

# Gloucester Catholic Deanery News

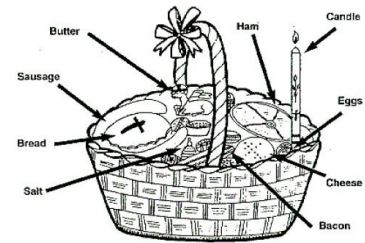
This newsletter is intended to give us all a sense of belonging to the deanery and the wide

May 2009

## Blessing of Food for first Easter Meal

### St. Joseph's Tewkesbury

The custom of blessing food for Easter arose from the discipline of fasting throughout Lent and the special Easter fast during the Easter Triduum. Easter was the first day when meat, eggs and other food could again be eaten



St. Joseph's Tewkesbury has been home to Polish parishioners since the end of the second world war. By 2006 the number of Polish parishioners had fallen to just three or four elderly ladies. The Parish Priest asked the new Deacon if he would like to hold the Blessing of the Easter Food that year, so the Deacon visited the house where the few people had gathered .

By the following year the numbers of elderly Polish ladies had fallen yet again to just two, so it was decided the Deacon would bless the food at the Church on Easter Saturday morning. A young Polish woman joined the small group and spoke to the Deacon afterwards telling him that a Polish shop had recently opened in Tewkesbury and they had advertised there would be Blessing of the Food at 4.00 that afternoon. So as not to cause disappointment the Deacon said he would be at St. Joseph's at 4pm; you can imagine his surprise when about twelve young Polish people turned up with the beautifully decorated baskets of food.

The next year it was the same and again the Deacon was happily surprised that about twenty young Poles arrived this time they brought with them a young woman who carried her guitar and sang Polish songs after the short service.

Which brings us to 2009; the Parish Priest and Deacon agreed to put a notice in the parish bulletin, that the Blessing of Easter Food would take place on Easter Saturday. The Polish families began to arrive. They placed their baskets of food on the tables provided. Groups of young men and women happily chatting, placed their baskets which were decorated with flowers and ribbons with traditional food and beautifully decorated eggs showing. There were lots of photographs taken of the table with small children proudly standing in front. As the service began the last young folk who had been chatting in the Narthex came in to church. It was estimated that over fifty people were present, of which about a dozen were young children all under school age. The service of Blessing concluded and the young people gathered up their baskets and left the church to spend time talking and greeting each other in the car park.

After fifty years Eastern European traditions continue at St. Joseph's and we are privileged to be part of it.



## Our Lady's Churchdown

We're celebrating 20 years of CAFOD in the Diocese of Clifton. Join us at the Gloucester Deanery celebration featuring a presentation by CAFOD Clifton's Tony & Gill Vassallo at St Peter's Social Centre, London Road, Gloucester, GL1 3EX on Wednesday 13 May starting at 7.30pm.

**Lenten Lunch** - A warm invitation was extended to our parish senior citizens with a special invitation to those who are mostly housebound. Volunteers provided transport for those who needed it bringing parishioners to St. Mary's school hall where they enjoyed a superb lunch including a choice of three different home made soups served with bread, cheese and homemade cakes and tea or coffee. It was a very happy occasion which everyone enjoyed and appreciated. There was also a raffle for the beautiful flower arrangements the church flower ladies had provided to decorate our tables. A lot of hard work went into this by those who organised it especially members of our Youth Café group who did an excellent serving lunch. They deserve an extra thank you for all the washing up they did. Thanks to all those who helped and those who attended. Good food and great company - a lovely time was had by all. Although no charge was made for this event, donations were given towards the lighting fund.



**Saint Augustine's & English Martyrs** NEW MASS TIMES The Mass times for Saint Augustine's and English Martyrs will change on the weekend on 23rd/24th May. The new times will be: 6:30pm on Saturday at Saint Augustine's; 9:00am at English Martyrs' on Sunday morning; and 11:00am at Saint Augustine's on Sunday Morning.

## St. Peter's

The Friends of St Peter's are hosting a concert by The Waldorf College Choir, from America, in St Peter's Church on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 7.30pm. Ticket are available on the door and will be priced at £4.00 per person to include a glass of wine or fruit juice and a programme or £10.00 for a family of 2 adults & 2 children.

**First Holy Communion** at St Peter's is on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 12.00 noon and 2.30pm. Confirmation takes place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm.

CALLING ALL 10—13 yr olds

Yfaith is a website especially for you. It contains lots of great areas where you can explore and share. Find out more by looking at .  
[www.yfaith.co.uk](http://www.yfaith.co.uk)



## News from the Forest

The bluebells are coming out and the Forest looks it's best. You can almost hear nature growing! Easter was good, Holy week seemed to go well, Easter Sunday was full. But how to you get people to turn out for the Tridium? How can we show people that the Easter Vigil is greater than midnight Mass? Mind you we weren't receiving anyone at the Vigil, which makes a difference and perhaps people remember last years Vigil when the Church was cold.....

We have started training for Eucharistic Ministers. I'm not sure there has been much training in the past. And where do you begin? How much to our good people know to start with? We only have Communion under both kinds at one of our Sunday Masses and that started by mistake. The aim however is to have Communion under both kinds at all Masses.

Those of you who remember Fr. Liam Fanning will be pleased to hear that though frail he is strong going strong in Oreland. His house-keeper Helen keeps us informed.

We are planning our 3<sup>rd</sup> Summer Fete and also another Parish supper. Socials almost appear to be the way forward for us at the moment. Perhaps we need to get to know each other first.

### OUR LADY'S YOUTH CAFÉ!

Our meetings are held in Our Lady's church hall in Churchdown for year 7's and upwards, fortnightly on Sunday's from 5 -6.30pm. All new members welcome. If you would like more information please contact Fr. Kevin on Glos 713254

Best wishes from Chrissy, Emily and Fr Kevin.

### Farewell to Fr. Keith

The Parish Priest of English Martyrs, Tuffley, Fr Keith Miles, is sadly leaving Gloucester as his health has now deteriorated to the point that following medical advice he has had to step back from being a Parish Priest. Please keep Fr Keith in your prayers. English Martyrs gave Fr Keith and his mother, Julia, a farewell reception on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Fr Gary Brassington, currently Parish Priest of St Augustine's, Matson, will have pastoral care of English Martyrs, Tuffley, as well from June. Please pray for Fr Gary and the people of St Augustine's and English Martyrs in this time of change for all.

From Our Lady of Lourdes, Newent:

Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00am

Christian Book Club will discuss THE SHACK.....followed by coffee.  
All welcome

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Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> May: 8.30am Ecumenical Breakfast

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Our Lady of Lourdes Church has been undergoing extensive refurbishment over the past few years...very slowly! However, it is now finished, DG, and all are welcome to come and enjoy the new look.