

## Reflection Friday Week 25 Our Lady of Walsingham 2021

**Our Lady of Walsingham** in Norfolk: Richeldis de Faverches, was instructed in a vision of the Virgin Mary to build in her village an exact replica of the house in Nazareth in which the Annunciation had taken place. The vision occurred in 1061 according to tradition. Although a more likely date for the construction of the shrine is a hundred years later. This feast celebrates the shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Walsingham, one of the great pilgrimage centres of medieval times. The original house was destroyed at the Reformation, but the Shrine was re-established in 1897 and the Slipper Chapel became the National Shrine in 1943. The Shrine was raised to the rank of Minor Basilica by Pope Francis in 2015.

In the past, competition was seen as something that would bring out the best in you and, in sport, this is necessarily the case. The big conglomerates are kept under control by competition. Today, the move is much more towards networking. Small shop-owners work together and help each other flourish rather than compete. Small farmers have to work together to survive. Charitable groups now work together to be more effective for the people they help. The original network, however, was the Trinity, and we are the beneficiaries of the Father, Son and Holy spirit working together. It is no wonder that Jesus handed Mary over to the protection of John. After all, God worked with humankind to bring about our salvation and that networking has continued ever since. Throughout history, since the resurrection, Mary has appeared time and again to network with us to bring her Son into the world. What better way to do that than through a Shrine, where people gather to give thanks and praise to God and celebrate their faith in Jesus Christ. And what better helper to do that than Mary our Mother. ***Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.***