

ESKER



REDEMP  
TORS

February 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>  
Jesus is Lord

“Jesus was led by the spirit through the wilderness and was tempted there by the devil for forty days.” As we begin Lent, we are put in touch with the basic temptations of human life that can lead us to disaster. The first of these is pride. This does not mean thinking well of ourselves but rather thinking of ourselves as the only and most important thing in our lives. During this time we are invited to sort out our priorities once again. The second temptation is to power that makes us want to prove that we are better than others. The only power we should exercise as followers of Christ is the power of love through which we forget ourselves, die to ourselves so that others may have life. And Lent is also a time to change our ways of life that are not in accordance with God’s ways as the third temptation is presumption. God does respect our choices, and rewards and punishes us accordingly.

Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. After Lent, during the rest of the year, we tend to become contaminated by the easy and comfortable ways of the world. The standards of the world leave us weak. Yes, we need Lent and how badly too!

Our Christian lives tend to become thread-bare so easily. The world is too much with us inviting us to live frivolously - on the surface. The world about us beckons us to keep moving from one form of entertainment to another. You have noticed the explosion in the media: the methods and the contents. Hardly a month goes by now but there is another T.V. channel. One is for sport, another for films, another for news, another for pornography. Keep the people amused; keep them living on the surface! Do not allow them to think too deeply - that's the philosophy of today. People are certainly on the move - 2 holidays every year and a few mini holidays in between. More important still, their minds are constantly on the move. The senses are being constantly titillated.

Just as mother nature year after year gives us a season of new and vigorous growth which we call springtime; so too Mother Church gives us year after year a season of new and vigorous growth in the Christian life; we call it Lent. Without spring there would be no harvest, without Lent there would be no Easter. Every new ear of corn this autumn will mean a death in the spring, because the grain of corn must die if it is to grow. If we are to share the happiness of Easter we must share the suffering that Lent will entail. We must die to ourselves so that we may rise with Christ.

Last Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, saw the beginning of the season of Lent. It is the season of the year when we try to come closest to Jesus as He makes His way to Calvary and the Cross and ultimately to Easter life. 'Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel', were the words of the priest while he traced the sign of the cross with the blessed ashes on us. That neatly sums up the Christian programme for Lent. The ashes is a mark of our repentance, a sign that we have joined Christ in His fight against sin. The ashes on Ash Wednesday mark the beginning of a fresh and new attempt to turn away from sin and live the Gospel. If we do not take up that challenge, if we are contented to have the ashes on our foreheads without any effort at change then it would be better to miss it. Because if we are not prepared to do anything to change our sinful ways then the ashes become a lie. To go out from the church on Wednesday with ashes on our foreheads and no intention of a change of life is a denial of all that the ashes stand for.

## Weekly Masses Special Remembrance

**Mon. 22nd Feb. to Sun. 28th Feb. 2009**

Mass at 8.00 and 10.00 each morning, Monday to Friday, is offered for all those whose names are on the list of Mass intentions. If you wish to have someone mentioned specifically - for an anniversary, a recent death, an illness - please leave the name at the Reception Office.

In the Novena Masses on Saturday at 8.00 and 10.00 we remember especially all those who have sent in petitions and those attending the Novena.

Sun. 11am Maudie Thompson R.I.P

## THE SICK

Please pray for  
Fr. Brian Foley,  
Fr. Seán Mullin,  
Mossie Whelan,  
Bro. Nicholas Healy

Feast Days  
of the coming week.

**Mon:** The Chair of St. Peter,  
Apostle to  
commemorates St.  
Peter's teaching in  
Rome.

### **During the coming week:**

#### **In The Retreat House:**

**Feb. 26-28:** Marriage Preparation Weekend

**Feb. 28:** Legion of Mary (Day Retreat)

#### **In The Youth Village:**

**Feb. 22:** Sylane N.S. Tuam (14)

**Feb. 23-24:** Presentation School Galway (16)

**Feb. 25-26:** Mt. St. Michael Claremorris (70)

#### **Parish Missions & Novenas in Ireland & Abroad.**

**Feb 22-Mar 2:** St. John's Parish Solemn  
Novena, Kilkenny

*Please share in this Redemptorist  
Apostolic Work by praying for its success.*

What about "giving up something" for Lent? When many of us were children, we might remember our giving up sweets for Lent. And, it seemed like a real sacrifice. As we grew up, it was often more difficult to decide what special thing to do, to make Lent a special season - to get our attention and to prepare ourselves for deeper sacrifices.

What would help me grow in freedom? That's the question to ask. For some of us, it could be committing ourselves to give up judging others, every single day of Lent. For others, it could be giving up a bad habit we've developed. For still others, it is obvious what seems to be the important choice for me.

## The Irishman in Kerry.

An Irishman moves into a tiny hamlet in County Kerry, walks into the pub and promptly orders three beers. The bartender raises his eyebrows, but serves the man three beers which he drinks quietly at a table, alone. An hour later, the man has finished the three beers and orders three more. This happens yet again.

The next evening the man again orders and drinks three beers at a time, several times. Soon the entire town is whispering about the Man Who Orders Three Beers.

Finally, a week later, the bartender broaches the subject on behalf of the town. "I don't mean to pry, but folks around here are wondering why you always order three beers?" "Tis odd, isn't it?" the man replies, "You see, I have two brothers, and one went to America, and the other to Australia. We promised each other that we would always order an extra two beers whenever we drank as a way of keeping up the family bond." The bartender and the whole town were pleased with this answer, and soon the Man Who Orders Three Beers became a local celebrity and source of pride to the hamlet, even to the extent that out-of-towners would come to watch him drink.

Then, one day, the man comes in and orders only two beers. The bartender pours them with a heavy heart. This continues for the rest of the evening - he orders only two beers. The word flies around town. Prayers are offered for the soul of one of the brothers.

The next day, the bartender says to the man, "Folks around here, me first of all, want to offer condolences to you for the death of your brother. You know - the two beers and all..." The man ponders this for a moment, then replies, "You'll be happy to hear that my two brothers are alive and well. It's just that I, meself, have decided to give up drinking for Lent."