

## Plans Announced for National Pilgrimage 2017



Fr Raniero Cantalamessa OFM.Cap, Preacher to the Papal Household, will be the guest preacher at the 2017 National Pilgrimage on Monday, 29th May. The National weekend will feature 40 hours of prayer (starting on Saturday, 27th) including an ecumenical vigil in S. Mary's Parish Church, Little Walsingham on the Sunday evening.

The event is the Shrine's response to *Thy Kingdom Come*, a global prayer movement which the Archbishop of Canterbury is inviting people around the world to join. The wave of prayer will start in May and run for 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost. ([www.thykingdom.co.uk](http://www.thykingdom.co.uk))

The Anglican Bishop of Norwich (The Rt Revd Graham James) and the Roman Catholic Bishop of East Anglia (The Rt Revd Alan Hopes) will join prayers for the unity of the Church. The celebrant at the National Pilgrimage will be The Bishop of Chichester (The Rt Revd Martin Warner).

The Shrine's Priest Administrator, Fr Kevin Smith, is looking forward to welcome Fr Cantalamessa on his first visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and hopes that pilgrims from all over the country will be present on this significant day in the life of the Shrine as part of its witness to the nation.

The Bishop of Burnley (The Rt Revd Philip North), Master of the Guardians commented - "Each day at Walsingham we ask Mary's prayers for 'the conversion of England'. This year, we will be more aware than ever of making that prayer in the company of the whole church. It is really exciting that the National Pilgrimage will be a Beacon event in *Thy Kingdom Come*, a massive and international wave of prayer for the evangelisation of our land. It will be an amazing privilege to welcome Fr Cantalamessa as a guest of the Anglican Shrine. I hope that all who love Walsingham will want to make the pilgrimage that day - and that those unable to be there will join us in prayer."

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## New Shrine Priest appointed

Fr Andreas Wenzel, currently Assistant Curate at S. Peter's, Horbury with S. John Horbury Bridge, Wakefield, has been appointed as the new Shrine Priest of the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in succession to Fr Graham Lunn, who is moving to be PiC of S. Michael, Beckenham.

Fr Andreas, who is married to Zoe, trained for the priesthood at St Stephen's House, Oxford before being ordained in 2014 into the Diocese of Leeds. The couple have two young children, Miriam and Robert.

The Shrine Priest works with the Priest Administrator by providing priestly support and spiritual nourishment to pilgrims, tourists and visitors.

The Priest Administrator, Fr Kevin Smith, said "I am very pleased indeed that Fr Andreas has agreed to come and join us at Walsingham and I know he will bring very special gifts which will be warmly received by those to whom he will minister." He added: "I am particularly delighted that the new Shrine Priest will work alongside



and develop further our ministry to children, schools and young people.”

Fr Andreas added: “Coming here with a young family it will be a great privilege to live next door to the Holy House in such close proximity to the Holy Family of Nazareth. I am delighted that the next phase of my priestly ministry is in this inspiring setting equipping me in different ways for the mission in God’s church.”

The new Shrine Priest will be licensed by the Bishop of Norwich in his chapel on Saturday 4th March and welcomed later that day at Mass in the Shrine at 12 noon.