

Death of Monsignor Fitzgerald of Queensland

The Right Rev. Mgr. Henry Fitzgerald, P.P. V.F. (Brisbane), one of Queensland's most revered priests and a member of a distinguished Queensland pioneering family, died in the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, South Brisbane, on Wednesday, 31 March, in his 85th year.

He was born at Mackay, where his father, the late Honourable Thomas Henry Fitzgerald, M.L.A., gave such an impetus to sugar growing that he came to be regarded as the father of the sugar industry in Queensland. One of the sugar areas, Geraldton, subsequently known as Innisfail, was named after him.

Monsignor Fitzgerald's brothers, however, mostly followed the profession of law, the late James Fitzgerald being regarded as a leading authority on the Land Laws of the State and his brother, the late C. B. Fitzgerald, becoming a distinguished barrister as well as a member of Parliament.

Monsignor Fitzgerald was educated at the Christian Brothers' College, Gregory Terrace, Brisbane, and St. Ignatius's College, Riverview, Sydney. His studies for the priesthood were made at St. Sulpice, Paris, and the Irish College, Rome, where he was ordained priest on 17 December 1892. Returning to Brisbane the following year he filled various appointments in the Archdiocese. He was a member of the Diocesan Council and was in turn priest in charge of several important parishes, including South Brisbane and Woolloowin. He was a lifelong friend of Archbishop Duhig, both being schoolboys together at Gregory Terrace and fellow students in Rome.

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Monsignor Fitzgerald, who was pastor of Holy Cross parish, Woolloowin, had been in feeble health for several months. Two weeks ago he suffered a stroke and was removed to the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, but there was little hope for his recovery.

The late Sister M. Audoen of the Sisters of Mercy, was a sister of Monsignor Fitzgerald. He is survived by Sister M. Agnes (St. Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba), of the Sisters of Charity.
