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February 28<sup>th</sup> - March 6<sup>th</sup>  
The Lord in whom we put our faith

Peter said to Jesus: “Master, it is wonderful for us to be here”. As we gather for Mass this Sunday, how many of us can say those words of Peter from our hearts? And yet we have a right to be able to say them. Unfortunately for so many Catholics, Mass has become a burden rather than a joy and a source of enthusiasm and energy. We need to help each other to gain that grace. And as we return home from Mass this Sunday, how many of us can say those words of Peter in relation to our family life? At best, so many can only say it is not bad, it is ok. But can we say it is wonderful? And yet we have a right to be able to say that. It takes a lot of working at the relationships in our home, the relationships of marriage, of family, of neighbourliness, to make those words possible and to ring true. But it is in those two places that the practice of faith takes place.

## TRAGEDY IN HAITI



Along with the Dominican Republic, Haiti occupies the island of Hispaniola. It was the first independent nation in Latin America and the first black-led republic in the world when it gained independence as part of a successful slave rebellion in 1804. It is the poorest country in the Americas. About a third the size of Ireland it has a population is over 9 million. It

is a predominantly Roman Catholic country.

On January 12, 2010, a massive earthquake struck Haiti and devastated the capital city, Port-au-Prince. Reportedly more than 150,000 people were killed and buried later in mass graves, although the exact number was difficult to determine.



### **Outside the ruins of the Redemptorist Monastery in Port-au-Prince.**

Frs. Adonai, Abellard, Jean, Gerry O'Connor, Augustine, Thomas and Seán Duggan. Frs. Adonai, Abellard, Jean, Augustine and Thomas are all Haitian Redemptorists, now homeless in Port-au-Prince. The fourth from left to right is Fr. Gerry O'Connor, a Redemptorist from Limerick. He was educated in Saint Clement's College in Limerick and then in University College Galway where he studied for a B.Comm. He then worked with KPMG as an auditor and with Goal during emergencies in the war-torn countries, Sudan, Rwanda, Angola and Somalia. He joined the Redemptorists in 1990 and ministered in Brazil and Limerick and for the last seven years in Cherry Orchard parish in Dublin.

Gerry O'Connor and Seán Duggan travelled to Haiti on January 31<sup>st</sup> and returned on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010. You are familiar with Fr. Seán from Galway who was ordained towards the end of last year. *(continued)*

## Weekly Masses Special Remembrance

**Mon. 1st Mar. to Sun. 7th Mar. 2010**

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.

Mon. 10 am: Michael & Tom Connolly R.I.P.  
Joseph Poole R.I.P.

Tues. 10 am: John & Brian Forde R.I.P.

Wed. 8 am: Francis Duane & Deceased  
Members of the Family R.I.P.

Thur. 10 am: Patrick & Bridie Monaghan R.I.P.  
Noel Hughes R.I.P.

Sun. 8 am: Fred & Josephine Caulfield R.I.P.  
11 am: Celia & Peter Linnane & Peter Jnr.  
R.I.P.

## THE SICK

Please pray for  
Fr. Brian Foley,  
Fr. Seán Mullin,  
Fr. Paddy Martin,  
Fr. Liam O'Connell

## RECENTLY DECEASED

Mrs Irene Murphy  
R.I.P.

Saturday  
20th March  
in  
**Esker Retreat House**  
**10 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.**  
**Booking essential.**

## POWERFUL HEALING & TRANSFORMATION

FULL DAY  
WORKSHOP

Experience profound healing, unlocking and releasing fears, grief, trauma and self limiting beliefs in a way that is gentle and compassionate. We combine music, meditation, spiritual healing, therapy and humour to assist in this powerful healing process.

Phone: Sheelagh Garvey  
(086) 8231670  
or  
Carol Kelleher  
(086) 3067070

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

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

**Mar 5-7:** Beginning Experience Week-end

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

**Mar 1:** Killascobe Menlough N.S. (32)

**Mar 2:** Sixmilebridge & Kilmurry N.S. (58)

**Mar 3:** Brideswell Lorrha N.S. (29)

**Mar 4:** Newmarketonfergus N.S. (52)

**Mar 5:** Cummer Tuam N.S. (53)

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

**Feb. 27-6 Mar:** Glenflesk Parish Mission,  
Co. Kerry

**Feb. 27-6 Mar:** Kilmurry Parish Mission,  
Co. Cork

**Mar. 6-12:** Ballincollig Parish Mission.

**Mar. 6-13:** Clogh Parish Mission,  
Co. Kilkenny.

**Mar. 6-13:** Croagh - Kilfinny Parish  
Mission, Co. Limerick

**Mar. 6-13:** Galbally Parish Mission.

**Mar. 6-13:** New Ross Parish Mission.

*Please share in this Redemptorist*

*Apostolic Work by praying for its success.*

## The Purpose of Lent

Lent is a time for looking at the depth of our own sins, and turning away from them. A time for learning what it means to follow Christ, and to listen to the Spirit. A time for actually going about changing our ways to be more as Christ would have us be.

Lent is a time when many people turn their gaze toward Good Friday and ask themselves, 'How dare I force someone who loves me this much to go through something this awful?' Perhaps they see the Cross and ask, 'Lord, what can I do to stop doing this to You? How can I love You better?' Many times in the Gospels, Jesus called on people to repent, to turn away from doing evil. So the first impulse of love is to try to do things that Jesus would want of us.

But then, we get stuck. We fail, as we always do. One of the things we learn in Lent is how inescapable our sin is, how far we are from being complete, how awful is the nature of our divide from God. When we struggle to give some tiny aspect of our lives over to God, we discover how maddeningly out of reach a whole life of godliness is. We can't do anything to fix our relationship with God. **We're too far gone.** No matter how passionately we might want NOT to be the cause of Jesus' suffering, we end up driving another nail into Jesus, making Him carry an even bigger burden. Even when I'm at my best, I'm still enough by myself to execute the God who loves me.

But then, that's why He did what He did, something only He could do. All we can do is collapse at Jesus' feet. And trust Him. We can't get there from here, but He can. He will take us, and the Holy Spirit will lead us along that road. Through the Spirit, we *can* love God better. The Bible tells us much of what we need to know, and other believers (also led by the Spirit) can also help. Christ gives us His body and His blood (Holy Communion), His presence among us and with us and in us. Knowing that, we can stand ready for Holy Week.

Lent is the season for the experience of giving our life over -- in each moment, bodily, deliberately, to Christ and to do what the Spirit is showing us. God wants us to surrender ourselves and let the Spirit work in us. In Lent, we take responsibility for our acts and thoughts, and treat certain of those as the killers they are. Lent is self-discovery of the parts of ourselves we don't want to discover, through prayer, fasting, and other disciplines. It is the opening up, the turning over to God, the repenting of our sins, the turning away from that which does not please God. Yet there is just a glimpse of Easter through the heavy clouds of Good Friday -- that Christ has taken the burden, and we don't have to carry it anymore. Don't we want to follow that kind of a God?