

SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

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Father John E Boll

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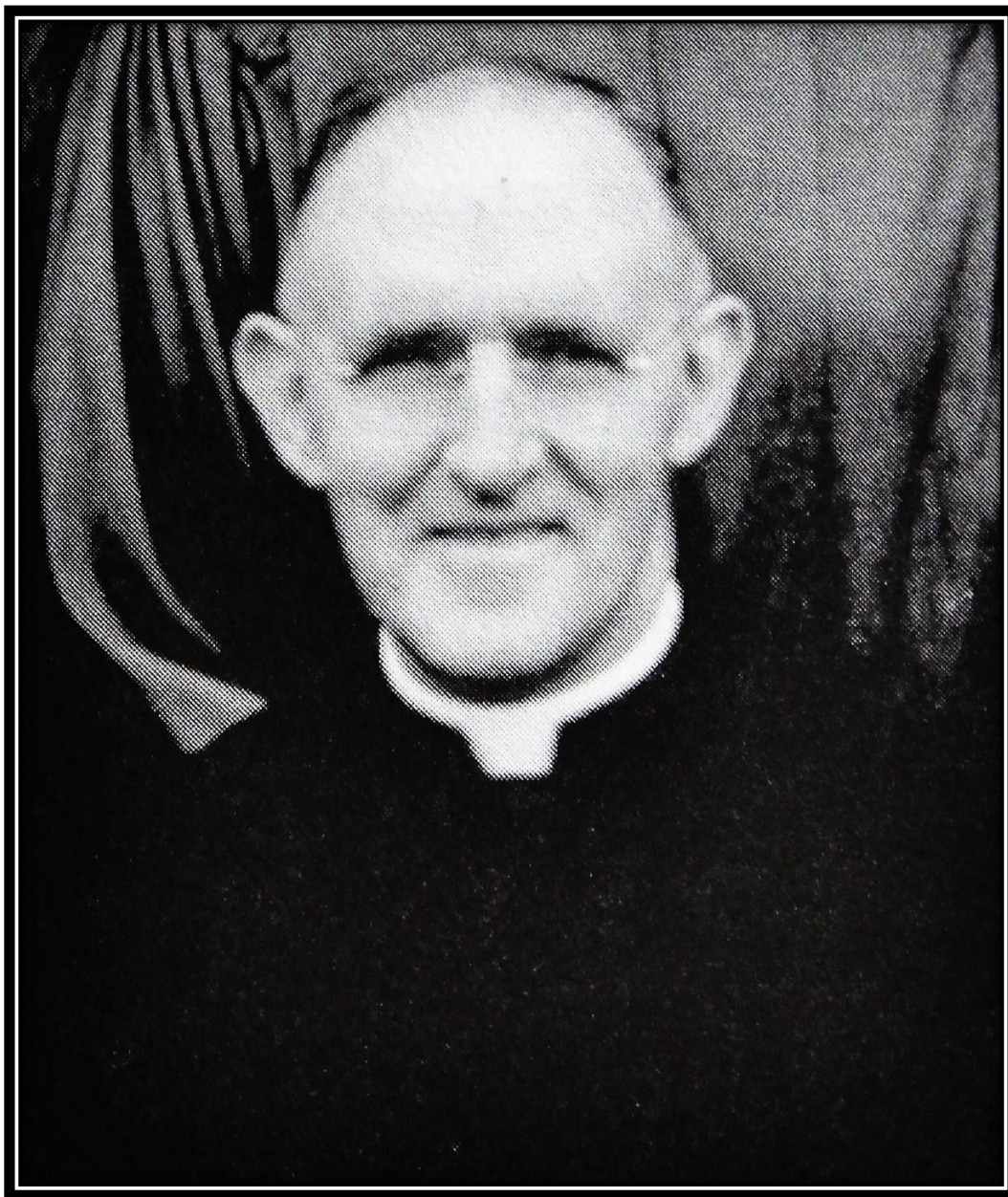
Monsignor Patrick J O'Sullivan

Native of Dingle, County Kerry, Ireland

Priest of the Diocese of Sacramento

Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Sacramento

December 1884 -- January 24, 1960



Patrick J O’Sullivan was born In Dingle, County Kerry, Ireland in 1884. He was educated by the Christian Brothers in Dingle and then entered All Hallows College Seminary in Dublin. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Sacramento at All Hallows College on June 24, 1909. After spending a short time with his family after his ordination, Father O’Sullivan began the journey from Ireland to Sacramento in the fall of 1909.



All Hallows College, Dublin, Ireland

FIRST ASSIGNMENTS

After his arrival in the Diocese of Sacramento, Bishop Thomas Grace welcomed Father O’Sullivan and assigned him to his first parish as assistant pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Red Bluff where he served for two years. In 1911, he was given an assignment as assistant to Father William F Ellis, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Sacramento, where he served seven years until 1918.

FIRST PASTORATE

Father O’Sullivan’s first pastorate was to the church in Goldfield, Nevada. Goldfield is the County Seat of Esmeralda County, 247 miles southeast of Carson City, along U.S. Route 95. The whole state of Nevada became part of the jurisdiction of the Vicariate of Marysville when it was established in 1861 under the leadership of Bishop Eugene O’Connell. In 1931, this changed when the Diocese of Reno was created and the Diocese of Sacramento turned over the jurisdiction of the whole state of Nevada to the newly created Diocese of Reno.

FOUNDING PASTOR OF FORT JONES



Photo by John E Boll

Sacred Heart Church, Fort Jones

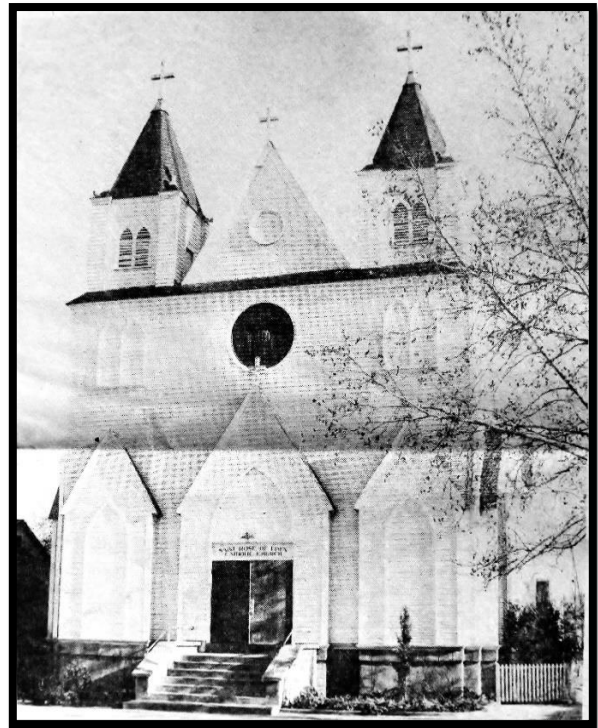
In 1921, in one of Bishop Thomas Grace's last appointments, Father O'Sullivan was named pastor of Saint Joseph Church in Yreka.

The next year, Bishop Patrick J Keane who succeeded Bishop Grace as bishop of Sacramento on March 17, 1922, named Father O'Sullivan founding pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Fort Jones.

After serving as pastor of the Sacred Heart Parish community for five years, Father O'Sullivan was then named pastor of Saint Rose Parish in Roseville.

PASTOR OF ROSEVILLE

In 1927, Father O'Sullivan became pastor of Saint Rose Parish in Roseville where he served the Roseville community for the next six years until 1933.



Saint Rose Church, Roseville

PASTOR OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

For his final assignment in 1933, Father O'Sullivan was appointed pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Sacramento where he first served as an assistant for seven years beginning in 1911.

Returning to Immaculate Conception Parish in 1933 as pastor, Father O'Sullivan remained pastor of the parish community for the next twenty-five years until 1958 when he retired and was named Pastor Emeritus. He celebrated his fiftieth anniversary of ordination to the priesthood in June 1959.



Photo from the Parish Archives

Immaculate Conception Church, Sacramento in the 1930s

PAPAL HONOR

In May 1948, Father O'Sullivan was honored for his years of service to the Church of Sacramento by Pope Pius XII who elevated him to the rank of Domestic Prelate with the title of *Right Reverend Monsignor*.

Besides serving as Dean of the Sacramento Deanery, Monsignor O'Sullivan was a member of the Diocesan Board of Consultors and the Commission on Sacred Music. He had previously served in the Diocesan Tribunal and the Council of Vigilance.

DEATH OF MONSIGNOR O'SULLIVAN

Having served as a priest of the Diocese of Sacramento for 51 years, Monsignor O'Sullivan died on Sunday morning, January 24, 1960, at the age of 76. He had served as assistant of Immaculate Conception Parish for seven years and then as pastor for twenty-five years for a total of 33 years.

FUNERAL MASS FOR MONSIGNOR O'SULLIVAN

On Tuesday morning, January 26, 1960, a Requiem Mass was celebrated for Monsignor O'Sullivan with the children of the parish. The students of the parish school led the singing at the Mass with Monsignor Kirby as celebrant, Father Arnold Meagher as deacon and Father Patrick O'Connor as sub-deacon. Father Anthony Traynor was master of ceremonies.

At the Tuesday evening Vigil, the Office of the Dead was prayed by the priests of the diocese and after the prayers of the Office, the parish community recited the rosary in the church.



Bishop Joseph T McGucken

On Wednesday morning, January 27, a Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated for Monsignor O'Sullivan at 11 AM in Immaculate Conception Church, Sacramento, where he had served for two-thirds of his life of ministry as a priest of the diocese.

Bishop Joseph T McGucken presided at the Mass *Ad Coram Pontificem*. Celebrant of the Mass was Monsignor Thomas Kirby, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church. Monsignor Gerald O'Driscoll, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Sacramento, served as deacon, and Father James Mulligan, assistant pastor at Saint John Church, Folsom, was sub-deacon. Father Anthony Traynor, assistant pastor at Immaculate Conception Church, was master of ceremonies.

The homily was given by Father John O'Connor, pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Redding. Assisting Bishop McGucken who presided at the final commendation and blessing of the body were Father John Hannan, assistant at Holy Family Church, Citrus Heights, and Father James Church, assistant at Saint Isidore Church, Yuba City. Former assistants of Monsignor O'Sullivan acted as pall bearers: Fathers Vincent Lyons, Thomas Relihan, Vincent O'Shaughnessy, Leo McAllister, Patrick O'Connor and Arnold Meagher.

BURIAL

At the conclusion of the Funeral Mass, the body of Monsignor O'Sullivan was taken in procession to Saint Mary Cemetery for the Prayers of Committal and burial.



Photo by John E Boll

Headstone of Monsignor Patrick J O'Sullivan, Saint Mary Cemetery, Sacramento

IN MEMORIAM

All Hallows College Seminary was established in Dublin, Ireland in 1842 to prepare young men to serve as missionary priests for English speaking missions of the world. Young Patrick O'Sullivan prepared himself at All Hallows College to be a missionary to the developing Church in Northern California. He arrived in Sacramento in 1909 at the dawn of the twentieth century, a century that would change the course of human history and the Catholic Church as well.

When young Father O'Sullivan was named to his first pastorate in Goldfield, Nevada in 1918, he found himself 380 miles away from Sacramento. He must have felt very isolated being so far away from Sacramento and his brother priests. After the mad rush to the California Gold Fields in the 1850s, Goldfield returned to being a rural village again. In 2010, the population of Goldfield was 268 people. We can only imagine the struggles, challenges and hardships Father O'Sullivan and his brother priests experienced as they were sent on mission to the remote areas of a diocese that covered Northern California, Nevada and parts of Utah.

We stand on the shoulders of those noble priests who have gone before us like Monsignor O'Sullivan, who faithfully lived their priestly vocation as heralds and missionaries of Christ to the ends of the earth. Thank you, Monsignor O'Sullivan, for your life of ministry to the People of God throughout Northern California and Nevada.

*Lord, God of Love, Mercy and
Compassion, We thank you for
Monsignor Patrick O'Sullivan who
labored half a century as a missionary
priest proclaiming your Gospel of love
and compassion to the People of
Northern California and Nevada.*

*You called him home to the fullness of
life on January 24, 1960.*

*From his place in Your Kingdom,
may he continue to intercede for the
People of God in this diocese,
that we too may continue the Mission of
Christ who has come to gather together
the nations of the world to share in your
life forever.*