



# Coloma Catholic Life.



## National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

The Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham was established in 1061 when, according to the text of the Pynson Ballad (c 1485), Richeldis de Faverches prayed that she might undertake some special work in honour of Our Lady. In answer to her prayer, the Virgin Mary led her in spirit to Nazareth, showed her the house where the Annunciation occurred, and asked her to build a replica in Walsingham to serve as a perpetual memorial of the Annunciation. This Holy House was built and a religious community took charge of the foundation. Although there is very little historical material from this period, it is known that, with papal approval the Augustinian Canons built a Priory (c 1150). Walsingham became one of the greatest Shrines in Medieval Christendom.

### AFTER THE REFORMATION



In 1538, the Reformation caused the Priory property to be handed over to the King's Commissioners and the famous statue of Our Lady of Walsingham was taken to London and burnt. Nothing remains today of the original shrine, but its site is marked on the lawn in "The Abbey Grounds" in the village. After the destruction of the Shrine, Walsingham ceased to be a place of pilgrimage. Devotion

was necessarily in secret until after Catholic Emancipation (1829) when public expressions of faith were allowed.

### THE CHAPEL IS RESTORED

In 1896 Charlotte Pearson Boyd purchased the 14th century Slipper Chapel, the last of the wayside chapels en-route to Walsingham, and restored it for Catholic use. In 1897 by rescript of Pope Leo XIII, the sanctuary of Our Lady of Walsingham was restored with the building of a Holy House as the Lady Chapel of the Catholic Church of the Annunciation, King's Lynn. The Guild of Our Lady of

## Pope Francis

Prayer Intention for September:

**Respect for the Planet's resources.**

'We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered but shared in a just and respectful manner.'

Video:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-08/pope-francis-video-prayer-intention-september-respect-planet.html>

**Tweet:** "Those who reason using human logic, that is, the logic of the merits acquired through one's own greatness, from being first, find themselves last. Instead, those who humbly entrust themselves to the Father's mercy, from being last, find themselves first."

## Liturgical Year

Week: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Colour: Green



Ransom, brought the first public pilgrimage to Walsingham on 20th August 1897. Visits to the Slipper Chapel became more frequent, and as the years passed devotion and the number of pilgrimages increased.

On 19th August 1934, Cardinal Bourne and Bishop Lawrence Youens led the Bishops of England and Wales, together with 10,000 pilgrims to the Slipper Chapel. At this pilgrimage, the Slipper Chapel was declared to be the National Shrine of Our Lady for Roman Catholics in England.

### **DURING THE WAR YEARS**

Walsingham was a restricted zone and closed to visitors, but many service men and women showed interest in the Shrine. On May 17th 1945, the American Forces organised the first Mass in the Priory grounds since the Reformation.

### **THE FIRST STUDENT CROSS PILGRIMAGE**

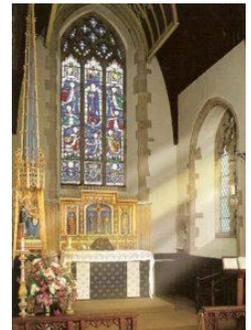
This and the great Cross Carrying Pilgrimage for Peace, Penance and Prayer in 1948 began traditions that continue today. Eleven different groups, known as Legs, walk from different parts of the country across Norfolk to Walsingham. Kind-hearted parishes provide food and accommodation along the way. Each Leg carries a large wooden cross as a witness to the people they pass. The climax of the week is in Walsingham; this is where all the Legs meet up to celebrate the Easter liturgies together over the Easter weekend, including a vibrant Paschal Party after the Easter vigil on Saturday evening. Each year Student Cross still walk to the Shrine during Holy Week.



### **THE SLIPPER CHAPEL (The Shrine)**

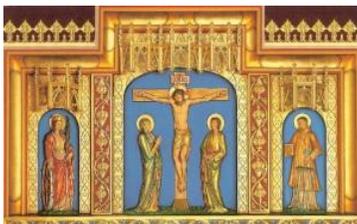
Built in the mid-14th century, and dedicated to Saint Catherine of Alexandria, this chapel served pilgrims on their way to England's Nazareth. Saint Catherine was the patron saint of pilgrims to the Holy Land and her knights kept open the road to Nazareth during the Crusades.

Her tomb lies in the Monastery on Mount Sinai, within the Basilica of the Annunciation. Just as on Mount Sinai, Moses took off his shoes because he was on holy ground, so the pilgrims to England's Holy Land used to remove their shoes and walk the Holy Mile into Walsingham.



After the Reformation, the Chapel was used as a poor house, a forge, a cow shed and a barn. The first Mass since the Reformation was celebrated in August 1934 and on 8th September 1938 the Shrine was re-consecrated by Bishop Youens of Northampton.

As well as the Statue of Our Lady, several images of Mary decorate the Slipper Chapel. Over the altar is the east window, the work of Geoffrey Webb in 1953 to commemorate the definition of the Dogma of the Assumption of 1950. The centenary window of the Annunciation is over the doors at the west end.



### **THE REREDOS**

As well as the Statue of Our Lady, several images of Mary decorate the Slipper Chapel. Over the altar is the east window, the work of Geoffrey Webb in 1953 to commemorate the definition of the Dogma of the Assumption of 1950. The centenary window of the Annunciation is over the doors at the west end. Over

the West door of the Chapel below the image of the Holy Trinity, are the statues of Mary and the Archangel Gabriel, (given by Chorley K.S.C in 1958), recalling the words of the 15th century Pynson ballad of Walsingham:

“Where shall be had in a memorial the great joy of my Salutation”

### THE CLOISTER GARDEN

In the Cloister Garden is the Holy Water fountain, with its centrepiece, the baptismal font from the disused church of Forncett St. Mary, near Norwich. The four panels, depicting events in scripture in which water is given a special prominence are:



Moses and the Red Sea with the Hebrew text from Exodus 15:19 “The Israelites went on dry ground right through the sea”

The Good Shepherd with the Latin text from Psalm 22 “He led me beside restful waters”

The Baptism of Jesus with the Greek text Luke 3:22 “This is my beloved son”

The woman at the well with the English text John 4:14 – “I will give you living water”

The Easter ceremony of the Blessing of the Font is celebrated here and occasionally, the Sacrament of Baptism. The Font is much used by pilgrims to fill their bottles with Holy Water to take away with them.

### THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

On the Feast of the Holy Family, 2015, during Pontifical Mass in the Chapel of Our Lady of Reconciliation at the Shrine, Bishop Alan Hopes read out a document from the Vatican, stating that Pope Francis was pleased to confer the title of Minor Basilica on the Shrine. There are only three sites with that title in England, the other two being St Chad’s Cathedral in Birmingham and Downside Abbey Church.

### PILGRIMAGES TODAY

The Shrine now attracts some 150,000 pilgrims during the pilgrimage season with about 35 Major Pilgrimages from Catholic, Diocesan or Ethnic groups and Catholic Societies or Associations as well as many Parish and Overseas groups. At present the largest Pilgrimages are those of the Tamil community who come each May (c.6,000) and again in July with about 15,000 pilgrims, some being Christian and some Hindu in faith. The Syro-Malabar community bring about 5,000 pilgrims on their National Pilgrimage in July.

### Religious Festivals this Week



#### Autumn equinox

Day and night stand hand in hand as equals. As the shadows lengthen, Pagans see the darker faces of the God and Goddess. For many Pagans, this rite honours old age and the approach of Winter.

## Saints of the Week

### St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist 21st September



Little is known about St. Matthew, except that he was the son of Alpheus, and he was likely born in Galilee. He worked as a tax collector, which was a hated profession during the time of Christ. According to the Gospel, Matthew was working at a collection booth in Capernaum when Christ came to him and asked, "Follow me." With this simple call, Matthew became a disciple of Christ.

From Matthew we know of the many doings of Christ and the message Christ spread of salvation for all people who come to God through Him. The Gospel account of Matthew tells the same story as that found in the other three Gospels, so scholars are certain of its authenticity. His book is the first of the four Gospels in the New Testament. Many years following the death of Christ, around 41 and 50 AD, Matthew wrote his gospel account. He wrote the book in Aramaic in the hope that his account would convince his fellow people that Jesus was the Messiah and that His kingdom had been fulfilled in a spiritual way. It was an important message at a time when almost everyone was expecting the return of a militant messiah brandishing a sword.

It is thought he departed for other lands to escape persecution sometime after 42 AD. According to various legends he fled to Parthia and Persia, or Ethiopia. Nothing is recorded of Matthew's passing. We do not know how he died, if his death was natural or if he was martyred.

Matthew was a tax collector and is therefore the patron saint of bankers. The Church established St. Matthew's feast day as September 21.

### St Pius of Pietrelcina – 23<sup>rd</sup> September

St. Padre Pio was an Italian priest who was known for his piety and charity, as well as the gift of the stigmata, which has never been explained.

St. Padre Pio was born Francesco Forgione, on May 25, 1887, in Pietrelcina, Italy. His parents were peasant farmers. He had an older brother and three younger sisters, as well as two other siblings who died in infancy. As a child, he was very religious and by the age of five he reportedly made the decision to dedicate his life to God.

Fortunately, his parents were also very religious and they supported his Catholic development. His family attended daily Mass. Francesco served as an altar boy at his local parish. Francesco was known for taking on penances and his mother once scolded him for sleeping on a stone floor.

From his tender age, Francesco had a peculiar ability. He could see guardian angels, spoke with Jesus and the Virgin Mary. This was not something taught to him but occurred so naturally that he assumed other people could see them too.

Although Francesco and his family were very religious, they were also very poor, which required that he work. He spent many years as a child tending to a small flock of sheep owned by his family. Unfortunately, the work meant he was unable to attend school regularly, so he quickly fell behind other children his age.

Francesco was sickly as a child. He suffered an attack of gastroenteritis at age six and when he was ten, he had typhoid fever.



In 1897, after three years of schooling, Francesco expressed to his parents that he wanted to become a friar. His parents travelled to a nearby community of monks and asked if Francesco could join them. He was evaluated, despite his young age, and was told that he needed more education before he could join. To prepare Francesco, his parents decided to hire a private tutor. To pay the cost of the tutor, Francesco's father travelled to America to find work, and sent the money home.

At the age of 15, Francisco was finally ready and he entered the novitiate of the Capuchin Friars at Morcone. He took the name of "Pio" in honour of Pope Pius I, whose relic he often saw at his local chapel. At the age of 17, Brother Pio became extremely ill and could only digest milk and cheese. He was sent to the mountain for better air, when this did not work, he was sent home to his family. Amid all this, he continued to study for the priesthood. On one occasion during prayer, a fellow monk astonishingly reported he saw Pio levitate during an episode of ecstasy.

Brother Pio became a priest in 1910 but was permitted to remain at home because of his poor health. In 1915, with World War I afflicting the world, Padre Pio was summoned for military service. He was compelled to leave a tiny community of monks, with whom he was then housed, and drafted into medical service. However, he was so sickly that he was often sent home, only to then be recalled for service. In March 1916, he was finally dismissed because of his poor health.

On September 20, Padre Pio was hearing confessions when he felt pain in his hands and feet. He noticed the stigmata, the wounds of Christ, appearing on his hands and feet. The experience was painful. Bleeding occurred. The wounds smelled of roses, and although they continued to weep, they never became infected. Doctors who later examined the stigmata were amazed at their perfectly round shape.

By 1919, word began to spread about Padre Pio's stigmata and people came from far away to examine him. Padre Pio became popular with the people he encountered and soon began to attribute supernatural occurrences to him. For example, he was said to levitate, and able to perform miracles.

His popularity became a source of concern for the Church and the Vatican began to restrict his activities to minimize public interaction. Padre Pio himself was uncomfortable with his newfound popularity and the attention he received because of his stigmata. A Church investigation into his stigmata concluded that his condition was not faked. By 1934, the Vatican began to change its attitude towards Padre Pio and he was again allowed to perform public duties. He could preach, despite never being officially licensed by the Church to do so. Pope Pius XI encouraged people to visit him.

In 1947, Fr. Karol Wojtyla visited Padre Pio who prophetically told him he would rise to the highest post in the Church." Fr. Karol Wojtyla became Pope John Paul II in 1978. Padre Pio used his newfound popularity to open a hospital in San Giovanni Rotondo. The facility opened in 1956.

Pope Paul VI reviewed the controversies surrounding Padre Pio and dismissed any concerns over his conduct and the authenticity of his stigmata. Padre Pio became internationally famous. He was known for his piety, charity and the quality of his preaching. He famously advised, "Pray, hope and don't worry."

He had other illnesses, as well, including cancer which was miraculously healed after just two treatments. Other problems, such as arthritis, which plagued him in his later years, never went away.

Padre Pio died on September 23, 1968. His funeral was attended by over 100,000 people.

Pope John Paul II recognized Padre Pio as a saint on June 16, 2002. He is the patron of civil defence volunteers, adolescents, and the village of Pietrelcina.

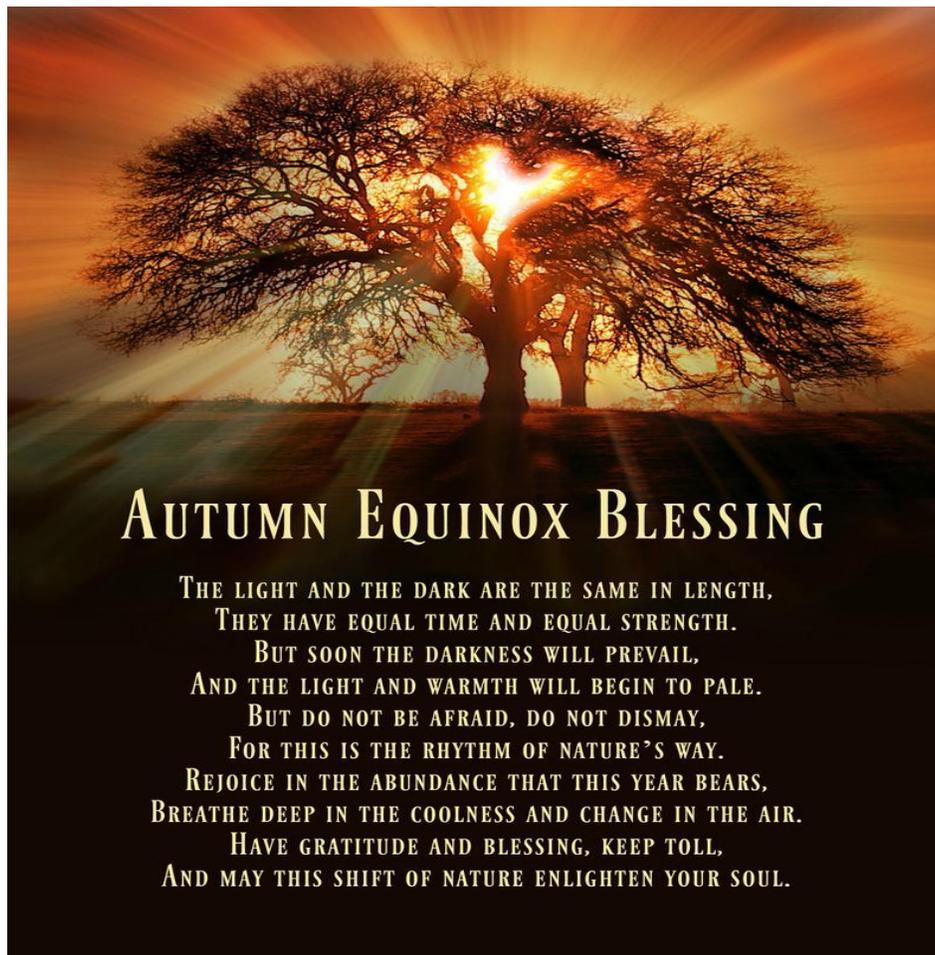
## Our Lady of Walsingham 24<sup>th</sup> September



Our Lady of Walsingham is a title of the Blessed Virgin Mary venerated by Catholics and some Anglicans associated with the Marian apparitions to Richeldis de Faverches, a pious English noblewoman, in 1061 in the village of Walsingham in Norfolk, England. Lady Richeldis had a structure built named "The Holy House" in Walsingham which later became a shrine and place of pilgrimage.

## St Cosmas & St Damian 26<sup>th</sup> September

Little is known of these two saints. Saints Cosmas and Damian were reputedly twin brothers, born in Arabia, who had become eminent for their skill in the science of medicine. Being Christians, they were filled with the spirit of charity and never took money for their services. At Aegae in Cilicia, where they lived, they enjoyed the highest esteem of the people. When the persecution under Diocletian broke out, their very prominence rendered them marked objects of persecution. Being apprehended by order of Lysias, governor of Cilicia, they underwent various torments about the year 283. Their feast day is September 26th. They are patron saints of pharmacists.



### AUTUMN EQUINOX BLESSING

THE LIGHT AND THE DARK ARE THE SAME IN LENGTH,  
THEY HAVE EQUAL TIME AND EQUAL STRENGTH.  
BUT SOON THE DARKNESS WILL PREVAIL,  
AND THE LIGHT AND WARMTH WILL BEGIN TO PALE.  
BUT DO NOT BE AFRAID, DO NOT DISMAY,  
FOR THIS IS THE RHYTHM OF NATURE'S WAY.  
REJOICE IN THE ABUNDANCE THAT THIS YEAR BEARS,  
BREATHE DEEP IN THE COOLNESS AND CHANGE IN THE AIR.  
HAVE GRATITUDE AND BLESSING, KEEP TOLL,  
AND MAY THIS SHIFT OF NATURE ENLIGHTEN YOUR SOUL.