

SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

Vol 5

Father John E Boll

No 90

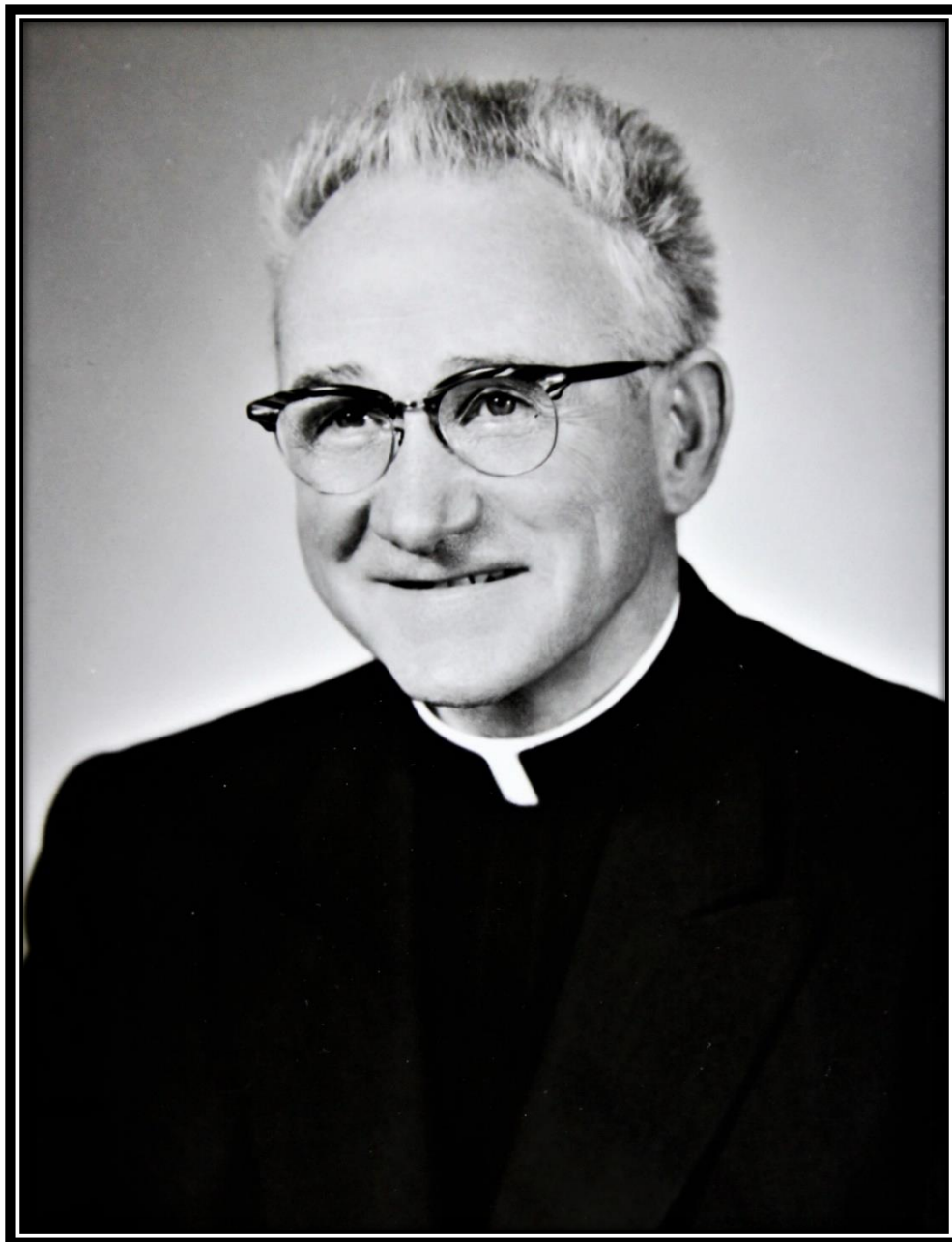
Monsignor William Daly

Native of Athenry, County Galway, Ireland

Priest of the Diocese of Sacramento

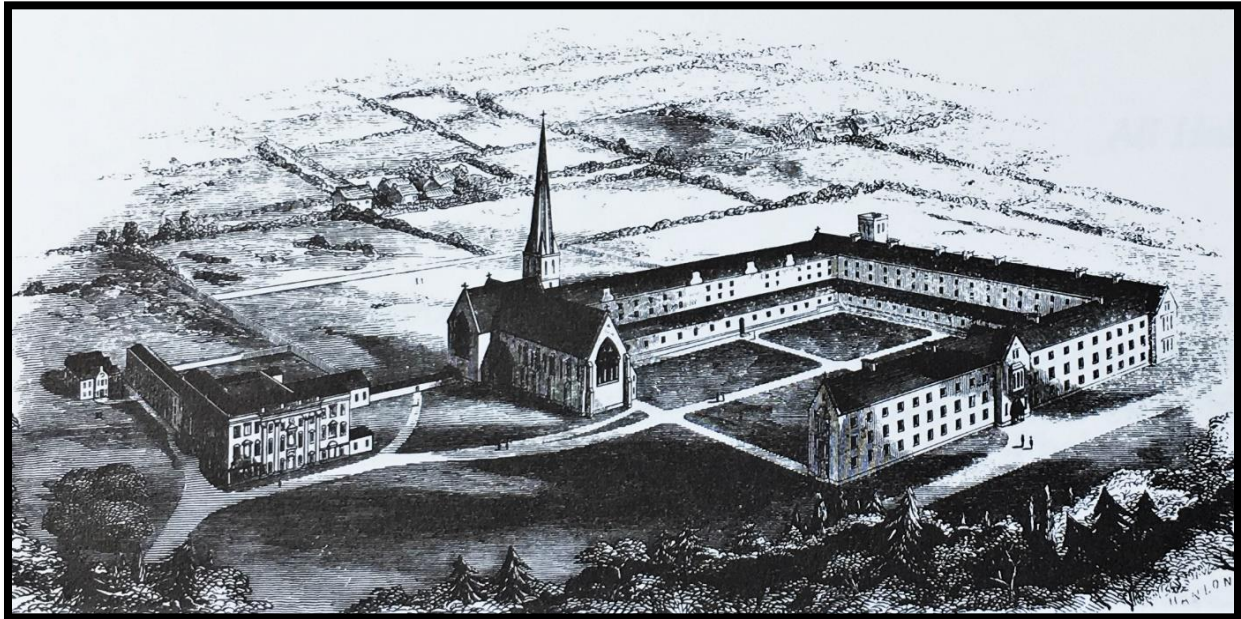
Pastor of Saint Canice Parish, Nevada City, California

October 17, 1900 – March 8, 1990



William Daly was born on October 17, 1900 in Athenry, County Galway, Ireland and baptized in his home parish. He began his education in Ireland in 1908 to 1913, and he transferred to the junior seminary of Saint Jarlath College in Tuam, County Galway, to begin his studies for the priesthood.

After completing his secondary education in 1918, Bill transferred to All Hallows Seminary in Dublin and received his BA degree from the National University of Ireland in 1921. He then began his theological training in 1925 at All Hallows, Dublin, until he was ready for ordination. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Sacramento on June 21, 1925 by Bishop Morris Rowe.



Drawing of All Hallows Seminary, Dublin

All Hallows College, Dublin, Ireland

FIRST ASSIGNMENT

After his arrival in Sacramento in the fall of 1925, Father Daly was assigned as assistant of Sacred Heart Parish in Red Bluff by Bishop Patrick J Keane.

The pastor of Red Bluff at that time was Father Philip F Brady who ended his pastorate at Sacred Heart Church the following year in 1926. Father Daly continued on as assistant of the parish with the new pastor, Father Michael Hynes, until November 1928.



Photo by John E Boll

Sacred Heart Church, Red Bluff

NEXT ASSIGNMENT, SPARKS, NEVADA

Father Daly's second assignment was to Sparks, Nevada. He served at Immaculate Conception Parish there from 1928 to 1930. At that point, the State of Nevada was part of the Diocese of Sacramento. It was on March 27, 1931, that Pope Leo XIII established the Diocese of Reno with Thomas Kiely Gorman as the founding bishop. Bishop Gorman served the Reno Diocese from 1931 to 1952 when he was appointed bishop of Dallas, Texas.

Father Daly returned to California in 1930, just a year before the State of Nevada became a diocese.



Photo from the Reno Diocesan Website

The Original Immaculate Conception Church, Sparks, NV

This parish has relocated to a new site in Sparks and this original church was sold to New Season Church

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH, AUBURN

After two years in Sparks, Nevada, Father Daly was transferred to Saint Joseph Parish in Auburn in April, 1930. The pastor of the Auburn parish at that time was Father Richard Vereker who began as pastor of Saint Teresa Parish, Auburn in 1904. At that point, Saint Joseph Parish in Foresthill became a mission of Auburn. In 1911, the Auburn parish was renamed Saint Joseph Parish and Father Vereker served as pastor of Auburn until his death on March 8, 1940.

Father Daly served Saint Joseph Parish, Auburn, for only one year when the new bishop of Sacramento, Robert J Armstrong, appointed him to his first pastorate in 1931.



Photo by John E Boll

Saint Joseph Church, Auburn

NAMED PASTOR OF SCOTIA

In April 1931, Father Daly was appointed to his first pastorate at Saint Patrick Parish in Scotia. The town of Scotia was one of America's longest surviving company towns. The town was entirely owned and operated by The Pacific Lumber Company. In 1880, this lumber company began logging redwood in Humboldt County. At this time, Scotia was a community of about 100 houses. As the company expanded, so too did the town.

Saint Patrick Church in Scotia had been a mission church of Saint Joseph Parish in Fortuna, but in 1930, Bishop Armstrong raised Saint Patrick Mission to the rank of a parish and Father Daly was appointed pastor of this newly established parish in 1931. He served as pastor of the Scotia parish for only two years until February 1934, when Bishop Armstrong appointed him pastor of Assumption Parish in Truckee.

During these years, the Diocese of Sacramento was responsible for the Counties of Humboldt and Del Norte along the Pacific Coast. On February 21, 1962, when Pope John XXIII appointed Bishop Joseph McGucken, then bishop of Sacramento, as archbishop of San Francisco, he also announced a sweeping change in Northern California diocesan boundaries with the creation of three new dioceses: Oakland, Stockton and Santa Rosa. Sacramento ceded five counties to the new jurisdictions; Del Norte and Humboldt Counties went to the new Diocese of Santa Rosa; Calaveras, Tuolumne and Mono Counties were given to the new Diocese of Stockton. The Sacramento Diocese was given Solano County which had formerly been part of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.



Photo by John E Boll

Saint Patrick Church, Scotia

When the Diocese of Santa Rosa discontinued this parish, the church was sold to another denomination.

FATHER DALEY APPOINTED PASTOR OF TRUCKEE

In February 1934, Bishop Armstrong appointed Father Daley pastor of Assumption Parish in Truckee. Being in the high Sierras must have pleased Father Daley because he served as pastor of Immaculate Conception parish for eleven years until September 1945.

Around 1934, Father Daley went back to Ireland to visit his family and while he was there, he had a major disagreement with some members of his family, and from that time forward, he decided never to return to Ireland again, and sadly, he never did.

Father Daley enjoyed the outdoors and loved to fish and hunt, so the Truckee area provided a lot of open space for him and the rivers were close by where he could spend time trying to snag some fish.

After eleven years of pastoring the Catholic community of Truckee, Bishop Armstrong appointed Father Daly to a new assignment in the Sacramento Valley.



Photo by John E Boll

Assumption Parish, Truckee

PASTOR OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER PARISH, GALT

Leaving the high Sierras and the city of Truckee, Father Daly was next assigned to Saint Christopher Parish in Galt in September 1945. This was a short assignment for him lasting only two years until February 1947.

The brick Catholic Church of Saint Christopher, located on the corner of 3rd and F Street, was dedicated on October 12, 1885. As it happened, the day of the dedication of the church was on the 393rd anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus, so the members of the congregation chose the patron saint of travelers, Saint Christopher, as the name of the new church.

Present for the dedication ceremony of the church was Governor George Stoneman and Archbishop Patrick Riordan of San Francisco.

At first, the church had no pastor and the pastoral duties were done by the pastor of Saint Patrick Parish in Jackson. But in 1919, Saint Christopher Church was raised to the rank of parish with Father James Grealy as pastor. He served the parish as pastor until 1927.



Photo by John E Boll

Saint Christopher Parish, Galt

NEXT APPOINTMENT, PASTOR OF SAINT ROSE PARISH, ROSEVILLE

In February 1947, Bishop Armstrong assigned Father Daly as pastor of Saint Rose Parish in Roseville. Once again, this was a very short assignment for Father Daly, ending in July 1948, just 17 months after he began this pastorate in Roseville.



Photo from the St Rose Parish Archives

Saint Rose Church, Roseville, Christmas 1947

FINAL ASSIGNMENT FOR FATHER DALY, SAINT CANICE PARISH, NEVADA CITY

Father Daly was given his final appoint by Bishop Armstrong as pastor of Saint Canice Parish in Nevada City. This would be the longest assignment for Father Daly, lasting from July 1948 to May 1979, a period of 31 years.

At first, Father Daly was appointed administrator of Saint Canice Parish effective July 8, 1948, because the previous pastor, Father L Morgan, had not yet sent his letter of resignation of the parish to Bishop Armstrong. A year later, on October 27, 1949, Bishop Armstrong appointed Father Daly pastor of the parish.

Saint Canice Church was established in 1851 as a mission of Saint Patrick Parish in Grass Valley. The original name of the church was Saint Peter Church. About five years later, the name was changed to Saints Peter and Paul Church. Then in 1864, the church was renamed again as Saint Canice Church and has remained so to this day.

Since Nevada City is 2,477 feet above sea level, surrounded by a forest of pine and cedar trees, the hunting and fishing in the area was abundant, so that provided Father Daly good opportunity to hunt and fish to his heart's content.



Photo by John E Boll

Saint Canice Church, Nevada City

BISHOP MCGUCKEN APPOINTS FATHER DALY VICAR FORANE

Effective on November 7, 1957, Bishop Joseph McGucken, who was now the bishop of Sacramento, appointed Father Daly Vicar Forane of Nevada, Placer and Sierra Counties. Today, that would be the Deanery of Grass Valley.

TRAINED FOR THE CHURCH OF VATICAN I

Father Daly was ordained a priest 36 years before the beginning of the Second Vatican Council. He received his priestly training in theology and Scriptural studies that reflected the times of the First Vatican Council in 1869-70. The Second Vatican Council, held a century later from 1962-65, had a very different theological and Scriptural orientation, and the post-Vatican II changes were difficult for Father Daly who had spent his whole priestly life to that point in a different model of church. It took him time to make the change to celebrate Mass facing the people.

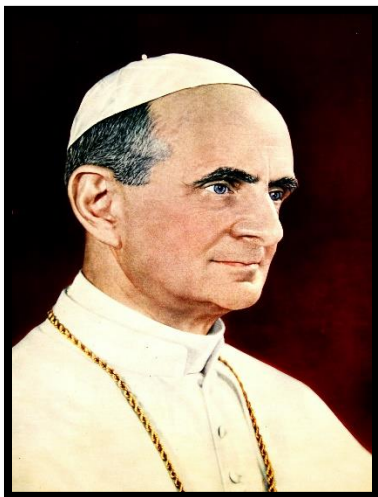
FATHER DALY CELEBRATES HIS GOLDEN JUBILEE

When he celebrated his Golden Jubilee of Ordination in 1975, Father Daly concelebrated a Mass with his priest friends and the people of Nevada City and Grass Valley in Saint Patrick Church, Grass Valley. When asked after his Golden Jubilee Mass if he had any regrets, Father Daly rejoined: "I wish I had spent more time hunting and fishing."

Father Daly told the Catholic Herald in an interview that: "The past fifty years are like yesterday," as he looked back over his past half century of ministry. He said that at 75, he was feeling fine except for an asthmatic cough. Asked if he had any advice for the younger clergy of the diocese, he replied: "No, I gave up giving advice to anybody 40 years ago."

Father Daly could take care of himself quite well. He did his own cooking, washing and sewing. He took a day off every week to join friends in the parish who liked to fish and hunt.

POPE PAUL VI NAMED FATHER DALY A PRELATE OF HONOR



Pope Paul VI

On January 21, 1977, Pope Paul VI named Father Daly a Prelate of Honor to his Holiness as a sign of gratitude for Father Daly's half century of ministry to the Church of Sacramento and the people of the diocese.

MONSIGNOR DALY RETIRES FROM MINISTRY

Father Daly continued on in ministry at Saint Canice Parish after his Golden Jubilee for four more years until Bishop Bell asked him to retire since he served four years beyond the mandatory age of retirement at 75. His retirement became effective on May 22, 1979 when he was named Pastor Emeritus of Saint Canice Church in Nevada City. He was 78 ½ years of age when he retired.

MONSIGNOR DALY RETIRES IN GRASS VALLEY

After he retired, Monsignor Daly moved to an apartment in Grass Valley and continued to live there until the time when his health finally began to take a turn. Until that time, he was well able to take care of himself since he was an experienced chef and housekeeper. He continued to enjoy his favorite pastimes of hunting and fishing in the area.

MONSIGNOR DALY CELEBRATES 60 YEARS AS A PRIEST

On June 21, 1985, at the age of 85, Monsignor Daly celebrated his 60th Anniversary of Ordination. At that celebration, he jokingly told his fellow priests that they too could hope to experience 60 years in the priesthood if they prayed as much as Saint Patrick did, (100 times each day and at night, almost as often).

DEATH COMES TO MONSIGNOR DALY

With the passage of time, Monsignor Daly developed a sore on his neck that he neglected to attend to. The sore eventually became a cancerous melanoma and when he went to the doctor, it was already too late to stop the cancer which had metastasized and caused his death on March 8, 1990. He was 89 years of age when he died.

FUNERAL MASS FOR MONSIGNOR DALY

At the time of his death, Monsignor Daly was the oldest priest in the Diocese of Sacramento. A Funeral Mass was celebrated for him on Tuesday, March 13, 1990, at 11 AM in Saint Patrick Church in Grass Valley. Bishop Francis Quinn was the main celebrant of the Mass and Father Nicholas Phelan, pastor of Saint Patrick Church, was the homilist.

Concelebrants at the Mass included Saint Patrick Church associate, Father Alfred Kaster, and Fathers Michael O'Hara, William Walsh, Jeremiah Boland, Edward Mello, John Molumby, and Michael Downey.

After the Mass, the body of Monsignor Daly was taken in procession to Saint Patrick Cemetery in Grass Valley for the prayers of committal and burial.

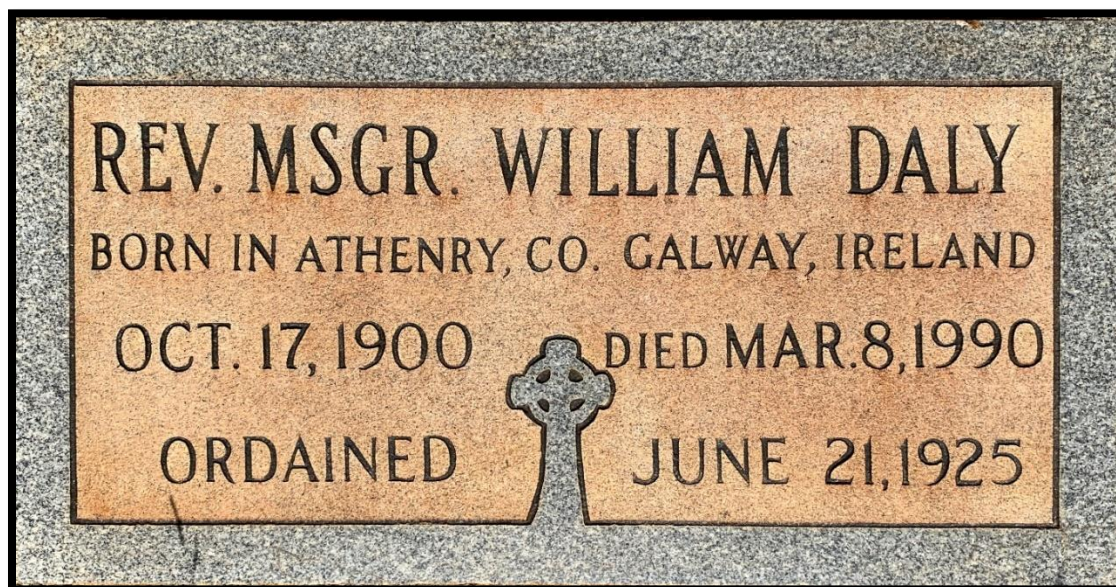
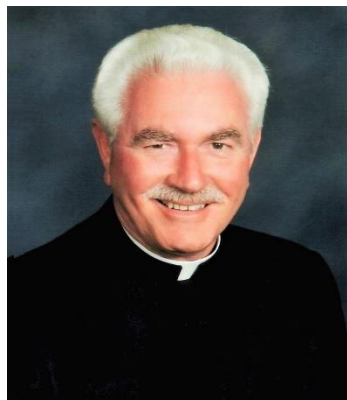


Photo by John E Boll

**Headstone of Monsignor William Daly
Saint Patrick Cemetery, Grass Valley, California**

Monsignor Daley was survived by two sisters, Dora Deed of Buckinghamshire, England, and Ida O'Donnell of County Cork, Ireland, and several nieces and nephews.

CONCLUDING REMARKS



Monsignor William Daly was in a class by himself. Born at the beginning of the twentieth century, he lived a long life, seven months shy of his 90th birthday. Growing up in Athenry, County Galway, Ireland, he pursued his vocation to be a priest for the missions. Ordained at All Hallows College, Dublin, for the Diocese of Sacramento, he began his journey as a priest of Sacramento for the next 65 years.

He served during the episcopates of five bishops of the Diocese of Sacramento: Bishops Patrick J Keane, Robert J Armstrong, Joseph T McGucken, Alden J Bell and Francis A Quinn. During his 65 years as a priest, he served in eight parishes of the diocese.

For those who knew him, Monsignor Daly was a delightful personality to be with. He always kept his home neat and clean. He continued on in ministry even after he reached 75 years of age. Finally, Bishop Bell asked him to resign when he reached 79 years of age.

The changes of the Second Vatican Council were hard for him since he was formed by and served for nearly 40 years as a priest in the tradition of the Council of Trent, 1545 -1563, and the First Vatican Council of 1869 - 1870.

As the years rolled by, he began to suffer from asthma which sometimes caused severe coughing spells during Mass. Parishioners often feared he would not survive the Mass when he began to cough in such an extreme way.

His great pastime and love were hunting and fishing. He was blessed to spend many years in parishes where he could get out into the wild to hunt game and fish at the lakes and streams in the area.

Luckily, he was able to retire from ministry and continue living in the Grass Valley – Nevada City area that had been his home for 31 years. He continued living there until he took his last breath.

At the time of his death, he was the oldest priest in the Diocese of Sacramento. Two years before his retirement, Pope Paul VI honored him for his lifetime of ministry by naming him a monsignor.

After nearly 90 years of life, with most of those years spent in service to the People of God in the Diocese of Sacramento, the Lord called Monsignor Daly home to the Eternal Kingdom of Light and Peace. May he now be fully alive in the Eternal Joy of the Lord.

*Eternal Rest grant to
Monsignor Daly, O Lord. May he
who gave his life in service
to Your people of the Diocese of
Sacramento, now behold you face to
face in your Kingdom of Light and
Peace that you have prepared for all
who love you.*

*May his soul and the souls of all
the faithful departed, abide in Peace.*

Amen