

Father Vaughan's Sudden Death

Croydon Parishioners Shocked

LARGE ATTENDANCE AT OBSEQUIES.



THE LATE FATHER THOMAS VAUGHAN.

Saying that he was not feeling too well, Rev. Father T. Vaughan, P.P., of Holy Innocents' parish, Croydon, went to his room to rest after mid-day dinner on Monday last. He had taken this meal in company with his nephew, Rev. Father T. Vaughan, of Rydalmere. His guest had departed only a short while, when Father Vaughan was found dying. The Last Sacraments were administered to him by his assistant priest, Rev. Father John Purcell. Father Vaughan had suffered from heart trouble for some years.

His death came as a shock to his parishioners and, following so closely upon the demise of Father O'Kelly, has caused much grief and concern throughout the Archdiocese.

Father Vaughan was born in Crusheen, County Clare, Ireland. His early education was obtained at the diocesan college of Ennis, St. Flannan's, and from there he proceeded to All Hallows, Dublin. A distinguished scholastic course crowned his earnestness and application; and by professors and co-students he was esteemed for his geniality, sincerity of purpose and thought for others.

Father Vaughan was ordained in June, 1905. Sydney received him the following November. His first appointment was to Bulli; later he went further south to Bega. After 12 months in that district he was transferred to Surry Hills as assistant to the then Rev. Father R. Collender, who is now Vicar-General of the Archdiocese. There was a mutual wrench when he was asked to go to the open spaces once more. Milton has his company for some time, but Braidwood was destined to reap the greater harvest. He was there for 12 years, within which time, among many activities, he erected one of the finest country schools in New South Wales. His reputation was growing rapidly and his promotion was not far off. It was heralded by an appointment as locum tenens at Lidcombe, during the absence of Rev. Father R. McElligott. The death of Father St. Clair Bridge occurring in between, his Grace Archbishop Kelly immediately placed Father Vaughan in charge of Katoomba. On the death of Father Michael Tansey two years ago Father Vaughan became parish priest of Croydon.

Large Attendance at Obsequies.

Yesterday (Wednesday) morning, Solemn Office was intoned and Requiem Mass celebrated for the repose of Father Vaughan's soul. Rev. Father P. Walsh, P.P., was the celebrant. Right Rev. Monsignor P. O'Donnell, P.P., V.F., was deacon, and Rev. Father T. P. Vaughan (the deceased priest's nephew), sub-deacon. Rev. Father M. Cronin was master of ceremonies. Rev. Fathers L. Tosi and J. Byrne were the cantors.

His Grace the Archbishop presided in the sanctuary, where he was attended by Right Rev. Monsignor P. Doherty, P.P., V.F., and Very Rev. Monsignor J. McDonald, P.P.

There were nearly 150 representatives of the clergy present. They included Right

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Rev. Monsignor E. O'Donnell, P.P., Very Rev. Monsignor W. J. Hurley, P.P., T. Barry, P.P., and J. Muirhead, P.P., Ven. Archdeacon E. J. McAuliffe, P.P., V.F., Rev. Fathers J. Freeman (Archbishop Gilroy's private secretary). Representing the religious Orders were Very Rev. Father R. Macken, C.M. (Provincial), J. Power, M.S.C., Rev. Fathers M. D. Forrest, M.S.C., A. Perkins, M.S.C., P. Fanning, M.S.C., A. Herring, S.M., G. E. Bergeron, S.M., J. Brosnahan, S.M., T. A. Walsh, S.J., P. McGrath, S.J., Paschal, C.P., T. Campbell, C.S.S.R., C. Moriarty, O.F.M., P. O'Brien, O.F.M.

Relatives of Father Vaughan were Mr. G. Howard (cousin) and Mrs. Howard, of Malaya, and Mrs. K. McMahon (cousin), of Sydney.

The parochial societies were well represented. There were about 50 children of Mary and 40 boy scouts (in charge of Messrs. G. Hurley, S.M., and B. Milliken, A.S.M.) Holy Name representatives included Bros. E. Jones and W. Hesse; Hibernian A.C.B. Society, Bros. P. McGahan (president), E. Walsh (secretary), O. Bodinner (treasurer); A.H.C. Guild, Bro. F. Reilly (P.W.); St. Vincent de Paul Society, Bro. E. McGovern.

His Grace Preaches the Panegyric.

"For the second time in two days the Archdiocese of Sydney mourns the loss of a valuable priest," said his Grace the Archbishop, who preached the panegyric. "Twice in the course of two years this parish of Croydon has suffered the loss of a zealous pastor. The cross is an extremely heavy one, both for the Archdiocese of Sydney, and for the parish of Croydon. Still, it is God Who has sent the cross. May God's Holy Will be done. The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the Name of the Lord.

"By his sudden death, at the age of 61 years, Father Thomas Vaughan has concluded his earthly life and his priestly ministry. It seemed to those who met him recently that he was in better health than he had been for some time. It is true that for many years he did not enjoy good health, but by the expert attention of his physician, and by the care that he exercised in his daily routine, there seemed to be promise of at least some further years of his service in the cause of Almighty God.

"But God wished it otherwise.

"Only on this day last week Father Vaughan was, with other priests, a guest at luncheon at the Archbishop's House at Manly. He then enjoyed good spirits, and was hopeful regarding the future.

Father Vaughan's Career.

"In 1905 Father Vaughan was ordained for the Archdiocese of Sydney. He fulfilled the office of assistant priest successively at Bulli, Bega and Surry Hills. Then he was appointed priest in charge of Milton in 1912. Five years later, when the parish of Braidwood was joined to the Diocese of Goulburn, he was the parish priest, and there he remained for another 12 years. Subsequently, he returned to the diocese for which he was ordained, and in which his affections had always remained. In 1929 Father Vaughan was appointed parish priest of the important parish at Katoomba, and there he laboured for 10 years. Upon the death of Father Tansey, Father Vaughan was appointed parish priest of Croydon.

"Because of his ill-health he was not able, in recent years, to exercise his ministry with that fervour, with that zeal, and with that vigour which had characterised his exercising of the ministry in his early years. He, however, was ever watchful over his flock, ever consulting their interests, ever mindful of that which would promote their eternal welfare. Those who came in contact with him could not help being impressed by the gracious kindness of manner which characterised him. His generosity was great, and many is the cause that benefited by this generosity of which no one has knowledge but those who received his bounty.

"No one can regard a sudden death without a certain amount of trepidation. And yet a sudden death has many things to recommend it. Our Holy Mother the Church, so solicitous for all our interests, would not have us pray against a sudden death. She does not regard it as being any great evil. She does, of course, exhort us to pray against a sudden and unprovided death. That is to say, a death that would find us in the state of mortal sin. And Our Divine Saviour, in the course of His ministry, warned all to be constantly on their guard lest they should meet a sudden and unprovided death, for did not Our Divine Saviour ever and over again

tell us to beware, and to watch, because we did not know at what hour the Son of Man would come. And that warning was not directed to any particular class, to the old or to the infirm, but to all without exception. And it was the desire of Our Divine Saviour that all of us, no matter what might be our station in life, should so live that at any moment we would be ready to give an account of our stewardship.

"After all, it is unreasonable, surely, to be afraid to go before Him from Whom we have proceeded, and from Whom we have received everything that we are and everything that we have. Let no one believe that the warning of Our Divine Saviour is not directed to him personally and individually. We are only weak human beings. All of us without exception are subject to temptation, and all of us may fall from grace. Christ, Our Divine Saviour, has never declared that He would cut off for eternity anyone who simply fell from grace, be that fall ever so serious. His warnings are against those who, falling from grace, rebel against Him by remaining in that state of hostility to Almighty God. We may fail, and fail seriously, but we may rise again, and rise instantly. Let us, each one of us, be careful always to be in the state of grace.

Remembrance in Prayer.

"You have assembled here this morning, dear fathers, sisters, brothers and dearly beloved, to offer your suffrages for the happy repose of the soul of Father Vaughan. Do not, I beg of you, be satisfied to offer your prayers for him only this morning. As you most earnestly desire that God in His goodness will raise up others to pray for you when you need their help, so do, I beg you, continue to remember in your prayers him who was called so suddenly from this vale of tears to judgment. There are many things for which a priest has to give an account in judgment. His dignity is sublime. He participates in the very ministry of Christ, Our Divine Saviour. Many aids to obtain the grace of God are provided for him. The Church, ever solicitous for his welfare, directs him in her law to avail himself of these means. Frequent Confession, mental prayer, the Rosary, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, the recitation of his Breviary and the celebration of Mass are sublime means placed at the disposal of every priest from which to obtain the grace of God.

"And yet, because of the frailty of human nature, even those means, beautiful though they may be, cannot be employed without a great deal of self-sacrifice. Self-sacrifice is always painful to human nature. The priest is 'another Christ.' He is to look after the flock of Christ. He is the pastor of souls, and he must give an account of his pastorate, not to man, who can so easily be deceived, but to Christ Himself, the Chief Shepherd of the flock.

"The calls on the priest's time and patience are very many and trying, but that he will be able to say, as Christ, the Chief Shepherd, said: 'I know mine and mine know me,' the priest must be oblivious of self and constantly united with God.

"And yet he is only a man, and, in spite of the aids for the fulfilment of his office, he still remains subject to the infirmities of human nature. Do, I beg you, continue to remember in your prayers one who exercised the priestly ministry, as far as we know, in a manner that must earn the commendation of God, but only God Himself can judge.

"To-day Father Vaughan from his bed of death preaches an eloquent if mute sermon to each one of us, for he says to us: 'What you are I was. What I am you will be.'

"Let us then, whatever may be our station in life, employ the talents which God has given to us and use the time, be it short or long, which He gives us, to promote, in so far as we are able, the glory of God, the sanctification of our own souls, and the souls of others. Then will death be for us translation from this vale of tears to the glory of the Kingdom of God," concluded his Grace.

Guard of Honour.

A guard of honour was formed by the girls from the local school as the casket was borne from the church.

The funeral was to the Rookwood Cemetery, where Father Walsh officiated at the graveside.—R.I.P.

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TRIBUTE TO THE POPES.

Mr. Henry Wallace, the new Vice-President of the United States, has made a thorough study of the Social Encyclicals of recent Popes. In an address on the working of the "Triple A" (an American enactment to ameliorate the conditions of men on the land), he pointed out that two years before that law was passed Pope Pius XI, "in his remarkable Encyclical, "Quadragesimo Anno," had shown the evils, and how they could be remedied. Many of his speeches have passages that are paraphrases of the Papal statements. He is all for religious influence in the life of a nation. Of the lessening of religious influence he declares:

Somewhat in the manner that judicial interpretation was to deny both Federal and State power to regulate modern business in the United States, the Protestant ethic, freed from the restraint of the Roman Church, failed to develop an effective discipline for the social administration of great accumulations of property.

Mr. Wallace has a fine appreciation of Cardinal Hinsley's statements. After his election he called at the Washington headquarters of the National Catholic Welfare Conference to ask for a collection of all the Cardinal's sermons and broadcasts. In the Vice-President's opinion, expressed during that visit, the case for the regeneration of the world was better stated in his Eminence's words than anywhere else.

Mr. Wallace's opinion is evidently shared by the London Anglican "Church Times," which recently said that "it is remarkable that his Eminence should in a very short time have come to be recognised as one of the authoritative spokesmen, not only of his own Church, but of English Christians generally. He has succeeded to the mantle of Manning, which, for different reasons, neither Cardinal Bourne nor Cardinal Vaughan, was able to wear."

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