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**August 30<sup>th</sup> – September 5<sup>th</sup>  
The commandments of life**

‘This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.’ Jesus quoted this passage from the prophet Isaiah to the Pharisees and Scribes. We need to listen to it today also. We get so used to doing particular things that we can forget why we are doing them and then our hearts are not in them. This is true of the practice of our faith, which can easily be reduced by us to rituals and duties. It is true also in our love for one another. Husbands and wives need to constantly renew their love for one another and put their hearts into that love again. Parents need to renew their love for their children because parenting can easily become a burden that is carried with little heart. And we need to put new heart into our prayer so that God may come more and more alive to us.

## Time for Each of us Grows Shorter!

(continued)

*The English De La Salle Brother, diagnosed with terminal cancer, continues his reflections on dying.*

The practice of 'giving thanks in all circumstances' arises from the gradual building up of a positive attitude, as expressed by Elizabeth Kubler Ross, who wrote much about dying:

'I shall be richer all my life for this sorrow. New insights about life have been born. Life is to be lived by striking a line through every minus and turning it into a plus. If agony must be experienced, there are those who are ready to bear some of the burden. When there is suffering, the gift of courage is given. Death is not to be feared, any more than is birth. When the body ceases to be, the spirit emerges, free and unencumbered.'

And so, after I have breathed my last, may my eyes open, Father, in the place where I will see you face-to-face and hear you welcome me by name. May I be blessed in hearing you say that you are very fond of me: blessed, too, in realising that I am called to friendship with you. There in your kingdom of light, happiness and peace, may I meet again those who brought much love into my life.

May the loved ones I leave behind on earth gain some consolation and strength from knowing that I want my love and care for them to continue beyond death since I want to be praying for them, Father, at your right hand. Amen.

### God heals

because that is His pattern for revealing His nature through His Son. With compassion, Jesus chose to touch the festering sores of the leper (Mt 8:3). He showed mercy as He touched the crusted lids of blinded eyes "*a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.'*" And he stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, '*I will; be clean.*' And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. (Mt 9:29). In receiving healing from God, we must earnestly desire to touch Him as well. "*People brought all their sick to him and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed*" (Mt 9:20-22).

A woman who had suffered from a hemorrhage for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment; for she said to herself, "*If I only touch his garment, I shall be made well.*" Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, '*Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.*' And instantly the woman was made well."

**Weekly Masses: NO 8 am Mass Mon/Fri.**

**Special Remembrance**

**Mon. 31st Aug. to Sun. 6th Sept.. 2009**

Mass at 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. 11 am. Brian Ford R.I.P. & family  
Deceased members of the  
Redemptorist Community.

**Feast Days of the coming week.**

**THE SICK**

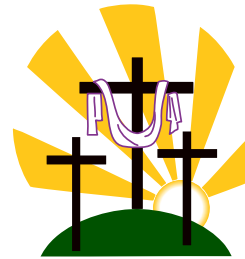
Please pray for  
Fr. Brian Foley,  
Fr. Gerry Crotty,  
Fr. Seán Mullin

**During the coming week:**

**In The Retreat House:**

**Sept. 1-3:** Friends of the Elderly

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



**Esker  
Cemetery  
Sunday**

**September  
13th  
Mass 3 pm**



A simple limestone cross, with the inscription: FR. THOMAS O'FARRELL, died 1912, bears witness to his greatness. Please visit the grave of that great Redemptorist missionary and preacher. His grave is at the head of the cemetery, row 3, grave 1.

## **Esker Cemetery**

The first members of the Esker Community to die were brought to Limerick for burial. The first burial in the new Esker Cemetery was that of Fr. Thomas O'Farrell. He was born in Longford on Christmas Eve 1845. He entered Maynooth College and was ordained in Longford on March 14th 1869. He began his priestly ministry as a curate in Ardagh and Banagher parishes. Five years later he became Administrator in Athlone. Seeing the effects of the Redemptorist missions in the diocese he was attracted to the Congregation. He joined the Redemptorists in 1879 at Bishop Eton, near Liverpool.

The Australian Church's many pleas to the Redemptorists to set up foundations there were finally answered in 1882 when the English Redemptorists answered their call. In 1898 the Redemptorist foundations in Ireland hitherto subject to the English province, were constituted an Irish province, and Australia, a vice-province of the Irish province. Fr O'Farrell was appointed superior. He arrived March 1882 in Sydney bringing with him a picture of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, blessed in Rome by Pope Leo XIII. The work of the Redemptorists in Australia was about to begin. The whole of Fr. O'Farrell's missionary life was spent there.

His superiors spoke of him as "of a warm personality and boundless energy ...one of the greatest preachers and missionaries Australia has seen". A mere reading of his sermons today, after a lapse of a century, makes one thrill to his eloquence.

In September 1910 during a mission in Sydney he collapsed in the pulpit; he had suffered a stroke. He recovered to some extent, but could no longer speak distinctly or walk without assistance. When his strength seemed to have been restored a little, it was decided to allow him to return to Ireland. After a short stay in Limerick he was brought, at his own request, to St. Patrick's, Esker. During the sixteen months he lingered he was always at peace, in spite of the contrast between his present condition and the ceaseless activity he had known over the past thirty years. Those who were with him during those last months remembered how he used to murmur over and over at the cost of great effort. 'Not my will but Yours be done'.

Father O'Farrell's busy apostolate and long Gethsemene ended in October 1912. He was buried in the little private cemetery the students had just finished preparing in the grounds of the monastery. For many years young Redemptorists were to come from Australia to prepare for the priesthood in Esker. For them the grave was a sacred spot rich in memories of the man who had brought so much honour to the name they shared with him.