

# SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

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Father John E Boll

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## *Monsignor Michael James Hynes*

Native of Kinnegad, County Westmeath, Ireland

Priest of the Diocese of Sacramento

Pastor of Saint John the Baptism Church, Chico, California

1879 -- 1941



**Michael James Hynes, born in Kinnegad, County Westmeath, Ireland in 1879**, received his early education in local schools in his hometown of Kinnegad. He graduated from high school in Navan and then entered All Hallows College, the famed missionary college seminary in Dublin, where he was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Sacramento in 1904.

### **ARRIVES IN SACRAMENTO**

After spending some time with his family before leaving for the missions in Sacramento, Father Hynes left Ireland in the fall of 1902, setting sail from Ireland to New York and then by train across the US continent to Sacramento.

### **LIFE OF MINISTRY BEGINS**

After arriving in Sacramento, Father Hynes was given his first assignment as assistant pastor of Saint Patrick Parish in Sonora. His first pastor was Father Patrick Guerin who later was named a monsignor and became pastor of Marysville.



Photo by John E Boll

**Saint Patrick Church, Sonora, CA**

### **NAMED PASTOR OF MAXWELL**

After seven years as assistant in Sonora, Father Hynes was made pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Maxwell. The present church and parish house in Maxwell were built during his pastorate there.



Photo by John E Boll

### **Sacred Heart Church, Maxwell**

#### **PASTOR OF RED BLUFF**

In 1925, Father Hynes was named pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Red Bluff where he ministered to the spiritual needs of the faithful there for four years.



Photo by John E Boll

### **Sacred Heart Church, Red Bluff**

## **PASTORATE IN RENO, NEVADA**

At this time in 1931, the western half of Nevada was under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Sacramento. Father Hynes' next assignment was as pastor of Reno where he distinguished himself as an administrator and a builder. Under his direction, the now Cathedral parish house in Reno and the beautiful parish school were constructed.



Photo by John E Boll

### **Saint Thomas Aquinas Cathedra, Reno, NV**

It was during this time that Father Myles' ability and administrative genius was recognized by Pope Pius XI who conferred on him the title of Monsignor.

Later in the year of 1931, the new diocese of Reno was formally established and Monsignor Hynes served as Vicar General of the new diocese of Reno under the jurisdiction of Bishop Gorman until 1934.

## **RETURN TO THE DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO**

Returning to the Sacramento diocese in 1934, Monsignor Hynes was appointed pastor of Saint Dominic Parish in Colfax until 1937 when he succeeded Father James Dermody as pastor of Chico.



Photo by John E Boll

### **Saint John the Baptist Church, Chico**

#### **A PRIEST WITH MANY FRIENDS**

Monsignor Hynes was one of the most popular priests of the Sacramento diocese. He was a man of unique personal charm which won him a host of friends in Northern California and in Nevada. He was a man of exceptional physical stature and the picture of robust health.

A lover of the outdoors and an ardent hunting and fishing enthusiast, he was always in perfect shape and in good spirits, and for this reason his sudden death came as a great surprise and shock to his many friends among the clergy and laity throughout the Sacramento diocese.

### **THE DEATH COMES TO MONSIGNOR HYNES**

Monsignor Hynes had begun to suffer from sudden internal ailments which affected his whole system, resulting in an acute attack of pneumonia which was the cause of his death. He had planned to undergo an operation the following week but died suddenly in the parish house on Tuesday evening, January 28, 1941, at 9 o'clock at the age of 62. His brother, Father James Hynes of Auburn, was at his bedside at the time of his death. As the next of kin, Father James Hynes took on the responsibility of making the funeral arrangements with the help of Black and Johnson Funeral Home of Chico.

### **REQUIEM MASS CELEBRATED FOR MONSIGNOR HYNES**

On Thursday evening, January 30, the Office of the Dead was prayed by the assembled clergy, friends and parishioners of Saint John Parish.

The Requiem Mass for Monsignor Hynes was celebrated in Saint John the Baptist Church, Chico on Friday, January 31, at 10:30 AM. Presiding at the Mass was Bishop Robert J Armstrong. Monsignor Patrick Guerin of Marysville was the celebrant of the Mass and Monsignor Thomas E Horgan, VG, served as deacon. Father William Daley of Truckee, a very close friend of Monsignor Hynes, was the sub-deacon. Father Cornelius Murphy of North Sacramento served as the master of ceremonies.

After the Funeral Mass, the body of Monsignor Hynes was taken by hearse in procession to the Catholic cemetery in Chico for the Rite of Committal and burial.



Photo by Robert Holt

**Headstone of Monsignor Michael J Hynes, Chico Catholic Cemetery**

## **SURVIVING FAMILY**

Monsignor Hynes leaves behind five brothers - Father James Hynes, pastor of Saint Joseph Church, Auburn; Father Malachi Hynes of Cork, Ireland; Patrick, Thomas and Christy Hynes, all of Ireland; and two sisters, Sister Mary Genevieve and Mrs Kate Nolan.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

Monsignor Michael J Hynes was ordained a priest at the beginning of the twentieth century. Like many young Irish born priests before him, he left family, friends and his native Ireland to serve in the missions of far off California. It is obvious that he was raised in a very Catholic family from which three of the sons became priests and his sister Genevieve became a religious sister.

Father Hynes was well suited for the diocese of Sacramento. He loved to fish and hunt and to serve in mountain parishes in various parts of the diocese of Sacramento. He was given the opportunity to develop his skills in these outdoor sports that he loved.

It is a joy to hear that Monsignor Hynes was a happy, outgoing priest who befriended both clergy and laity in whatever parish he served. He was blessed with skills in administration and building which were termed "genius". These skills and talents were recognized by Pope Pius XI when he honored Father Hynes with the title of *Monsignor*.

In his 37 years as a priest in the Diocese of Sacramento, Monsignor Hynes served during the episcopacy of three bishops, Bishop Thomas Grace, Bishop Patrick Keane and Bishop Robert Armstrong. For a short while, he served as Vicar General of the newly created Diocese of Reno with Bishop Gorman as the first bishop of Nevada.

Although Monsignor Hynes was a healthy, happy and popular priest, his life came to a sudden end when he was stricken with a severe case of pneumonia at the age of 62. The people of the Diocese of Sacramento are grateful for the life and ministry of Monsignor Hynes who was a joyful and faithful priest until the day the Lord suddenly called him home to the Kingdom of Heaven.

*Lord,  
We thank you for the life and ministry  
Of Monsignor Michael Hynes  
Who touched the lives of many people.  
You have called him home to your Kingdom of  
peace. May he live with you forever.*



*Cliffs of Moher*

*May Monsignor Michael J Hynes*

*Rest now in Peace.*

*Amen*