

DEATH OF THE VERY REV. R. DOYLE, CARRIETON.

On Monday, December 24, the Vigil of Christmas, the sad news was flashed along the wires that the respected pastor of Carrieton, the Very Rev. Richard Doyle, had breathed his last a little before midnight on Sunday, 23rd December. It is needless to say the intelligence was received with surprise and regret. The Very Rev. Father was, however, to those who knew him best, not possessed of a very robust constitution. Although his last illness was short, lasting only a few days, yet on two or three previous occasions he suffered from rather dangerous attacks. Death was principally due to a weak and diseased heart, accelerated perhaps at the last by acute symptoms of quinsy. Early on Sunday a priest was summoned to the bedside of the dying father, and the Rev. W. Munphy was quickly in attendance from Pekina, after traversing a distance of over thirty miles. To a priest such things do not come unexpected. He is the soldier of Christ, and as he is always ready to minister unto others, so when death comes to himself the summons is joyfully received, and finds him waiting for it. In sweet resignation to God, and in serene peace the call is heard. And such we may confidently conjecture was the end of the late Father Doyle.

On account of Christmas Day, and the obligation on every priest to celebrate Mass where possible, the obsequies could not be carried out until Wednesday, 26th December. The Rev. W. Doyle (Jamestown), brother of the deceased, hastened to Carrieton on Monday, the day after the death. On Christmas afternoon the Bishop of the diocese, the Right Rev. Dr. Maher, and the Vicar-General, the Very Rev. J. W. Norton, journeyed thither also by train. The Rev. John O'Mahony (Port Augusta) also reached Carrieton the same day. The news of the death had been noised far and wide throughout the district. Hence, on Wednesday morning it was not to be wondered at that a large crowd gathered early at Carrieton to assist at the last acts of respect towards the departed priest. The

respect towards the departed priest. The Rev. J. Bieronski arrived by train just in time for the ceremonies. It was impossible for any other priest to be present owing to the Christmas festival. Telegrams of sympathy and union of hearts in prayer and suffrage for the departed were, however, fully in evidence. At ten o'clock a.m. the solemn Requiem Mass was sung, the celebrant being the Very Rev. J. H. Norton, V.G., with the Rev. J. Bieronski deacon, and the Rev. W. Doyle sub-deacon. The Rev. J. O'Mahony was master of the ceremonies. The choir, under Miss Meers sang the usual parts of the service. His Lordship the Bishop presided and pronounced the absolutions at the grave, which is in the church yard at the front of the main entrance. The scene at the grave was especially touching, evincing the deep and tender faith of a devoted people towards their beloved pastor, and the indissoluble union that exists between the clergy and laity of God's Holy Church.

The late Very Rev. Father R. Doyle was a native of the County Kilkenny, Ireland, and was educated partly at the Carmelite College of Knocktofer and partly at St. John's College, Waterford. He was ordained priest in 1862, and came to Adelaide early in 1883. After about a year at Port Adelaide as assistant to the Rev. G. Williams, he was sent to Port Augusta, where he ministered for several years under the Very Rev. Dean Nevin. Shortly after the arrival of the first Bishop of Port Augusta the Right Rev. Dr. John O'Reilly, the late priest was appointed to Carrieton early in 1889. Since that time the late Father Doyle has attended to Carrieton, and the district attached thereto with great zeal and success. He built a new school church at Bendleby, enlarged the church accommodation at Carrieton, and succeeded in putting a goodly sum in hand for a church at Wilmington, which will be taken in hand later. Schools were also carried on at Carrieton and Hammond. In 1896, shortly after Bishop Maher was consecrated, the late Father Doyle was appointed a consultor of the diocese in accordance with the decrees of the Plenary Councils of Sydney. In this latter capacity he was of much service to the Bishop. He was about 45 years at the time of his death. May God grant him eternal rest.

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Since we know, and know by faith, how great the torments of these just souls in Purgatory are, should we not be moved in compassion for them? We cannot endure to see a living creature tormented, and how can we be so insensible to the sufferings of these friends of God as to regard them with indifference, so unfeeling as to refuse to mitigate them? When Our Lord saw the sick man at Bethsaida, who suffered for thirty-eight years because he had no one to place him into the water, His heart was moved to pity; and He passed by the other sick, and healed this one, who was unable to help himself. The condition of the souls in purgatory is similar. Will the example of Our Divine Lord not impel us to help them?—

Rev. John a Nagel-
eisen.