

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – April 1912

**Monday April 15, 1912**



### **United Kingdom: north Atlantic**

Pastor John Harper (aged 39, widower, father of 6 year old Annie Jesse, brother of Jessie W Leitch, placed his daughter and sister aboard a lifeboat during the sinking of the RMS Titanic and stayed to minister to the remaining crew and passengers, after the sinking was seen swimming among the initial survivors and asking them to give their lives to Christ, **died**)

Fr Josef Peruschitz OSB (aged 41, German citizen, school principal, refused an offered lifeboat seat during the sinking of the RMS Titanic, prayed with remaining crew and passengers, **died**)

Fr Juozapas Montvila (aged 27, Lithuanian national, had fled persecution by Russian authorities, refused an offered lifeboat seat during the sinking of the RMS Titanic, prayed with remaining crew and passengers, **died**)

Fr Thomas Byles (aged 42, British citizen, twice refused an offered lifeboat seat during the sinking of the RMS Titanic, prayed with remaining crew and passengers, **died**)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Harper\\_\(pastor\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Harper_(pastor))

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2015/04/13/campaign-starts-to-make-priest-who-prayed-with-titanic-passengers-to-be-made-a-saint/>

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/sacrifice-of-titanics-catholic-priests-recalled-on-100th-anniversary/>

<http://vilkaviskis.lcn.lt/apie/asmenybes/xxtikejimo/> - with translation

**April 1912, date unknown**