

FEBRUARY 5, 1971 Fr Patrick Meenagh, CM



Fr Patrick Meenagh was born in Northern Ireland on August 10, 1889, and completed his secondary education at the Vincentian College – St Patrick's Armagh. Later he entered the diocesan seminary at Maynooth and then transferred to the Vincentian Seminary at Blackrock. He was received in the Congregation of the Mission on October 18, 1909, took vows on October 19, 1911, and was ordained on 25th May, 1915 at the Pro-Cathedral, Dublin, by Archbishop W. Walsh.. He spent 10 years teaching in Armagh and became a close friend and confidant of Cardinal Logue – the Archbishop of that city.

In 1925 Fr Meenagh came to Australia, and a short time later he became the parish priest of St Joseph's, Malvern. It was Fr Meenagh who built the De La Salle College in Stanhope Street. Formerly the college had been situated in Lower Stanhope Street on the other side of Glenferrie Rd. He also built the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in the church grounds. During the time Fr Meenagh was parish priest of Malvern, the Holy Hour devotions were commenced at St Joseph's. These took place on Sunday afternoons and attracted overflowing crowds.

In 1931 Fr Meenagh was appointed the first Vincentian parish priest of Southport on Queensland's Gold Coast. From there he went to Brisbane as rector of St Leo's University College, a position he held during the difficult years of World War II.

In 1947 he returned to Ireland as delegate to the General Assembly held in Paris that year. On returning to Australia he went to Southport until 1958 when he was transferred to Ashfield where he remained until his death in 1971. The Provincial, Fr James O'Reilly, was principal celebrant and preached at the Requiem Mass in St Vincent's, Ashfield. Bishop Kelly, MSC, was present representing Cardinal Gilroy. Fr Meenagh is buried in the Vincentian section at Rookwood cemetery.