Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham

A group of 20 parishioners visited the Catholic National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady on Saturday 24th October 2026. Yes, it was wet! Yes, it was windy! But most of all, it was wonderful! The coach trip took two hours – but Fr Dan had done some homework and had prepared a short history of Walsingham for us to read, with some prayers, so the time went quickly.

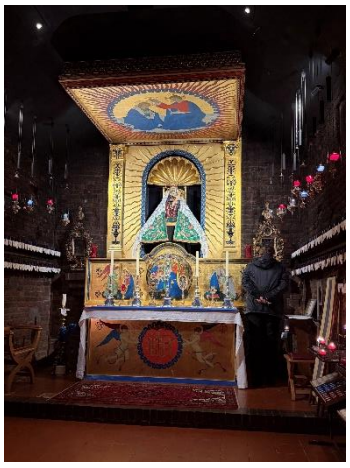
As we approached Walsingham, Fr Dan led us in reciting the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, which helped to centre us in the purpose of the day. Mass was at midday – and it was lovely to hear the presiding priest open with "Today we are welcoming pilgrims from the Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians and St Lawrence in Olney". Then to see Fr Dan concelebrating Mass – it absolutely made us feel that we were taking a real part in the story of this beautiful place.

After Mass, we visited the Slipper Chapel, which is the only part of the original Shrine that is left. There, we placed the petitions of our parishioners that we had brought with us, and lit candles for them and for our intentions.

Following lunch – and by now, it was pouring with rain – a group of six hardy pilgrims (one with bare feet) walked the mile-long Pilgrims' Way to the village of Little Walsingham to the Anglican Shrine. The rest of us took the coach. The Shrine is set in a beautiful garden – even though the flowers had been battered by storms Austen and Boelo, it was still a place of quiet for meditation. We met up again at the Church of the Annunciation for prayers of thanksgiving for a our visit before boarding the coach for our homeward journey. At 18:30 – as Mass was starting in Olney, Fr Dan led us in evening prayer and a hymn, so we could join with you in spirit. Then we took a collection for the SVP – which raised almost £300 – an amazing total and a reflection of the gratitude that we have for the work that this small band of local missionaries does for our Parish. Back home at 19:30. A long, but happy and joyful day. Thank you to all who came. And thank you to Adrian, our coach driver, who took care of us so well. Shall we do it the same time again next year?

The Slipper Chapel

Fr Dan reading the Gospel



The Anglican Shrine

(and it is true – the Tea Room at the Anglican Shrine is much better than at the Catholic Shrine!)