

*St Henry Walpole, S.J., Burnham Market*

*Our Lady Star of the Sea, Wells-next-the-Sea*

*Our Lady of the Annunciation, Walsingham*

*St Peter, Blakeney*

No. 1 July 2022

*That they may all be one.*

(John 17:21)

Hello everyone, Maria here. Following on from the Synodality discussions I have been asked to produce a newsletter. That's fine but you really don't want to hear from just me! I think that there are a lot of people out there who would love to contribute to an ongoing Newsletter. You can send anything to me at this e-mail address: [maria.spink@outlook.com](mailto:maria.spink@outlook.com) and I will fit it into the next Newsletter. If you would rather ring me and tell me of events that you would like to add, I am happy for you to ring me on 07787 570093. Suggestions are that you write something that the rest of the Parish may not be aware of. An event, how people are coming together, news of children, the elderly, you name it and we will be very interested.

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June a number of people from the Parish travelled to Hull for the Requiem Mass for Father Michael Simison at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Peter Chanel. Father Noel Wynn sm gave a very moving eulogy for Father Michael recalling many events from their friendship of many years. Many of you will have fond memories of Father Michael and I am sure that you will remember him in your prayers.



On the Evening of Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June there was a large gathering at St. Peter's Blakeney for Prayers in the Garden. On what was a beautiful evening, everyone came together to enjoy prayers, food and wine. If you have never been to any of the Prayers in the Garden you have missed a great opportunity to come together with people for a wonderful evening.



On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June we came together again at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Wells to say farewell to Father Kolio. Despite a short shower of rain, the evening was not dampened. Father Kolio presided over the Barbecue and produced some wonderful food along with the offering brought by the many people that attended there was more than enough to go around. Father Keith gave a short speech underlining the fact that Fr. Kolio has been a huge asset to the Parish and he made a cash presentation to Fr. Kolio from the whole parish. Fr. Kolio expressed his thanks and said that although he had not expected to be here in the UK for so

long, he had enjoyed his time here. He was however keen to return to Tonga to see his family again. We wish him well in his travels and also hope to hear from him again in the future.

### **Dates for your diary**

Fr Desmond Hanrahan will be joining us in August. We are planning a welcome party at the parish room in Wells on Thursday, August 11th from 6.00 pm. All welcome. Fr. Keith is doing a BBQ but contributions of extras either liquid or other would be welcome.

Creake Abbey Mass Saturday 14th August at 3pm. Bring a picnic and be prepared to enjoy yourselves.

Parish Meetings will be after weekday Mass except for Walsingham which will be at 6pm.

Blakeney Wednesday September 2st  
Burnham Market Friday September 23rd  
Walsingham Tuesday September 27th  
Wells Thursday September 29<sup>th</sup>

The meetings are to discuss care for the church building and other issues of concern to the local community.

### **The people of our parish**

Father Keith

I was born in Kingston Upon Hull on the 13th February 1949. My family was an ordinary Catholic family, Dad was a barber and Mum was a nurse but from memory stayed mainly at home looking after my elder brother and myself.

I went to St. Wilfrid's RC School. I was then educated by the Marist Fathers at the Catholic Boys School, the Marist College. I completed my "A" levels and then went to the Seminary in Milltown, Dublin as a novice. When I finished there, I went to the Marist seminary in Paignton, Devon but this was for only three years as the College then closed.

From there it was to Heythrop College, University of London. where I studied for a degree in Theology, this was from 1971-1974. I was ordained in 1973 whilst studying for my degree. It was then decided that I should return to university to study for another degree, this time Sheffield where I studied Politics and Philosophy. I graduated from Sheffield in 1977.

Whilst I was a student, I did some work in the chaplaincy then went to Blackburn in the early 1980s to teach Geography, Economics and of course RE. This was in a Direct Grant Grammar School. The school then became a 6th Form College so I had to go and study for a PGCE at Edgefield College. I then taught sociology to the 6th Formers. From there I went to Middlesbrough in 1985 as Diocesan Youth Officer.

1989 saw my move to Japan. I taught English as a Foreign Language and became a Parish Priest. I spent two years learning the language and was in the Nara Province with a group of Marists responsible for a group of Churches which had been founded by our missionaries. We looked after all the churches, kindergartens and old people's homes in Nara prefecture. As the community aged, this gradually became less sustainable so in 2013, I moved back to the UK and became Parish Priest in Walsingham and, as they say, the rest is History.

