



SHOT: Robert Delany

Family Mass for shot postman Robert

By **Geraldine Gittens**

THE father of postman Robert Delany, who was shot in the face and left in a vegetative state, has described the past two years as a living nightmare.

Robert was shot on October 22, 2008, as he looked out of the window of his apartment to see who was buzzing on his door.

He is now blind, fed through a tube, and lying in a vegetative state in Tallaght Hospital, where his family visit him every day.

His devastated father Terry told the *Herald*: "People in that condition simply don't respond.

"The person is physically alive but virtually dead. The only thing we can hope for is a miracle.

"We hope we get justice and we hope God answers our prayers.

"He's the last thing I think about at night, and the first thing I think about in the morning, and it goes on like that through the day.

"There's no let-up in terms of dealing with this, you can't just switch off."

Robert's partner Mags, his two daughters, and his extended family are having a Mass for him on the second anniversary of the shooting.

SCUM

"It was a horrific incident and the people behind it are just the scum of the earth.

"You see two extremes to this, people who are prepared to kill

a person, as was in the case of Robert, and then you see the support of family, friends and the guards.

"We've nothing in particular planned. We'll go to the hospital as normal and then we've a special Mass coming up.

"We go up and see him every day and unfortunately he's still in the same condition with no change. As a result of the shooting, he lost his sight and he suffered severe brain damage, and he's now in a severe vegetative

state. Basically the way I describe it is it encapsulates a living death."

A garda spokesperson said one person was arrested this month, and a total of nine people have been arrested since the shooting.

No one has yet been charged. There is a €20,000 reward for anyone who can provide information to gardai leading to a conviction.

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