

APRIL 12, 1956 Fr. Edward Gallagher, CM



In 1956, at Lewisham, the death of **Fr Edward Gallagher**, aged 73. Born in Victoria, he was a teacher with the Education Department in that State, and held a degree in Arts and a Diploma in Education. With the idea of a vocation he joined the Bathurst staff as a laymaster, where he also began his church studies. He did further ecclesiastical studies first in Dublin, Ireland, and then in Philadelphia, USA, where he was ordained in 1917. On his return to Australia he taught for about 3 years at Bathurst and during 1922 became Director at Eastwood, replacing Fr Edward Sheehy who was the first Director when Eastwood opened. Apart from a trip to France in 1925, Fr Gallagher remained as Director at Eastwood until the end of 1926. In January 1927 he was appointed Superior and President at Bathurst where he remained for 7 years. In 1934 he was a member of the foundation Vincentian staff at Mosgiel, New Zealand, where he held the post of director for 3 years, returning to the directorship at Eastwood for the years 1937-40. At the beginning of 1941 he again became Superior and President at Bathurst for a period of 6 years. He is the only confrere to have held these positions at Bathurst twice. During his 13 years as President the College was considerably developed, enrolments being roughly doubled from about the hundred mark, and extensive building projects were carried out. These included the building of the south wing and the provision of the main back oval with baths and other sports facilities on land acquired by him, this land consisting of 17 acres joined immediately to the College block by resumption of roads and the provision of their replacement. Over the years his influence on generations of students was very great both at Bathurst and the two seminaries. On transfer from Bathurst in 1947 he was made superior at Eastwood until 1950. He was appointed to the retreat staff at Ashfield in 1951, where he was occupied in this work consistently till his death of heart disease.

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