

SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

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Father John E Boll

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Father James J Hynes

Native of Kinnegad, County Westmeath, Ireland

Priest of the Diocese of Sacramento

Pastor of Saint Joseph Parish, Auburn, California

April 12, 1873 – August 29, 1947



James J Hynes, born on April 3, 1873 in the Parish of Kilwarden, Kennegad, County Westmeath, Ireland, entered Saint Mary's College, Mullingar, on January 6, 1889 and then transferred to All Hallows College Seminary in Dublin, Ireland for his theological studies. He was ordained a priest on June 24, 1898 for the Diocese of Sacramento at the All Hallows Seminary Chapel, Dublin.

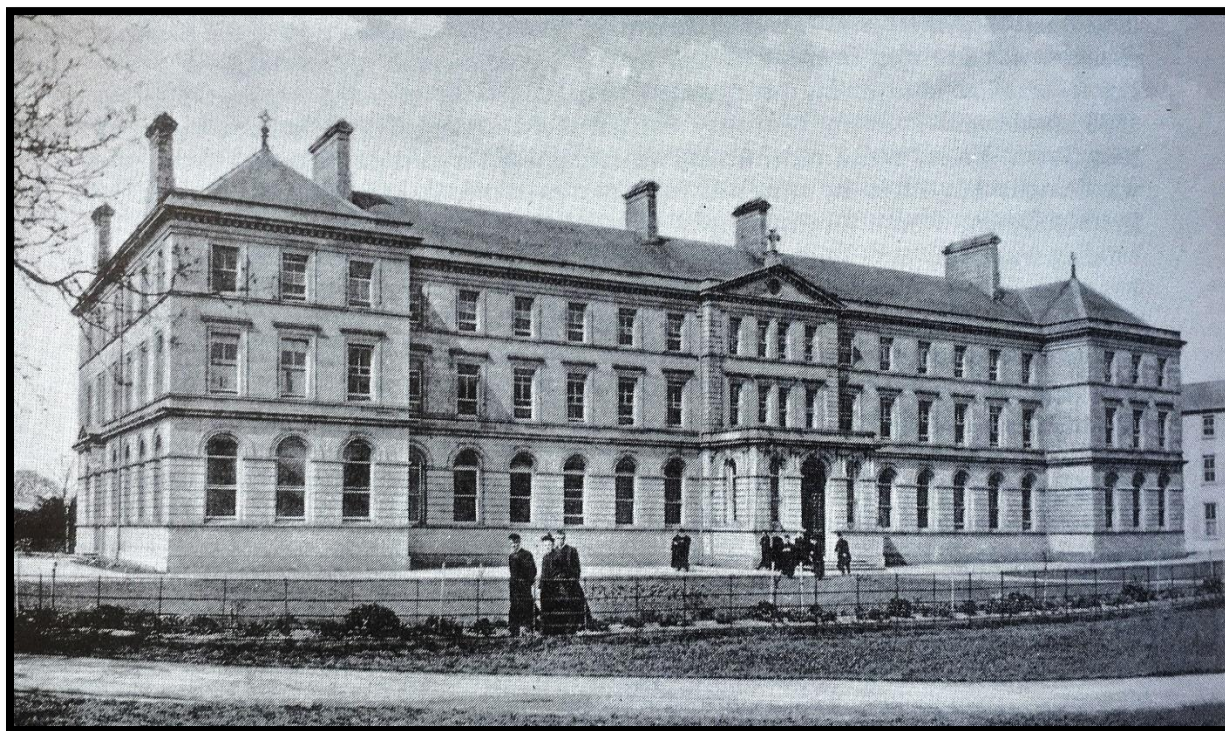


Photo from the Diocesan Archives

All Hallows College, Dublin, Ireland

After spending a short time with his family after ordination, Father Hynes joined his classmate Father James Vaughan and together they set sail for New York. After their arrival, they traveled by train across the US continent for Sacramento. Upon their arrival in Sacramento in the fall of 1898, the Sacramento diocese, established on May 28, 1886 by Pope Leo XIII, was a missionary diocese with relatively few priests. Father James' brother Michael Hynes would follow him to serve as a priest of the Sacramento diocese in 1904.

FIRST ASSIGNMENT

Bishop Thomas Grace who succeeded Bishop Manogue on June 16, 1896, appointed Father Hynes to his first assignment as assistant pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Marysville until 1902. The Marysville church served as the Cathedral of the Vicariate of Marysville from 1861 until the Vicariate became the Diocese of Grass Valley on March 3, 1868.

Bishop O'Connell's successor, Bishop Patrick Manogue, strongly urged Pope Leo XIII to suppress the Diocese of Grass Valley and create the Diocese of Sacramento which the Pope did on May 28, 1886 with the Capital City of Sacramento as the See City.



Photo by John E Boll

Saint Joseph Cathedral, Vicariate of Marysville

PASTOR OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, SMARTSVILLE

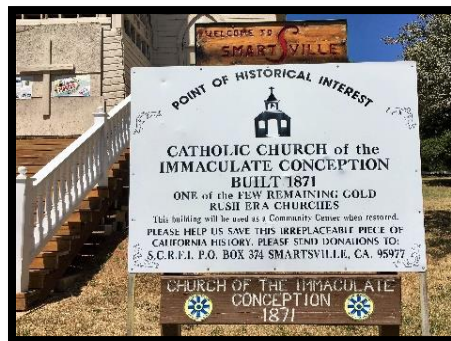
In 1902, Father Hynes was appointed pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Smartsville, in the Sierra foothills east of Marysville, about half way between Marysville and Grass Valley. This was a mining community during the Gold Rush era and in its zenith, the parish had over 800 parishioners. Father Hynes served as pastor of Smartsville for eleven years until 1913.

Today, the Catholic Church in Smartsville still stands but no longer serves as a church. The small community of Smartsville purchased the church and is planning to repair the building and turn it into a community center for the area. A photograph of the church as it stands today follows on the next page.



Photo by John E Boll

The Original Immaculate Conception Church in Smartsville



PASTOR OF SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH, OROVILLE

In 1913, Bishop Grace named Father Hynes to the pastorate of Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish in Oroville where he served until 1932.

Father Hynes' early days in the Oroville parish were rough going. He traveled by horseback to visit his parishioners and had to ford swollen streams and cross rugged mountains on trails. On one of his missionary visits to Catholics in his vast parish, he traveled 300 miles.

In January 1929, an announcement was made public that a new \$30,000 Catholic Church was planned for construction in Oroville. The walls of the church were made of baked bricks which came from Lund's Brick Plant in Palermo, about 6 miles from Oroville.

Being pastor of Oroville for 17 years might have been a bit too long for Father Hynes as we can see from an August 1927 letter sent from an Oroville parishioner to Bishop Keane urging the bishop to send a younger priest to the parish, "one who is a live wire who can get out with the young folks and visit those that don't come to church."

In October 1930, the pastorate of Holy Rosary Parish in Woodland became vacant and Father Hynes applied for the parish. However, that pastorate was given to



Photo by John E Boll

St Thomas the Apostle Church, Oroville

Father Michael Gaffney. But two years later, Bishop Armstrong would give Father Hynes a new assignment as pastor of the Fortuna parish in Humboldt County.

PASTOR OF SAINT JOSEPH PARISH, FORTUNA



Photo by John E Boll

Saint Joseph Church, Fortuna

In July of 1932, Bishop Armstrong appointed Father Hynes to the pastorate of Saint Joseph Parish in Fortuna, Humboldt County, about 20 miles south of the city of Eureka. At this point in diocesan history, Humboldt County was part of the Diocese of Sacramento and Father Hynes served as pastor of Fortuna for the next ten years.

Humboldt County is in the heart of the Giant Redwoods of Northern California. The Redwoods are some of the oldest living things on earth and Humboldt County is a beautiful place to live if one can withstand the cool and damp weather along the Pacific Coast of California.

On October 13, 1938, Father Hynes had kidney surgery at Saint Mary Hospital in San Francisco. After the surgery, Doctor Thomas Gibson recommended that Father Hynes move to a warmer climate for health reasons. On February 3, 1939, Father Hynes wrote to Bishop Armstrong complaining about the cold and damp climate of Fortuna and applied for the pastorate of Saint Monica Parish in Willows. He was not appointed to Willows but another parish soon opened and he was appointed there.

FINAL APPOINTMENT, SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH, AUBURN

The March 8, 1940 death of Father Richard Verecker, pastor of Saint Joseph Church in Auburn, created a parish vacancy and Bishop Armstrong appointed Father James Hynes as pastor of Auburn in March of 1940. During his seven years in Auburn, Father Hynes became a beloved pastor of the Auburn parish community.



Interior, St. Joseph's Church, Auburn
1948

Photo from St Joseph Parish Archives

DEATH OF FATHER HYNES

Although Father Hynes had been in poor health for some time, he was able to carry out his pastoral duties up to the day he left for Mercy Hospital in Sacramento. He was a patient in the hospital for a week when he suddenly died on August 29, 1947 at the age of 74.

Father Hynes was one of the longest serving priests in the diocese at the time of his death. He had served as a priest of the Sacramento diocese for 49 years and according to his obituary

printed in the *Catholic Herald* in 1947, he was "beloved by all in the various parishes where he served during his 49 years of ministry." Just three weeks before his own death, Father Hynes attended the Funeral Mass of his friend and classmate Monsignor James Vaughan of Colusa with whom he traveled from Ireland to Sacramento in 1898.

FUNERAL FOR FATHER HYNES



Bishop Robert J Armstrong

A Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated for Father James Hynes in Saint Joseph Church, Auburn on Tuesday, September 2, 1947. Bishop Robert Armstrong presided *Ad Coram Pontificem*. The bishop gave the homily and offered the prayers of commendation at the end of the Mass.

Celebrant of the Mass was Father William Daly, pastor of Saint Rose Church, Roseville and a long-time friend of Father James and his brother Monsignor Michael Hynes. Father Patrick Bennett, pastor of Saint Rose Church in Sacramento, served as deacon and Father Michael J O'Connell, pastor of Saint Joseph Church, North Sacramento, was sub-deacon.

Monsignor Thomas Kirby was the first Master of Ceremonies, assisted by Father Hugh McTague. The assistant priest was Monsignor Thomas Horgan, VG, and Fathers Patrick O'Reilly and Michael Gaffney served as chaplains to Bishop Armstrong. Father Michael Connor was the cross bearer. The *Requiem* was chanted by the Priests' Choir.

Immediately before the Mass, the clergy assembled in the church to chant the Office of the Dead. Six laymen of the parish were selected to act as pallbearers and the following members of the clergy were chosen as honorary pallbearers: Fathers James O'Flanagan, Gridley; Andrew Tynan, Colusa; Jeremiah Boland, Truckee; John McGarry, Colusa; Michael Manogue, Ferndale; and William Coen, Red Bluff.

BURIAL OF FATHER HYNES

The interment of the body of Father Hynes took place on Tuesday afternoon in the Catholic Cemetery in Chico. The body of Father James Hynes was laid to rest next to his brother, the late Monsignor Michael J Hynes, who died on January 28, 1941.

SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBER

Father Hynes was survived by three brothers in Ireland, Father Malachy Hynes, OFM, Cap of Cork; Thomas Hynes of Dublin; and Christopher Hynes of County Offaly; two sisters, Mrs C Nolan, County Offaly; and Sister Mary Genevieve, a Daughter of Charity in London.

He was also survived by two nieces in the United States, both members of the Holy Cross Community: Sister Catherine Agnes, Holy Cross Convent in Ventura, and Sister Barbara Ann, Saint Barnabas Convent in Long Beach.

Father Hynes was the third priest of the Sacramento Diocese to die during the month of August in 1947; the other two priests were Monsignor James Vaughn, Father Hynes classmate, who died on August 4 and Father Jerome Enright who died on August 5.



Photo by Robert Holt

Headstones of Father James J Hynes, left, and his brother Monsignor Michael J Hynes, right
The Catholic Cemetery in Chico, California

*Eternal rest grant unto Father James,
O Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon him.
May his soul and the souls of all
The faithful departed rest now in peace.*



Photo from Westmeath Website

Fore Abbey, County Westmeath, Ireland



Photo from Westmeath Website

Tullynally Castle Gardens, County Westmeath, Ireland