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Death Brings Halt to the Long Career of Monsignor Hayes

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Photo from Diocesan Archives

The Young Father Thomas J Hayes

Monsignor Thomas J Hayes, pastor of St Patrick Church, Placerville since 1922 and one of Northern California's outstanding priests, will receive final rites in his church Monday morning and will be buried in the adjoining cemetery. He died Tuesday in the parish home at the age of 70.

Members of the parish and a legion of friends in the community will attend an all-night vigil Sunday night. The funeral service is scheduled for 11 am Monday.

In poor health for several years, Father Hayes died about 7 am Tuesday. He had recently returned from the Mercy Hospital in Sacramento.

He was born October 27, 1881 in Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland, where he spent the early years of his life. He was ordained a priest at All Hallows Seminary in Ireland June 21, 1906, and came to America that fall.

The young priest served as assistant pastor at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacramento in Sacramento for about eight years before being assigned to his first pastorate in Redding. In 1922 he was put in charge of St Patrick Church in Placerville.



Photo from Diocesan Archives

St Patrick Church, Placerville during the Pastorate of Monsignor Hayes

Father Hayes was invested as a monsignor in June of 1848, crowning a service which saw the parish grow and witnessed his growth to a position of honor among Catholics and members of other faiths.

He celebrated the 75th anniversary of the parish in 1940 and celebrated his own silver jubilee as a pastor in the community in 1947.

He leaves a parish broadened to include a mission of the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement, added October 4, 1948 with three sisters. There are now four. Additionally he built St Patrick's hall and has purchased properties in the area for a school and quarters for the sisters as future goals of the parish.

Of his many activities, Father Hayes was perhaps more interested in the China Rice Corporation which he started in 1935 and which forwards contributions of approximately \$2000 yearly to Father Edward Galvin in Han Yang, China.

The St Patrick's Day celebration in Placerville, one of the outstanding events of the parish annually, also was a pet project of the pastor.

His Excellency the Most Reverend Bishop Robert Armstrong will preside at the service, assisted by Monsignor G. O'Driscoll of Chico and Monsignor Cornelius Murphy of Eureka, both friends of Father Hayes for many years.



Photo by John Boll 2013

Tombstone of Monsignor Hayes at St Patrick Church, Placerville

Monsignor Thomas A Kirby, chancellor to the bishop and a cousin of Monsignor Hayes, will celebrate the Mass. Monsignor Michael Lyons of the Sacred Heart church of Sacramento, will be deacon of the Mass and Father Patrick Cronin of Fair Oaks, another very close friend of Father Hayes, will serve as the sub-deacon. The sermon will be preached by Monsignor Patrick O'Sullivan of the Immaculate Conception Church of Sacramento.

His remains will be received at the church door at three o'clock Sunday afternoon, at which time a rosary will be recited. A rosary will also be recited at eight that evening.

A children's Mass is scheduled for nine Saturday morning.

He is survived by two brothers, Dennis and John, both of Ireland, and a cousin, Mrs. Thomas Dore of Forest Hills, New York.

In speaking of the place Father Hayes had taken in the community for the past 30 years, Father Horgan said a passage written by Father Hayes for the book "*Hallowed Were the Gold Dust Trails*" written by Father Henry J Walsh epitomizes the pastor's feelings for the community:

"It is a pleasure to pay tribute to the fine feeling of Christian fellowship that pervades the community. No religious rancor divides the people, no political or social lines are drawn or based on race or creed, and there is the friendliest cooperation in all things that make for the betterment of the community as a whole."

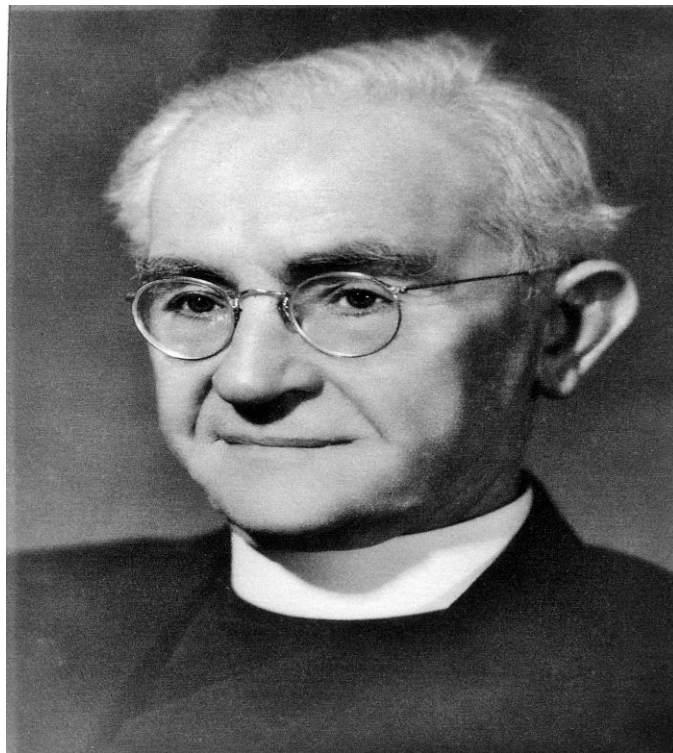


Photo from the Diocesan Archives

Monsignor Thomas J Hayes *circa* Age 70