

MARCH 17, 1975 Fr. George Richardson, CM



Fr George Richardson died at St Joseph's Sandgate, on March 17, 1975, after an illness of some years. His Requiem Mass was celebrated at St Vincent's, Ashfield, on the feast of St Joseph, March 19.

George Robert Richardson, was born in Young, NSW, on December 13, 1906, and after completing his primary education at the Presentation Convent, the family moved to Sydney. In 1917 he was a foundation pupil when the De La Salle College opened that year in Bland St, Ashfield, and during the last half of 1922 he was a boarder at De La Salle, Armidale. He joined the Rural Bank at quite an early age and worked in the city and in Orange where he made many friends. Having decided his true vocation, he proceeded to St Stanislaus' College, Bathurst, to complete his secondary course and there became associated with young men with whom he was to work for the rest of this life. Following this term at Bathurst (1929-1931), George entered St Joseph's Seminary at Eastwood. He was received into the Congregation of the Mission on March 8, 1932, and took his vows on August 27, 1934. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Norton, Bishop of Bathurst, on October 28, 1938. They were vintage years for the Vincentians, as there five others ordained with him in 1938. He never claimed to be an academic but made considerable contribution in pastoral activities and College administration at Bathurst. Apart from two terms as Bursar at St Stanislaus', his life was in parishes: in Queensland at Southport, Wandal, as parish priest (1943-1949), at Ashfield, in Sydney, Malvern, in Melbourne, and then Ashfield again. He loved friendship and parochial interests, and with his great faith, the interest was personal and individual. The census books in his parish visitation areas are lasting memorials of the conscientious pastor – memorials to the care for humanity and genuine sympathy. In latter years when he health was not robust, the occasion presented an opportunity to end on a glorious note. He was cared for by The Daughters of Charity at St Joseph's Sandgate, near Newcastle. It was here he was to be involved in an apostolate that he loved – the care for the aged and the ailing. Those two years were a rewarding end for a faithful apostolate. The gathering at the Requiem of Fr George was representative of his activities – priests, sisters, parishioners, and colleagues of the original St Vincent's Catholic Tennis Club formed by Fr Ambrose Power, his great friend and mentor, in 1924. Ex-pupils of De La Salle, Ashfield, and St Stanislaus', Bathurst, were present, and noticed too were some of his former handball team-mates and opponents.

(Adapted from "Echoes", St Stanislaus' College, Bathurst)