Image of Divine Mercy at the beginning of Mass.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION AVAILABLE 2.00PM – 4.00 PM

- 2.00 pm Rosary and veneration of the Divine Mercy image
- 2.30 pm 'To be an Apostle of Divine Mercy' - Talk by Sr Gabriela COLW
- 2.55 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- 3.00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by scripture meditation and silent prayer
- 4.10 pm Litany to Divine Mercy
- 4.20 pm Benediction followed by Regina Caeli



Full London to Walsingham Camino Walk



Andy Bull is to lead the full London to Walsingham Camino Walk - April 11th 2023 to April 25th 2023 - based on his recently published book.

A small group of 6 will endeavour to complete the 180 mile trek with a further 6 miles to Wells-next-the-Sea on the morning of departure for home!

Antonia Moffat, our Outreach Coordinator will be one of the walkers.

Please keep them all in your prayers, as they will you, as they pilgrimage walk to Walsingham.

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!

From our Shop

NEW! A short sleeve black t-shirt with an image of Our Lady of Walsingham.
The image is a copy of a beautiful hand painted original. 100% cotton.



From our Archives

**Today March 16th is the 39th anniversary of the death
of Monsignor Bruno Scott James - first priest
custodian of the Slipper Chapel**

(Born 1906 and died March 16th 1984.)



When Mgr. Bruno Scott James died in 1984, his great friend, Bishop Gordon Wheeler of Leeds, spoke of him in the fondest of tributes: ***"Enveloped in a black cloak, his head shorn, and with a Siamese cat perched on his shoulder, sitting on the steps of the Slipper Chapel and pouring out patristic wisdom was an inspiration to many. He had a great gift of prayer himself and was able to communicate this to others."***

Rest in peace dear Mgr. Bruno Scott James and may your dream of Walsingham becoming a power-house of prayer become an even greater

reality.

Fr. Bruno Scott James (a convert) was appointed as the first resident parish priest of Walsingham and Custodian of the Slipper Chapel in 1935. He was appointed by Bishop Youens of Northampton with a mandate to establish a Shrine at the Slipper Chapel. Walsingham was designated as an episcopal parish. At the time the Shrine had no pilgrims and the only two parishioners in Walsingham were Mr. Arthur Bond and Mr. Claude Fisher, both converts.

Fr. Bruno took up this appointment immediately following his ordination in Rome. The Abbot of Downside at the time described him as an '**independent-minded, freelance priest**'. This served him well for the difficult task in Walsingham to which God had called him!

It was actually in the Slipper Chapel that the young Bruno Scott James had received the call to become a catholic. He said ..."**One day, driven to the verge of desperation by the awful choice that seemed to lie ahead of me, I walked out to the Slipper Chapel and, having obtained the key from the custodian, threw myself on my knees and implored God to give me the grace to follow his will whatever the cost might be and wherever it might lead me. I then vowed, hardly realising what I said, that if Our Lady would obtain from her Son this grace for me I would devote my life to her service at Walsingham.**"

Fr. Bruno was in Walsingham only a short time from 1935 to 1943 of around 7 years. This were years of great growth and flourishing. The wasteland of Walsingham which Fr. Bruno found himself in, was heightened by the lack of pilgrims. The great Pilgrimage of Return of 1934 led by Francis Cardinal Bourne seemed to have been a one off! The slow road to the re-establishment of regular pilgrimage was left in the hands of Claude Fisher who was appointed as the first Pilgrimage Secretary. Fr. Bruno meanwhile worked on a wider pastoral and apostolic work of preaching. He began by preaching each day from the steps of the Slipper Chapel to whoever might be passing by! Preached Retreats followed and soon the roads around were full to overflowing. Fr. Bruno prepared shepherd's huts, so that those who wanted to come on Retreat might have somewhere basic to stay over.

It was Fr. Bruno's dream that Walsingham should become a place of pilgrimage but most of all a power-house of prayer.

Fr. Bruno Scott James left Walsingham in 1943 due to ill health, and spent three months at Downside Abbey, before being appointed to Rome by Pope Paul IV to the Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere with the title Monsignor, and then to Naples where he founded a hall of residents for students at the

University of Naples - John Henry Newman College. Fr. Bruno was a prolific writer on St. Bernard of Clairvaux, and wrote many books on the spiritual life.

Failing health in his later years compelled Mgr. Bruno to return to England. He died on March 16th 1984, aged 77 years, among friends in Brighton. He is buried at his beloved Downside Abbey.

Seventy-Five years since the Cross Carrying Pilgrimage



Tim McDonald

This year 2023, is the 75th Anniversary of the 1948 “Cross Carrying Pilgrimage of Prayer and Penance for Peace”, when the 14 Wooden Crosses that form the Stations of the Cross in the Slipper Chapel grounds were brought to Walsingham from various towns throughout England and Wales.

400 men took part and were allotted to various towns or cities around the country that had been chosen as starting points for the pilgrimage. All the groups gathered at their starting point on the evening of the 2nd of July and arrived in Walsingham on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel the 16th of July. Fourteen days walking, allowing the meditation of each station to be undertaken during a whole day’s walk.

Each group was made up of men only, *it was 1948 after all*, many of whom were ex-servicemen, teachers, seminarians, priests and religious, builders and

unemployed. Some young women did however unofficially take part!

At a recent dinner at the Anglican Shrine celebrating the founding of the "Walsingham Camino", I was approached by a gentleman (M. Munt) who had purchased an item from eBay that he thought should belong to the Basilica and National Shrine Archive.

It was a collection of 10 postcards and one lettercard that had been sent by Christopher Moore, a walker with the Westminster Cross Carrying Group, one, each evening, to his family in Hendon, London NW4.

This generous gift is a tremendous record of the joys and hardships encountered by the pilgrims as they walked the rather strange route planned for the Westminster Cross. To stretch the walk over the 14 Days, having left East London, the walkers followed a mainly coastal path, with evening stops at: Ilford, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Kelvedon, Stoke-by-Nayland, Ipswich, Parham, Southwold, Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth, North Walsham and Cromer, having come from the South eventually entering the Holy Land of Walsingham from the North.

Some of Christopher's observations are worthy of inclusion here.

From Card 1: I shall try to let you have a line from each night's stopping place. It is almost more like an outing than a pilgrimage, we have been treated so well...

From Card 2: A terrific day today, rain all day and wet through on arrival"... blisters are doing nicely.

From Card 3: ...An easy day today, only 12 miles and schoolgirls (Ursuline) from Brentwood came all the way keen to carry the cross and then to take our packs...if I could cut off my two little toes it would be more comfortable.

From Card 4: Shoulders a bit sore and feet somewhat painful at times but many are worse than I am...

From Card 5: A terrific day today, the heaviest so far as feet are proving a problem... do not worry, Our Lady of Walsingham has us all well in hand.

From Card 6: We received such a welcome here that your evening card went unwritten...

From Card 7: Rain again on and off all day...Some of the most enthusiastic girls from Romford have come all the way...three of them played truant from school...Our toast at the pub 'the skin of your feet!

From Card 8: Another 20 miles gone in a very bleak and sparsely populated country... Our thanks for the chocolate.

From Card 9: ...Feet better but 28 miles tomorrow may mean another story, muscles beginning to complain mildly...

From card 10: The 28 miles nearly did me, but after a visit to a doctor my toes have a new lease of life...I am determined to finish.

From Card 11: ...no more till Walsingham, God bless and love to all, Christopher.

Christopher's parents seem to have come to Walsingham for the end of the pilgrimage. In the Shrine archive we have a short memoir from one of the 'girls' from Romford. We intend to exhibit the postcards and the memoir in the Anniversary Exhibition.

[Read more](#)

Support Our Lady's Shrine



We need your **help**

It costs £3,000 per day to run the Shrine. Please support our stewardship of this special place by making a donation.

It's easy to **help**

walsingham.org.uk/help

Text **Mary** To **70470**

Phone **01328 801 048**

For further information and other ways you can support the Shrine visit:

www.walsingham.org.uk/donate

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