

FEBRUARY 7, 1970 Fr Dominic Phillips, CM



Fr Dominic Phillips, who died in Rockhampton on 7th February, 1970, at the age of 67, was the last of the Australian Vincentians to be ordained in Ireland. Bishop Rush of Rockhampton preached the panegyric during the Requiem Mass in St Vincent's Church, Wandal, before the funeral to North Rockhampton cemetery.

Although on the staff of the Wandal parish at the time of his death, Fr Phillips had spent most of his priestly life in seminaries and published two books of meditations for students for the priesthood. Fr Phillips was the first chaplain to the Catholic Deaf Association in N.S.W. and was founder of an Association for Catholic Deaf and Dumb in New Zealand, being especially interested in assisting children who were deaf.

He was born at Katoomba 30th August, 1903. On entering the Congregation of the Mission, Fr Phillips studied philosophy at St Stanislaus' College, Bathurst, in the years 1920-1923 and then went to St Joseph's, Blackrock near Dublin to study theology.

When he returned to Australia in 1927 after his ordination, Fr Phillips was appointed Dean at St Stanislaus', a post he held for three years. He remained on the staff as a professor for the next five years.

In 1934, when he was only 31, he began the highly specialised work that was to occupy most of the 32 years that elapsed before he went to Wandal in 1966. For the greater part of that time he was spiritual director of future priests. He was at Eastwood in the house of formation of the Vincentians from 1934 to 1937 and was then transferred to New Zealand where he was spiritual director at the seminary in Mosgiel from 1937 to 1952. He was in the Malvern parish for the next three years and played a prominent part in planning the Catholic Life Exhibition at the Melbourne Exhibition Building, being particularly concerned with the photography section. In 1956 he was superior and parish priest at Southport and in 1957 he was appointed spiritual director at the Adelaide Seminary where he remained until 1964 before being transferred to Wandal parish in Rockhampton.