

SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

Vol 3

Father John E Boll

No 37

Father Patrick Joseph Henry

Native of Cloontumper, Parish of Began, County Mayo, Ireland

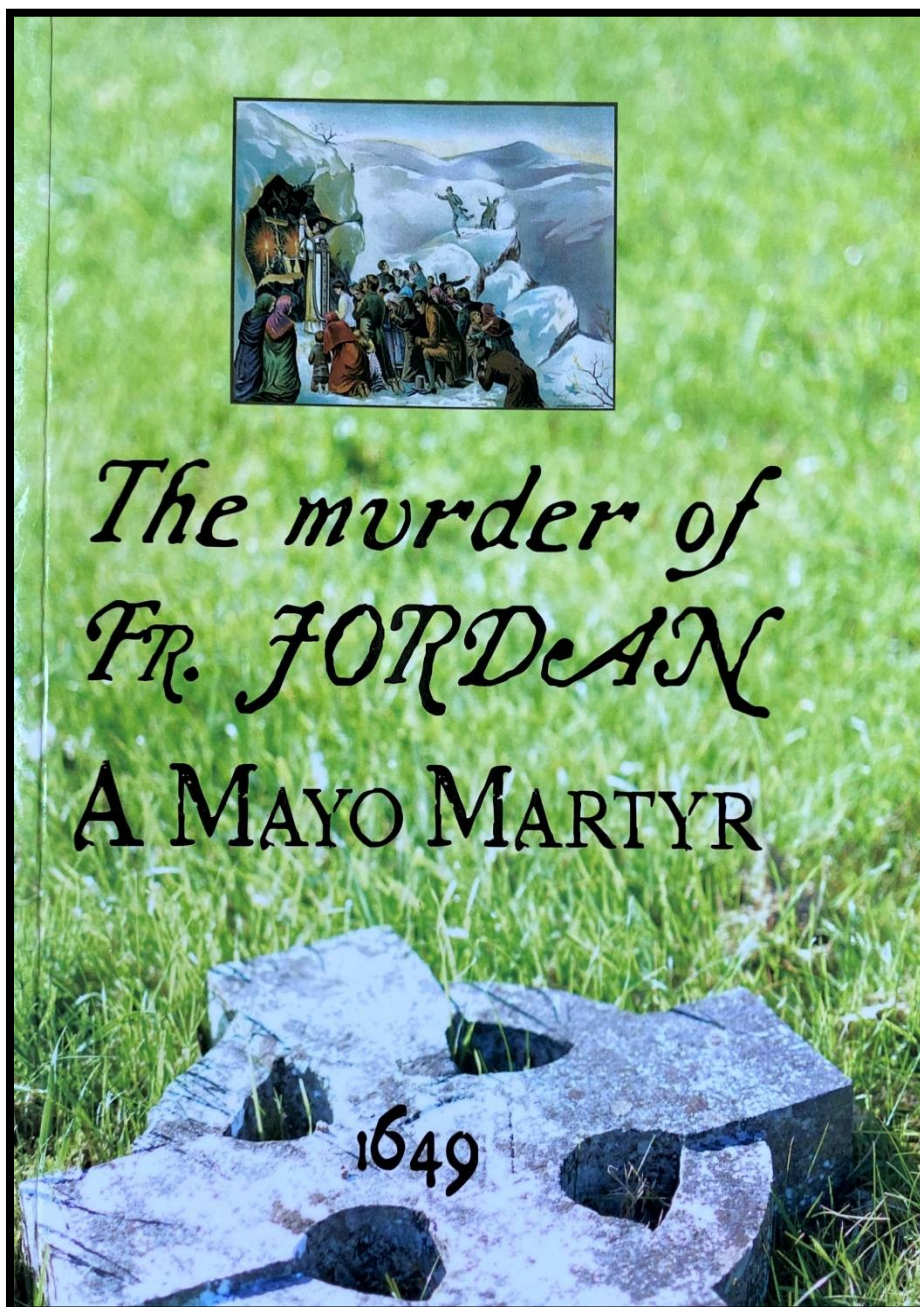
Priest of the Diocese of Sacramento

Pastor Emeritus of Sacred Heart Parish, Susanville, California



Patrick Joseph Henry, son of John Henry and Mary Waldron, is the oldest of five children. The children of the Henry family are, in order of birth, Patrick, Maureen, Sean, Bridget and Rita. Patrick was born in the family home on the Feast of Saint Joseph, March 19, 1948, in the Village of Cloontumper, Parish of Bekan, County Mayo, six miles from the Shrine of Knock.

There is a tradition of faith in the village that Father Jordan, who was martyred in 1649, had celebrated Mass regularly at a "Mass Rock" a half mile from the Henry family home. People were inspired by Father Jordan's witness to the Catholic faith in times of persecution in Ireland.



Courtesy of Fr Henry

A Book about the Life of Father Jordan

Patrick says his family was poor. His father John was a farmer who raised cattle and planted crops. He provided food for the family and sold the surplus at the local market. When Patrick's father John was a youth, his father Patrick died of cancer and John was forced to leave school at age of 14 to assist his mother in managing the farm. In 1960, at the age of 48, Patrick's father John also died of cancer when Patrick was just twelve years of age. Patrick's mother Mary became a widow at the age of 32 and had to manage the farm and raise her five children on her own until she remarried a couple years later.

PATRICK BEGINS SCHOOL

Patrick began primary school at the National School in Began and attended there for eight years. He then transferred to Saint Jarlath's College in Tuam, County Galway, for high school from 1962-1967. This school was operated by the Archdiocese of Tuam and had 18 diocesan priests serving as teachers and administrators. Saint Jarlath's College had a reputation for football, but Patrick did not play football. The school also had a program for provincial and national athletics. Patrick was a good runner but did not qualify for the school team. He graduated from Saint Jarlath's College in 1967.



Photo from St Jarlath's College Website

Saint Jarlath's College, Tuam, Ireland

JOINS THE SOCIETY OF SAINT COLUMBAN

After high school, Patrick joined the Society of Saint Columban in Navan, County Meath. The co-founder of the Society, Father John Blowick, was still living and was an inspiration to the members of the Saint Columban Society. However, after two years, Patrick decided he was not ready to continue with his studies so he left the Society and went to England to work.



Photo from Society of St Columban, Ireland Website

Home of the Missionary Society of St Columban, Dalgan Park, Navan, County Meath, Ireland

YEARS IN ENGLAND

In 1969, Patrick left for London and spent three years working at different jobs when he decided to pursue further studies. He was accepted by the Newman College of Education, part of the University of Birmingham, to study for a Bachelor of Education degree. After qualifying as a teacher, he taught for twelve years at three different schools in Birmingham and became head of the Department of Music and Special Education at two of these schools.

STUDIES FOR A DEGREE IN PHILOSOPHY AND MUSIC

During those twelve years, Patrick continued his studies for a second degree in philosophy and music at the Open University. He auditioned for the choir of the Metropolitan Cathedral Church of Saint Chad in Birmingham and had the privilege of being a choral vicar for eight years. There were two excellent directors of music; the first had been a chorister at King's College, Cambridge, who was an outstanding director of choirs. This former chorister is now manager of the Royal School of Church Music in London and has been honored by Queen Elizabeth II of England.

The second director of music is still at the Metropolitan Cathedral Church of Saint Chad in Birmingham and is also professor of music locally. It was a wonderful time for Patrick as he learned much about music in general and choral music in particular.

When Patrick was a Cathedral singer, the choir toured the Archdiocese of Birmingham, broadcasted services for the BBC, and went on tour to various cities in Europe. He remembers especially the Rhineland Tours of southern Germany. Since then, Patrick has not sung in a church choir for 35 years and has lost some of the skills he had developed in his earlier years.



Photo courtesy of Fr Henry

Saint Chad's Cathedral Choir, Birmingham, England

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST CHAD

The Cathedral of Saint Chad was the first neo-Gothic Cathedral built by the architect Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin in the middle of the 19th century. The building of this Cathedral coincided with the restoration of the English Roman Catholic Hierarchy after decades of suppression by the Crown. This was also the time when John Henry Newman came to Birmingham and he was very familiar with the Cathedral. Newman founded the Oratorians and resided at a church about a mile away from the Cathedral. This Cathedral is famous for its beautiful stained glass windows that were recently restored to their original beauty.



Photo taken from St Chad Cathedral Website

Metropolitan Cathedral Church of Saint Chad, Birmingham, England

PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

During his eight years as a Cathedral singer and as a semi-professional singer, Patrick was also involved in Hospice as a volunteer. The primary purpose of Hospice was to prepare the terminally-ill patients for death. Patrick was also involved in fundraising for the Hospice Movement by means of its thrift stores and was a voluntary receptionist for Hospice. In the local parish, Patrick was a member of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and visited people who lived in the Inner-Ring of the City of Birmingham.

RETURN TO THE SEMINARY

While Patrick was a member of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society and Hospice, his faith in God and love for the Church continued to grow. As a result of singing the Sacred Texts of Scripture at the Cathedral, he began to pray the Divine Office of the Church. He remembers clearly that during the Easter Vigil in 1984, while the choir was singing the **Reading Rota** (*Perspice Christicola, c 1270*) at the Cathedral, he came to the conviction that God was calling him to become a priest. Also, during the singing of one of the psalms that same night, Patrick decided he would make application to the seminary.

During this same period, Patrick owned his own home near the burial site of Blessed John Henry Newman. He visited Newman's grave regularly and also his living quarters at the Oratory on Hagley Road in Birmingham before this place became famous following the visit of Pope Benedict XVI when he visited England in 2012.



Photo by T E Martin, Cardinal Newman Website

Saint John Henry Newman's Sarcophagus, Church of the Birmingham Oratory, England

The life and work of Blessed John Henry Newman began to exert an influence in Patrick's life. He would visit Oriel College at Oxford University every year, because Newman was still remembered there. He also visited the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, the place where the Oxford Movement began. However, Patrick waited almost a year before applying to the seminary.



Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman

APPIES TO THE SEMINARY

When Patrick applied to the Archdiocese of Birmingham to enter the seminary, he was 37 years of age and was told by the Director of Vocations that he was too old. Undaunted, Patrick next applied to the Diocese of Menevia in Wales. He learned the Welsh language as part of his acculturation after he was accepted by Bishop James Hannigan, bishop of Menevia. Bishop Hannigan sent Patrick to Saint Kieran's College in Kilkenny in 1985 where he studied theology for four years.



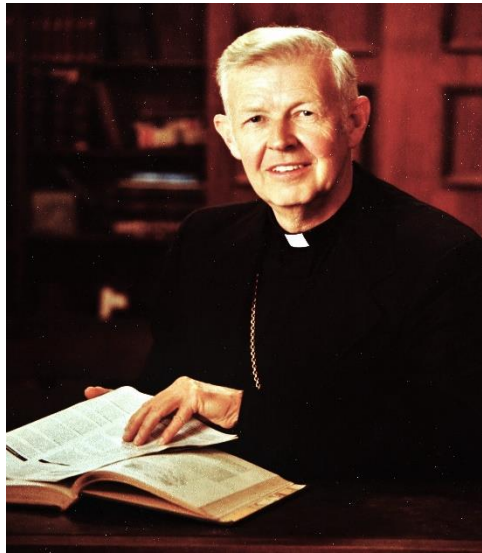
Photo from the St Kieran College Website

Saint Kieran's College, Kilkenny, Ireland

In 1989, the Diocese of Menevia and the Archdiocese of Cardiff decided together that a third diocese in Wales needed to be created. Part of the Diocese of Menevia and part of the Archdiocese of Cardiff became the new Diocese of Wrexham near Chester City. Bishop Hannigan of the Diocese of Menevia became the bishop of the new Diocese of Wrexham and asked Patrick in which diocese he preferred to serve. Patrick said he would like to join the Diocese of Wrexham and Bishop Hannigan accepted him as a seminarian for the Wrexham diocese.

Once the new diocese was created, Bishop Hannigan realized he had only four parishes that needed a parochial vicar and he had eight seminarians younger than Patrick that were close to ordination. The bishop decided that, given Patrick's age, he was not really needed in the new diocese. He asked Patrick to apply to another diocese and he would support Patrick's application.

PATRICK CHOOSES THE DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO



Bishop Francis A Quinn

Patrick was approaching deaconate and had to be accepted by a diocese in order to be ordained a deacon. Because he had cousins on his father's side of the family living in Sacramento and in the San Francisco Bay area, he applied to the Diocese of Sacramento.

Bishop Francis Quinn was the bishop of Sacramento and happily accepted Patrick as a seminarian for the Diocese of Sacramento.

SENT TO SACRED HEART SEMINARY IN MILWAUKEE

After arriving in Sacramento, Bishop Quinn sent Patrick to Sacred Heart Seminary in Milwaukee to complete his studies. He joined three other Sacramento seminarians Keith Canterbury, Terry Fulton and Mike Hebda and spent one year at Sacred Heart Seminary before returning to Sacramento for the mandatory pastoral year.



Photo from the Sacred Heart Seminary Website

Sacred Heart Seminary, Hales Corner, Wisconsin

PASTORAL YEAR IN FOLSOM

For his pastoral year, Patrick was assigned to Saint John the Baptist Church in Folsom. During that year, he assisted with religious education in the parish. He says that his pastor, Father William Kinane, was an inspiration to him because he showed him how to interact with parishioners in a meaningful way, mindful of the spirit and hospitality of the Gospel.

Wednesdays were Father Kinane's day off and as he left to play golf he always knocked on Patrick's door to invite him to join the golf group for dinner that evening. Father Kinane was always hospitable, kind and thoughtful to Patrick which he greatly appreciated.



Father Bill Kinane

ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE

Patrick Henry was ordained a deacon in January 1992 at Saint Mary Cathedral in San Francisco because it was Bishop Francis Quinn's turn to ordain the transitional deacons of Saint Patrick Seminary that year at Saint Mary Cathedral.



Photo by John E Boll

Saint Mary Cathedral, San Francisco

ORDAINED A PRIEST FOR SACRAMENTO

At the end of his pastoral year, Patrick J Henry was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Sacramento on June 7, 1992 in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament by Bishop Francis A Quinn. Ordained with him that day as priests were R Francis Stevens and Charles Nguyen.



Photo by John E Boll

Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament where Father Patrick was Ordained

A week after his ordination, Father Patrick returned to Ireland to celebrate Mass at his home parish with Mary his mother and his brother and sisters as well as the whole parish community of Cloontumper who celebrated the ordination of one of its own native sons.

It was a time of excitement for the parish because there had not been an ordination from that parish for 38 years.



Photo courtesy of Fr Henry

Father Patrick Celebrates his Ordination with his Home Parish in Ireland

FIRST APPOINTMENT, SAINT PATRICK PARISH, PLACERVILLE

Father Patrick's first appointment was as parochial vicar to Saint Patrick Parish in Placerville with Father Anthony Gurnell as pastor. This appointment lasted only 14 months but during his time in Placerville he learned a great deal about parish life and the American culture from the people of the parish.



Photo by John E Boll

Saint Patrick Church, Placerville

At the end of fourteen months in Placerville, Bishop Quinn appointed Father Patrick parish administrator of Holy Cross Parish in Tulelake. This was the time of the inter-regnum of Bishop Quinn who was retiring and Bishop Weigand who was appointed as his successor. Father Patrick was appointed administrator by Bishop Quinn for six weeks and subsequently named pastor of Tulelake by Bishop Weigand.

PASTOR OF TULELAKE

Father Michael Tamburi died suddenly at his office desk in the parish rectory at Tulelake on October 21, 1993, leaving the parish without a pastor. Thanks to the confidence placed in him by Bishop Weigand, Father Patrick quickly learned how to do the parish bookkeeping and manage the parish. "It was," he said, "a baptism by immersion."

Thanks to his previous experience of living in extremely cold weather in Wisconsin, Father Patrick was able to deal with the very cold weather in Tulelake during the winter months. Throughout his six years as pastor of Holy Cross Parish, his focus was primarily on developing the parish

Hispanic ministry because the majority of the parish community was now Hispanic since many of the original homesteaders were aging and passing on to the Lord.



Photo by John E Boll

Holy Cross Church, Tulelake

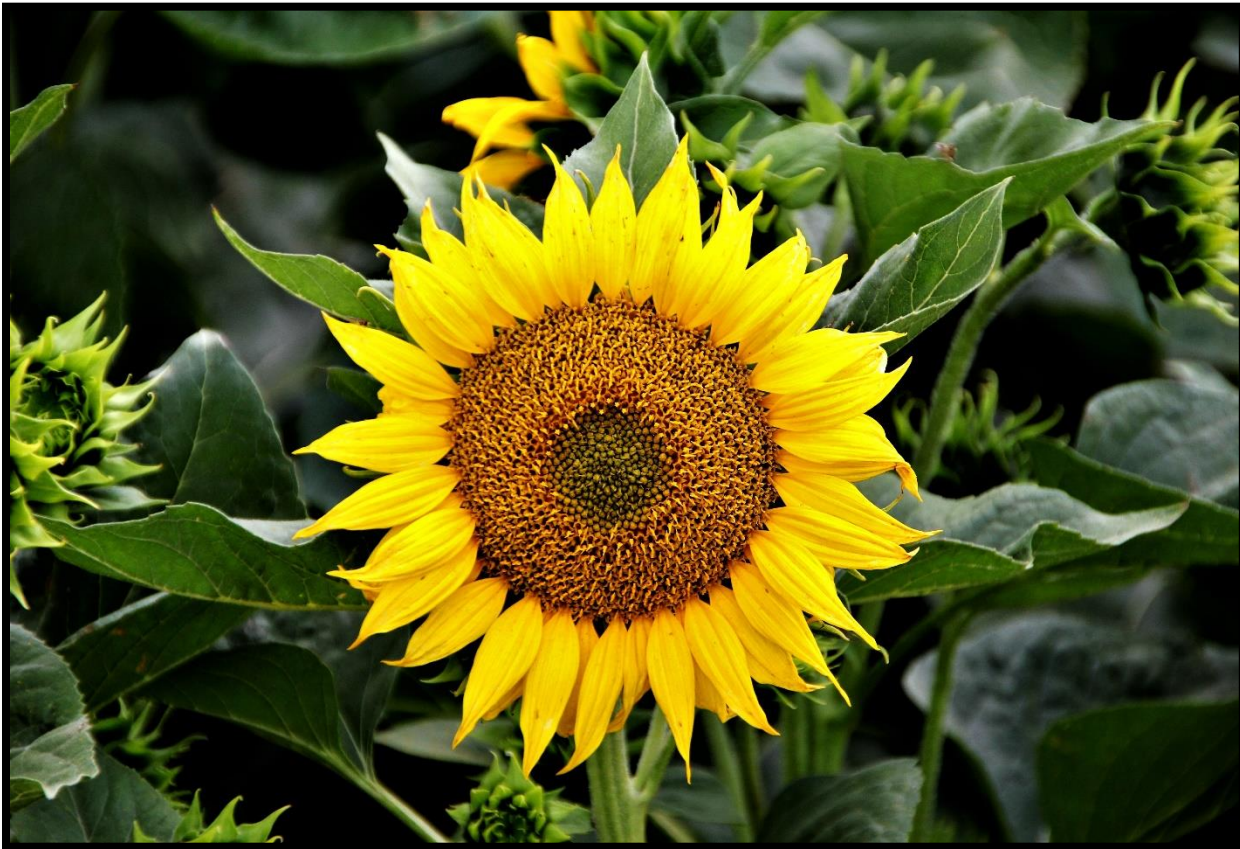
One of the main struggles Father Patrick had to deal with in the parish was the lack of finances. He saved money by cleaning his own house, cooking his own meals, serving as his own secretary and bookkeeper, and doing much of the maintenance work on the parish facilities himself.

Half way through his six years in Tulelake, Bishop Weigand sent Father Patrick to Guadalajara, Mexico to study Spanish for six weeks. This short time of study increased his interest in the Spanish language and working with the Hispanic communities in this parish and in other parishes that would follow his assignment in Tulelake.

Many people have never been to Tulelake because this parish is one of the most remote in the diocese, but the beauty of the area is stunning. The Great Basin of Tulelake is a rich agricultural area where farmers grow such crops as sunflowers, wheat, barley, alfalfa, peppermint, onions and the famous Tulelake potatoes known around the world. Tulelake was also known as the “Horseradish Capital of the World” and used to account for a third or more of the nation’s production. Following are some photos of the Tulelake area so you can appreciate the beauty of the area. These photos were taken by Father John E Boll in July 2013 when he filled in at the parish for five weeks.











NEXT PARISH, ALTURAS

In 2000, Father Henry was given a new assignment as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Alturas. Alturas is 315 miles from Sacramento and a five hours and fifteen minute drive from Sacramento to Alturas. Father Henry succeeded Father Rodney Hall who had been pastor of Alturas for the six prior years. Father Rodney left the Alturas parish in very good administrative condition.



Photo by John E Boll

Sacred Heart Church, Alturas

Father Patrick wanted to develop a Hispanic ministry in the parish but because Hispanic parishioners were scattered throughout Modoc County, his efforts were not very successful. However, the Hispanic community came out in great numbers for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In wintertime, parishioners could not attend Mass often because of the weather and icy roads. Alturas averages 13 inches of rainfall a year and an average of 28 inches of snow.

The driving distance from Alturas to the parish Mission Church of Saint James in Cedarville is 27 miles and the road winds through the Warner Mountain Range. Driving through the mountain pass at night in winter is very dangerous because of the black ice on the road. Over the years, some priests slid off the road in the wintertime on their way to Cedarville.

For Father Patrick, the Alturas parish community was straight forward, pleasant and parishioners were very good at fundraising to help pay parish bills.



Photo by John E Boll

Saint James Mission Church, Cedarville

NEXT PASTORATE, SACRED HEART PARISH, ANDERSON

After six years in Alturas, Bishop Weigand appointed Father Henry pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Anderson in 2006. This assignment was a short year and a half because Bishop Weigand asked Father Patrick to make a lateral change with the pastor of Susanville who could no longer deal with the high altitude there and needed to move to a parish with a lower elevation.



Photo by John E Boll

Sacred Heart Church, Anderson

SACRED HEART PARISH, SUSANVILLE

In 2008, Father Patrick made the lateral transfer to Sacred Heart Parish in Susanville where he spent three and a half years. While pastor there, he started a Scripture study program which parishioners enjoyed because they learned a lot about the Sacred Scriptures.



Photo by John E Boll

Sacred Heart Church, Susanville

THE SUSANVILLE CHURCH CATCHES FIRE

One Saturday morning, the furnace in the Susanville church caught fire and the fire and smoke did a significant amount of damage to the interior of the church. The stained glass windows had to be professionally cleaned, the floors were replaced, a new sound system installed and the interior of the church was painted. While the church was being restored, Mass was celebrated in the parish hall across the street from the church. Luckily, the insurance covered the entire cost of the church restoration.

During this pastorate, Father Patrick began to celebrate the *Simbang Gabi Novena* before Christmas as a way to draw Filipino Catholics back to the practice of their faith. At the same time, he found the Hispanic ministry in Susanville to be very successful.

SENT TO MACC IN SAN ANTONIO

During his three and a half years in Susanville, Bishop Soto became the new bishop of Sacramento and decided to send Father Patrick on a sabbatical study program. Father Patrick decided to attend the MACC Program in San Antonio, Texas. During his time there, he studied Mexican culture and improved his Spanish speaking ability. He also studied the writings of Father Virgil Elizondo who was an influential Hispanic priest in San Antonio at that time. Father Patrick found his studies at the MACC Center to be a positive experience.



Photo by John E Boll

MEXICAN AMERICAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE (MACC), SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

SAINT CHARLES PARISH, SACRAMENTO

Upon his return to the Diocese of Sacramento in 2012, Father Henry was assigned as parochial vicar of Saint Charles Borromeo Parish in Sacramento and served there for two years and then retired from active ministry in 2014.

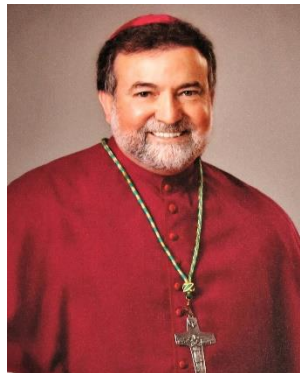


Photo by John E Boll

Saint Charles Church, Sacramento

During his time at Saint Charles parish, he became very frightened by the violence in the area. Local gangs were active and especially violent at night. He says he often heard gun shots ring out during the night which resulted in the killing of rival gang members. This was a frightening time, especially if he or another priest had to make an emergency call to a local hospital in the middle of the night.

RETIREMENT



Bishop Jaime Soto

Bishop Jaime Soto gave his permission to Father Patrick to retire on June 30, 2014. He moved to Saint Thomas More Parish in Paradise where he rented the lower ground floor apartment at the new rectory.

He lived in Paradise for two and a half years because the bishop hoped a retired priest would live in the northern part of the diocese to be available to assist pastors as needed. Father Patrick accommodated himself to Bishop Soto's wish and that is why he moved to Paradise.

MOVE TO THE PRIESTS' RETIREMENT VILLAGE

In 2016, Father Henry decided to return to the Sacramento area and moved into the apartment vacated by Father John Sullivan who had moved to Senior Housing in mid-town Sacramento.



Photo by John E Boll

Father Patrick's Apartment in the Priests' Retirement Village, Citrus Heights

Since his retirement, Father Henry says he has had the privilege of serving in many parishes throughout the diocese during the past six years." It has been an honor," he says, "to serve the parishes of the diocese at the invitation of the pastors." He likes to fill in at parishes for an extended period of time, especially when a pastor wishes to take a sabbatical.

Father Patrick wishes to thank everyone, including his parents, grandparents, people in England, both clergy and laity, his seminary professors, Father William P Kinane who was pastor during his pastoral year, and all the priest of the Diocese of Sacramento to whom he owes thanks for all he has learned about ministry to this point in his life's journey.

FINAL THOUGHTS

For Patrick Joseph Henry, the call to priesthood was a gradual process over a number of years. Losing his father John to cancer when Patrick was only 12. As the eldest of a family of five children, the death of his father was a heavy and painful load for him to carry.

Although Patrick's father John had to leave school at age 14 when his father Patrick died in 1930, John was a gifted man with a keen intelligence who always encouraged his own children to continue their studies and to develop a love and appreciation for music and poetry. These lofty hopes were fulfilled in the life of his eldest son Patrick.

After high school and two years with the Society of Saint Columban, Patrick's experience in London as a member of the Cathedral Singers of Saint Chad Cathedral in Birmingham eventually led him to accept and embrace God's call to him to become a priest.

We can sum up Patrick's life by the phrase, "God writes straight with crooked lines." In his life of ministry, he has had some unexpected turn of events but through it all, he has remained faithful to his call to be a priest with a spirit of hope, joy and service. Even today, when a brother priest calls Father Patrick to see if he can help in a parish, he always responds yes to their call if he is not committed to another parish at the same time.

In his retirement, Father Patrick enjoys serving as chaplain on pilgrimages to holy sites around the world. He has also served at the Knock Shrine in Ireland in the summer and fills in at parishes in the Sacramento diocese as well as in the Diocese of Phoenix. Often, he is not at home in Citrus Heights because he is helping in a parish or serving as chaplain on a pilgrimage to Israel, Rome, Spain, France or Ireland.

Father Patrick is grateful to God for the many blessings he has received in his life of ministry and we are grateful to him for giving the best years of his life to the People of God in the Diocese of Sacramento.

Father Patrick, we wish you good health and many happy adventures as you move forward to the fullness of life in the Kingdom of God. As Padre Serra often said, *Siempre Adelante!*

Ad Multos Annos!



SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF KNOCK, IRELAND



Photos taken from Our Lady of Knock Shrine Website

Father Patrick Joseph Henry's family



Mary Waldron Henry

Father Patrick's Mother

RIP



Patrick Joseph Henry



Sean, brother

RIP

Rita, sister

Photo not available



Maureen, sister



Bridget, sister



Father Patrick Joseph Henry