



**ALAN  
DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA  
EPISCOPUS  
BRENTWOODENSIS**

By the mercy of God and the authority of the Holy See

**DECREE**

The founding inspiration was received on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1999, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. The first ecclesial recognition was given on 31st December 2003 and the Solemn Mass of Foundation was on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2004, the Epiphany of the Lord, in the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham.

The current statutes present a new stage in the life of the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham (COLW): with the consent of its members, the Community Servant asked for a new recognition as a *Public Association destined to become an Ecclesial Family of Consecrated Life of Diocesan Right* following the indications of Canon 573 and the *Guidelines and Orientations* of the Congregation for Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life approved in 2005 by the Plenary Assembly of the Congregation.

The members of COLW are called to live in community the evangelical counsels, to live as fully as possible the call to life and love and to help others do likewise by promoting a vocational culture in the Church and in contemporary society. They recognise in the spirituality of Walsingham, an incarnational spirituality, the source of their desire to do as Mary has done herself: opening themselves to God's love and to his will in their lives and helping others say 'fiat' in their lives. They recognise in the mystery of the Annunciation the challenge to rekindle that joy which comes only from living in the Divine Will and following the call of God in one's life. They are aware that their consecration has origin, develops and bears fruit through Mary, with Mary and in Mary, their mother, sister, teacher and model of discipleship.

This contemplative and apostolic community is formed of consecrated women and men, and is governed by the Community Servant and the General Chapter.

At the request of the supreme authority of the Community and after consultation with the Congregation for Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, according to canons 573 and 605, I erect the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham as a *Public Association destined to become an Ecclesial Family of Consecrated Life* and, at the same time, approve the Statutes for an *ad experimentum* period of five years,

The decree takes effect from 16<sup>th</sup> July 2017, Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Cathedral House  
Brentwood

Signed: + A. S. Williams, sm  
✠ Alan Williams, sm  
Bishop of Brentwood

13 July 2017

Signed: Gordon Read  
Rt Rev Mgr Gordon Read  
Chancellor