

Dean of Limerick's Death.

Passing of Outstanding Churchman

Life of Service to Limerick Diocese

The death, which occurred in a Dublin nursing home on Saturday morning, of Right Rev Stephen Canon Conolly, Dean of Limerick and Parish Priest of Newcastle West, evoked feelings of the most sincere regret in his native Diocese of Limerick.

The late Dean Conolly, who was one of the most outstanding clergymen of the Diocese, was a most devoted churchman, and was an untiring worker for the spiritual and material interests of his parishioners, who held him in the highest esteem and affection.

Born at Mosona, Bruff, 69 years ago, he was educated first at Bruff Seminary, and subsequently in St. Munchin's College, and later at Maynooth, where he was ordained in 1887.

For some years he served on the mission in the Westminster Diocese, London, under the late Cardinal Vaughan. On his return to Limerick he was appointed as curate at Mahonagh, and later in a similar capacity to St. John's Parish, Limerick, where also ministered as chaplain and administrator.

In 1898 Dean Conolly was appointed P.F. of Fermoy, and before the end of that year he received the preferment of the parish of Adare, where he spent ten years. On the death of the late Canon Dixon, in 1928, the deceased pastor was promoted to Newcastle West, being at the same time raised to the Cathedral Chapter of Limerick and to the dignity of Vice-General. Last October he was made Dean of Limerick, and up to the time of his death filled the high office with great dignity and distinction. He was noted for his great charity and kindly interest in the welfare of his flock.

Throughout his Dean Conolly displayed a keen interest in Gaelic partitions. His last public appearance was when he threw in the ball in the Munster hurling championship game between Limerick and Tipperary at Thurles in May.

The late lamented Dean leaves two sisters, both of whom are Nuns in the Order of Mercy, and a brother, Mr Edward Conolly, who resides near Bruff. His nephew, Mr T Conolly, C.S.A., Adare, took deaconate orders last year.

The remains arrived at John's Cathedral, Limerick, at 8.30 p.m. on Saturday evening, where they lay until the obsequies which began at 11.30 on Monday.

The Funeral

The funeral took place on Monday from St. John's Cathedral after Office and Requiem High Mass to Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery.

The Lord Bishop, Most Rev Dr. Keane, presided at the ceremonies and officiated at the graveside. The audience was packed to capacity and amongst those present were the Mayor (Ald D Henke, T.C.); Mr Wm T. Coghlan, T.C.; Ald J Kelly, T.C.; Messrs D O'Brien, T.C.; G. O. Bennett, T.C.; M. J. Koye, T.C.; W. F. Clifford, chairman Limerick County Board G.A.A.; T. Humphreys, vice chairman do; and the following members of the County Board:—John Kelly, Liam Carvaine, C. Holland, D. Lavin, W. Givens, E. Heffey.

There was a very large attendance from Newcastle West, Adare and other parishes.

The celebrant of the Mass was Very Rev Canon Mahon, P.F., St. Mary's; deacon, Rev Fr Ryan, O.D., Newcastle West; sub-deacon, Rev Fr Quinn, O.D. do; master of ceremonies Rev Fr Fitzpatrick, Adm. St. Michael's; chanters—Rev Fr Thos. Hill, P.F., Adare, and Rev Fr Kelly, Adm. St. John's.

There were over 100 priests in the choir.

The chief mourners were Ed Conolly, brother; Rev Mother Alphonsus, Mercy Convent, Bannagarry; Rev Mother Celestine, Eoinystown; and Misses Kathleen and Alice Conolly (sisters); Rev Bro Conolly, C.S.A.; Frank, Stephen and John Conolly (nephews); Misses Mary and Edith Conolly (daughters); Mrs E. Conolly (sister-in-law); Very Rev Canon Lewis, Australia; E. Conolly, K. Hartigan, C. A. Hartigan, J. P. Hartigan, T. A. Hartigan, and Misses Mary and Madeline Hartigan (cousins).

The Bishop received a telegram from the Most Rev Dr. Casey, Bishop of Ross, expressing deep sympathy with his Lordship and apologising for inability to attend the obsequies.

The funeral cortege was of large proportions, mourners coming from far and near to pay the last tribute of respect to a priest who was loved by the people.

Business houses along the route of the procession closed while the funeral passed and there was evidence of mourning and regret on all sides at the passing of a great and noble character.

The coffin was borne from the house to the graveside by the members of the Limerick senior hurling team.

On behalf of the County Board G.A.A. a Limerick Rural Brigade was placed on the grave.

As a mark of respect and reverence for the memory of this late pastor the people of Newcastle West suspended the entire business of the town, all shops and other establishments being closed and shuttered, with blinds drawn in every house in the town.