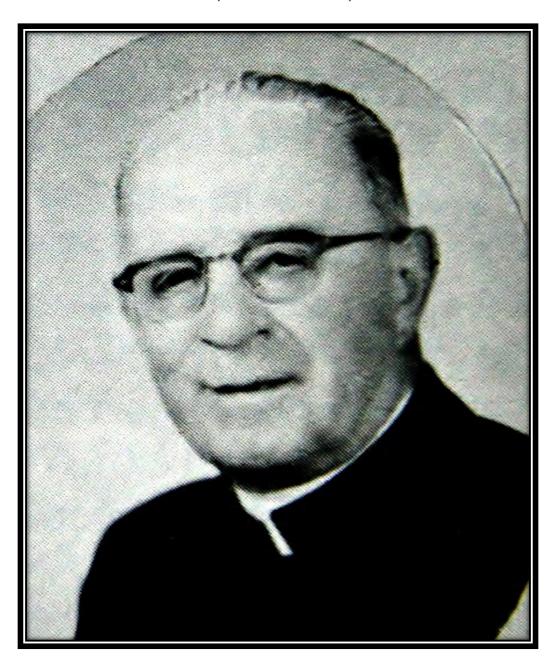
# **SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES**

Vol 5 Father John E Boll No 51

# Father Michael Vincent Myles

Native of Castlemaine, County Kerry, Ireland
Priest of the Diocese of Sacramento
Pastor of Saint Anthony Parish, Mount Shasta, California
June 30, 1896 -- October 31, 1974



**Michael Vincent Myles** was born on June 30, 1896 in Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland, one of five sons of Michael Myles and Julia O'Brien. His brothers were John Joseph, Robert, William and Charles. He attended the National School Castledrum in Castlemaine, County Kerry. He spent his high school years, 1911 – 1914, at Saint Brendan Seminary in Killarney. For college, he transferred to Saint Peter Seminary in Bearsden, Cardross, a suburb of Glasgow, Scotland, from 1914 to 1917. He then entered All Hallows College in Dublin to begin his theological studies and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Sacramento in the All Hallows College Chapel on June 20, 1920.



Photo from Diocesan Archives

All Hallows College, Dublin, Ireland

#### **FATHER MYLES LEAVES IRELAND FOR CALIFORNIA**

After spending a few months with his family in Ireland, it was time for newly ordained Father Myles to set sail for the United States to begin his life of ministry. After arriving in New York, he crossed the continental United States by train and arrived in Sacramento in the fall of 1920 to begin ministry in his newly adopted Diocese of Sacramento.



Photo courtesy of Sr Mary St Michael Myles, RSM
L-R, Four of the Myles Brothers, Robert, William, Charles & Michael

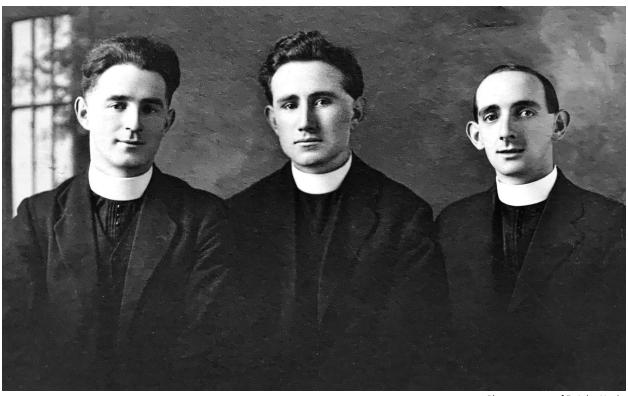


Photo courtesy of Fr John Healy

L-R, Fathers Michael Myles, Gerald O'Driscoll and James Healy

#### **FATHER MYLES BEGINS HIS LIFE JOURNEY IN MINISTRY**

Father Myles began his priestly ministry in the Diocese of Sacramento in the fall of 1920 when Bishop Thomas Grace assigned him to Saint Patrick Church in Placerville as assistant to Father Thomas Hayes who was pastor. Father Myles served in Placerville for one year.



Saint Patrick Church, Placerville
Photo from Diocesan Archives

#### **ASSISTANT AT REDDING**

After serving one year in Placerville, Bishop Grace, in one of his final appointments, assigned Father Myles to Saint Joseph Church in Redding from 1921 to 1922 as assistant to Father Michael McNaboe who was pastor of Redding.

It was the custom in that era to assign newly ordained priests to one year assignments and to move these priests yearly to another parish.

This was the custom of Bishop Eugene O'Connell, first bishop of the Vicariate of Marysville, who assigned newly arrived priests to a parish for a year and then move them. These priests did not like this custom and complained to the Vatican about it.

Saint Joseph Church, Redding

Photo from Diocesan Archives





#### APPOINTED ASSISTANT OF WOODLAND

Father Myles' third appointment in 1922 was to Holy Rosary Church in Woodland to assist Father Thomas Horgan who served as pastor of Woodland from 1917 to 1926. Once again, Father Myles' appointment was for one year.

Photo from Diocesan Archives

Holy Rosary Church, Woodland

## FIRST PASTORATE IN YERINGTON, NEVADA

In 1923, Father Myles was assigned to his first pastorate at Saint Joseph Parish in Yerington, Nevada from 1923 to 1926. Western Nevada was part of the Diocese of Sacramento at that time.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR OF TRUCKEE**

After three years as pastor of Yerington, Father Myles was appointment administrator of Assumption Parish in Truckee where he served for six year, from 1926 to 1932.



**Immaculate Conception Church, Truckee** 

Photo by John E Boll

# **APPOINTED PASTOR OF LINCOLN**

In 1932, Father Myles was appointed pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Lincoln where he served for three years until 1935.



**Saint Joseph Church Woodland** 

Photo by John E Boll

### **PASTOR OF McCLOUD**

Father Myles next appointment in 1935 was as pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in McCloud but only for a very short time.



Saint Joseph Church, McCloud

#### **FATHER MYLES BECOMES ILL**

During his short assignment in McCloud in 1935, Father Myles became ill and took a leave of absence from ministry, going to New Mexico where he spent time to recuperate and regain his health and focus again. As his health improved, he began assisting in some parishes in New Mexico.

When he returned to the Diocese of Sacramento, he gave temporary assistance to the parishes in Gridley and Chico until he was appointed administrator of Saint John Parish in Quincy but he remained in Quincy only a few months.

#### **RETURN TO FULL TIME MINISTRY**

In 1952, Father Myles returned to full time ministry and was appointed assistant to Father Patrick McTague at Saint Joseph Parish in Yreka. He served in Yreka for three years until 1955.

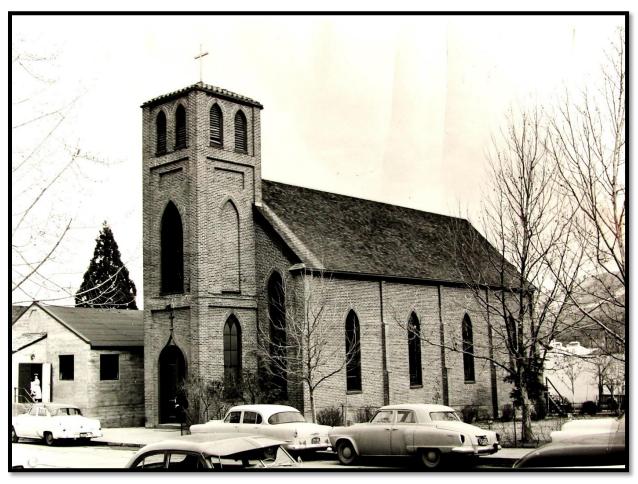


Photo from Diocesan Archives

Saint Joseph Church, Yreka

#### NAMED PASTOR OF MOUNT SHASTA

In 1955, Bishop Robert J Armstrong appointed Father Myles to his final pastorate at Saint Anthony Parish in Mount Shasta where he served for the next fifteen years. He was the second pastor of Mount Shasta, following Father Edward Christen who established the parish.

#### SAINT ANTHONY PARISH CONTINUED TO DEVELOP

According to Monsignor James Casey who was a friend of Father Myles, "Through Father Myles' pastoral zeal and the loyalty and generosity of people in the parish with diverse ethnic heritage, the new parish developed steadily. Father Myles associated with neighboring priests frequently and regularly, not only at liturgical functions, but also at recreational enterprises such as golfing, fishing and hunting."



#### **RETIREMENT**

Conscious of his advancing age, although still active in ministry, Father Myles decided to retire from parochial administration in 1970, four years before his death, but not before celebrating his Golden Jubilee of ordination. Clergy and laity filled the church to overflowing for the Fiftieth Anniversary Mass. Father Myles invited as concelebrants a number of younger priests who had been his assistants in prior years. Bishop Alden J Bell participated in the Mass as well.



Photo courtesy of Sr Mary St Michael Myles, RSM Father Myles 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass, Saint Anthony Church, Mount Shasta

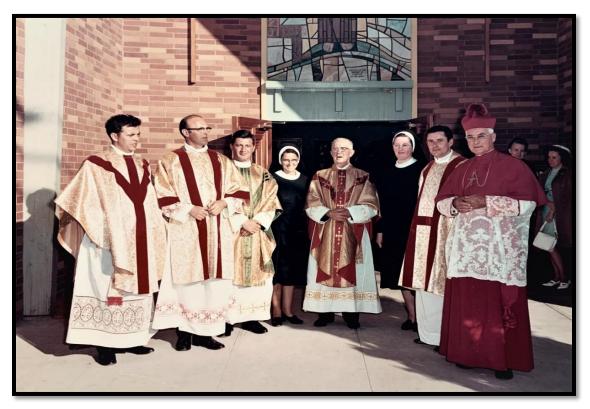
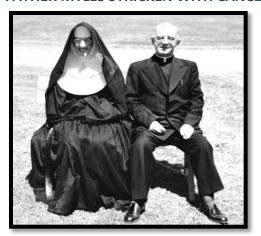


Photo courtesy of Sr Mary St Michael Myles, RSM

**Concelebrating Priests with Father Michael Myles and Bishop Alden Bell** 

#### **FATHER MYLES STRICKEN WITH CANCER**



After his retirement, Father Myles was stricken with cancer and suffered serious pain for several months before his death. He endured intense pain with patience and resignation. He died on Thursday, October 31, 1974, the Eve of All Saints Day, at the age of 78 after spending his last days in the oncology ward of Mercy Hospital in Sacramento. His niece, Sister Mary St Michael Myles, RSM, worked at Mercy Hospital as a nurse and visited her uncle daily as he waited for the Lord to take him home.

Fr Myles with his niece, Sr Mary St Michael Myles
Photo courtesy of Sr Mary St Michael Myles, RSM

#### FUNERAL MASS FOR FATHER MYLES AT SACRED HEART CHURCH, SACRAMENTO

A concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Father Myles on Monday, November 4, 1974, at Sacred Heart Church in Sacramento by Bishops Alden J Bell and John S Cummins, together with Father John Joseph Myles, his nephew, Monsignors Thomas Markham and Patrick McTague, Fathers Martin Moroney, James O'Dea and Michael J O'Connor.

After the Funeral Mass in Sacramento, the body of Father Myles was then taken by hearse to Saint Anthony Church in Mount Shasta where a rosary was prayed for him on Monday evening. On Tuesday morning, November 5, a Requiem Mass was celebrated in Saint Anthony Church where Father Myles had served as pastor. His body was then taken to Mount Shasta Memorial Park Cemetery in Mount Shasta for burial.



Photo by John E Boll



Photo by Alvin Garcia

# **Headstone of Father Michael V Myles**

#### **SURVIVED BY FAMILY MEMBERS**

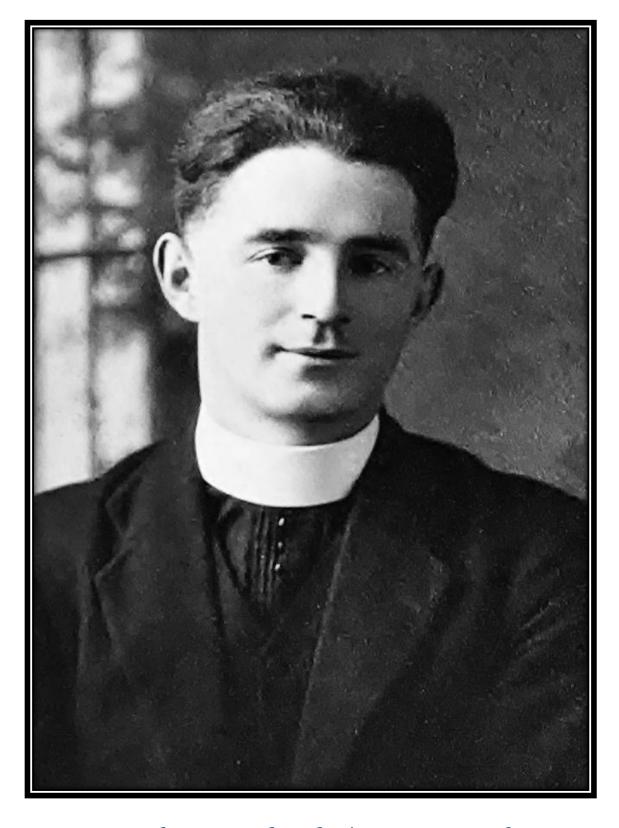
Father Myles was survived by two brothers Robert and Charles Myles of New York and the following nieces and nephews: children of his deceased brother John Joseph Myles -- Michael, Sister Mary St Michael, RSM, Margaret, Father John Joseph, William, Robert and Charles Myles; children of his brother Robert -- Junie Monahan and Christian Brothers Gregory and Brendan Myles of New York; and children of his brother Charles -- Robert, Theresa, Ita, Josephine and Bernadette Myles.

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

Like many young priests before him, Father Myles was filled with the spirit of mission and adventure that enabled him to leave his family in Ireland and head west for an unknown future of preaching Jesus' Gospel of Mercy that the Lord gave to his apostolic community.

As Jesus sent forth his first disciples to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, Father Michael was moved by that same Spirit to leave his family and friends and go forth to the American frontier to be a herald of the same Good News that Jesus had given to his apostolic community of the first century.

Father Myles requested that his body be laid to rest with his people whom he served for fifteen years in Mount Shasta. We give thanks to God for Father Michael Myles and all priests who freely gave their lives to the Lord to help build up the Kingdom of God by celebrating that Divine Love by an encounter with the Risen Christ through the sacramental signs he left us of his abiding presence. May Father Myles now rest in eternal peace.



Father Michael Vincent Myles