



Bishop Paul Dempsey
Auxiliary Bishop
Archdiocese of Dublin
3 Castleknock Rd
Blanchardstown
Dublin 15

26th July 2024

Your Grace,

Archbishop Eamon Martin forwarded your letter to me in my role as Chair of the Irish Bishops' Conference, Council for Emigrants. I was very moved by your letter and the other material outlining the plight of so many Irish Emigrants as they fled the ravages of famine in their home country. As they set out from their homeland their hearts were filled with the hope of finding a better life for themselves and their families in a new land. Sadly, due the spread of disease, especially typhoid, this was not possible and resulted in so many perishing and being buried in mass burial sites. The efforts of the people, priests, and religious in Kingston to welcome and serve the needs of sick Irish emigrants in such numbers is to be commended and is a profound witness to the Gospel.

It means a great deal to us here in Ireland that you will be remembering fifty-five Irish Emigrants at a Funeral Mass in St. Mary's Cathedral, Kingston, on the 7th of August. The names that you forwarded are very familiar Irish names and many of their descendants would be still living in Ireland. On behalf of all of us here may I take this opportunity to thank you, the priests, religious and people of Kingston for remembering all the Irish emigrants who died in such tragic circumstances. It is a great comfort for us to know that they are being remembered and prayed for and it is deeply appreciated. I will also be remembering them in prayer on the 7th of August.

As we continue in our efforts to serve the Lord and spread his Gospel may we keep one another in prayerful remembrance.

With warm wishes and every blessing,

Bishop Paul Dempsey
Chair, Irish Bishops' Conference
Council for Emigrants.