

Walsingham Pilgrimage 2018

A Weekend to Remember

A visit to the Healing House (Anglican Shrine) ended a 4 day visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham this morning, 1st October. Walsingham is a wonderful Marian Shrine in Norfolk. The Mother of God appeared to Richeldis de Faverches in 1061.

All Saints' Church, St Edmund Campion's Church and St Joseph's Church went on an Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Walsingham Shrine from 28th September to 1st October. I believe there were 30 pilgrims led by Father Jeremy Harris and Father John Chadwick. These two men are great friends, and they came up with the idea of an Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. This is perhaps one of the few joint Catholic and Anglican Pilgrimage Shrines in England.

Cheryl, Kathleen and I were taken by car by our charismatic priest Father John Chadwick, who unfortunately for us had been moved to another Parish in August. This was bad timing for the Pilgrimage but it turned out fine as Father Chadwick travelled by car from his Parish to pick us up from St Joseph's Church. We had an uneventful journey and arrived in Walsingham at about 2pm. The double room booked by Kathleen and I looked fine. As far as I was concerned it was great value.

There was a Programme of events for the weekend mostly at the Anglican Shrine, and we were made welcome by Father Harris and his band of Pilgrims. A visit to the Holy House (Anglican Shrine) and a Taize Service (Anglican Shrine) ended our official programme on that busy Friday. Many people went to the Social afterwards.

On Saturday Cheryl, Kathleen and I went to Mass at the Church of the Annunciation which is almost next door to where we were staying. This was a breakaway from our official programme. I was very impressed with Mass which was followed by confession. The other Catholic Pilgrims in our Group made their way to the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham. Confessions were heard and they attended Mass afterwards. We all walked the Holy Mile and we were very impressed with the Procession from Leeds that we met on the way to the Catholic Shrine. You could sense the devotion of all who walked the mile, young and old alike. On arrival we were met with the news that one of the Anglican pilgrims had fallen (she was ok TG). One of the wonderful ladies from All Saints walked back to fetch her car. I was given a lift back to where I was staying, as my knee was quite painful. They said it would take about half an hour before they would be back with the car. We spent the time waiting by visiting the Slipper Chapel. We wrote a request for prayers for all who asked us to pray for them and in silent prayers. We also looked into the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham and, as Mass was being celebrated in a full Church, we did not like to enter the Church. Father Jeremy Harris came to fetch me to the waiting car and we were driven back to the place we were staying. The rest of the party set out walking back the Holy Mile. The evening finished with a Procession of Our Lady (Anglican Shrine) and a Social.

Sunday morning Mass was at the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham (Catholic Shrine). Most of our party from St Joseph's and St Edmund Campion's attended Mass there, but our little

trio decided to go to Mass in the Church of the Annunciation (near where we were staying). It was a sung Mass, and the music was beautiful. The Sermon given by a Marist Father, Father Kevin Dunne was one of the best I have ever heard. We all went to the Sprinkling of Water (Anglican Shrine) and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament (Anglican Shrine). Night Prayers at the Barn (Anglican Shrine) was a wonderful service of music and readings. The day ended with a Social hosted by Father Harris. We had made friends with everybody and enjoyed wine and cheese and conversation. I hope we can keep in touch with those special devout fellow Christians.

Monday saw us going to Mass at the Church of the Annunciation. Father Chadwick was one of the Celebrants at the 9.30am Mass. A last visit to the Holy House, a photo opportunity, prolonged farewell to our fellow pilgrims preceded our long journey back to Maidenhead. Father Chadwick took Cheryl, Kathleen and I back to our homes.

Things are so negative now, but the joy I saw in the pilgrims at Walsingham was so uplifting, that it will help me renew my Faith in my religion.

I would like to thank Father John Lee for giving permission for the Pilgrimage to go ahead, Shauna, our invaluable parish secretary for arranging it all, and all the pilgrims from Maidenhead. Finally, a big thank you to Father John Chadwick for leading us Catholics to that special place called Walsingham, dedicated to Our Lady.

Ann Wason



In the Basilica in front of the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham



With Fr Jeremy setting off on our Pilgrim Walk to The Slipper Chapel



Sharing and talking with All Saints parishioners



Father John thanking everyone for all getting involved and praying together



The whole group from St Joseph's, St Elizabeth's, St Edmund Campion's and All Saints.

