

CDA's CCRS Reunion 2024: The Bible and Jubilee Year 2025

The CCRS Reunion was held in the Elmham House, the Walsingham Shrine's Pilgrim Hostel from Wednesday May 15th to Sunday May 19th 2024. The CCRS graduates travelled to that hostel by various means of transport like bus, car and taxi. The weather throughout the Reunion varied from cloud to showers and finally sunny in the end.

I last stayed in the Elmham House with the participants of the Westminster Diocese Deaf Service Retreat led by Fr Paul Fletcher. I noticed the Pilgrim Hostel has changed a lot like the Dining Room which was transformed into a larger hall. There is a lift for Disabled pilgrims next to the Dining Room. Breakfasts and Evening Meals were provided at fixed times.

The first meeting of the graduates was held in the Lounge at the edge of the main building but the sessions took place in one Conference Room in the Dowry House opposite the Priory Gatehouse on Thursday and Friday.

The four sessions were focused on the various translations of the Bible. The reason is that from Advent 2024 (Sunday 1st December) the Anglicised English Standard Version (Catholic Edition: ESV-CE) will be used forthwards and the Jerusalem Bible(JB) will be no longer used. It was absorbing to compare various versions of some chosen readings from some well known versions like the Good News Translation and the "Signs of God" Lectionary. Many versions of the Bible were explained in detail. Also the Translation Philosophy was laid out with three major theories, namely Dynamic equivalence ; Formal equivalence; and Optimal equivalence. Some examples of one reading were shown with different words. The graduates were split into three groups a few times to consider the provided readings and suggest new signs to give a better understanding of the readings.

The final and fifth session was focused on the Jubilee Year 2025 in Rome. The dates were already selected for the Disabled Conference in end of April but the details were not worked out yet.

The first outing was to Norwich Cathedral on Thursday afternoon. The CCRS graduates had refreshments first, either in the Cathedral Cafe or outside. Then they toured the interior of the Cathedral. For many minutes they were guided by one staff member fluent in BSL Level 2, covering a few chapels. That guide kindly

volunteered to guide us around during her lunch break and she showed us a few stained glass windows, including those of St Julian of Norwich.

St Julian of Norwich was a 14th Century English anchoress (a woman who chose to withdraw from the world to live a solitary life of prayer). Her famous book is the "Revelations of Divine Love". Two books based on St Julian of Norwich were presented as thank you gifts to the organisers of the Reunion, Fr Paul Fletcher and Peter McDonough in the end.

Some of us went outside to view the grave of Nurse Edith Cavell, a native of Norfolk, who was executed by the occupying Germans in Brussels in 1915 for helping 200 Allied soldiers escape to neutral territory. The night before her execution by firing squad, Nurse Edith said "Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone". The Church of England commemorates her in its Calendar of Saints on 12th October, the date of her execution.

The Friday outing was a tour of the Walsingham Shrine, known as England's Nazareth. We had lunch outside in the warm sun and then toured the Anglican Shrine where we drank the Holy Water and filled in our bought bottles to be taken home. The tour ended with drinks in the Norton Cafe Bar. Many of us managed to view the original Walsingham Priory ruins which only consist of the 14th Century Gatehouse, the ruins of the West Tower, the East Window Arch, the Crypt and the Refectory Ruins. As for the original Holy House, the site is marked with a small large cross on a wooden plaque. There is a replica of the Holy House inside the Anglican Shrine. Behind the wall of the replica, many stones from the original priory were inserted inside.

Saturday was focused in the CDA Annual Pilgrimage, starting with the service inside the Church of the Annunciation and followed by the one mile long pilgrimage with 8 stops, ending in the Basilica where the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham was laid beside the altar after being carried by four deaf pilgrims in the Holy Mile. The Pilgrimage was completed by the 3pm Mass inside the Basilica, leading to everyone making his or her way going home or going to the village.

The 2024 CCRS Reunion was ended in the Morning Prayer outside the Church of the Annunciation in the warm sun on Sunday morning and all of the graduates exchanged warm farewells before dispersing for home in various means of transport.

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