

Passing of an Esteemed Priest.

FATHER JAMES GALLAGHER, OF
BRISBANE.

During the past few months death has depleted the ranks of the Brisbane clergy of some of the finest priests in the Archdiocese. Following on the demise of Fathers Kelleher and Gowen, both young men, came on Thursday last the death of the esteemed pastor of the Church of Mary Immaculate, Ipswich-road—Rev. Father James Gallagher. So constantly active had Father Gallagher been, that neither his parishioners nor any of his large circle of friends about the city ever suspected that his health was already undermined, and his end was being hastened by heart attacks, which, however, only recently had manifested themselves in any serious form. Under the heavy strain of the Christmas parish duties, the good priest collapsed, and was received into the Mater Misericordiae Hospital where, on being told by his medical adviser that his condition was hopeless, he calmly awaited the call of the Divine Master. Nothing could have been more edifying than his daily preparation for death. To his brother-priests, and to the Sisters at the hospital, he spoke of nothing but the goodness of God and the condescension of Our Divine Lord, Who came to him every morning in Holy Communion. The Archbishop, under whose jurisdiction Father Gallagher had worked for 18 years, first in the Diocese of Rockhampton, and subsequently in Brisbane, was a daily visitor at his bedside, and had only left him an hour or so before he breathed his last.

His Australian Career.

The late Father Gallagher was a native of Pettigo, County Donegal, Ireland, and was born on January 18, 1868. He was educated first at St. Macartan's Seminary at Monaghan, and afterwards at Maynooth, where he was ordained priest on June 23, 1891, at the early age of 23 years. He rapidly rose in the esteem of the people, and to positions of trust in the Diocese of Clogher. When for health reasons he left Ireland at the end of 1903, he held the position of Administrator of the cathedral at Monaghan, where his name and memory are still held in benediction. A delicate sister, for whose sake he had really come to Australia, died in Huchenden

case sister, for whose sake he had really come to Australia, died in Hughenden, North Queensland, soon after their arrival, and Father Gallagher elected to serve under Bishop Higgins, in the Diocese of Rockhampton. He did duty in the important parish of Charters Towers, until after Dr. Higgins's appointment to Ballarat when he was called to fill the post of Administrator of St. Joseph's Cathedral, Rockhampton, in succession to Father Shiel (now Bishop of the diocese). In 1913 Father Gallagher became attached to the Archdiocese of Brisbane, and worked in the parishes of Wynnum, Red Hill, and Kangaroo Point, until, in 1915, on the formation of the new parochial district of Ipswich-road, he was appointed its first pastor. With unabated zeal, he worked for the progress of the young parish right to the end. He found a simple wooden church there and a small congregation. He saw the Catholic population increase fourfold, witnessed the coming of the nuns, the opening of their convent by his Grace Archbishop Mannix, the opening of a school and a presbytery, a church at Marooka, and extensive additions to the convent at Corinda (a portion of his district, which has quite recently been created a separate parish, and placed in the charge of Rev. Father P. J. Murphy). Just before death claimed him, Father Gallagher had erected a splendid brick wall with wrought-iron gates and railings in front of the extensive Catholic property on Ipswich-road, and he was making remote preparations for the erection of a brick church, which the parishioners are determined will now be built as a memorial to him.

The Obsequies.

According to his expressed wish, Father Gallagher was buried from the parish Church of Mary Immaculate, where, prior to the funeral on Saturday morning, the Office for the Dead was chanted by a large number of the city and country clergy. Rev. Father Moloney, Adm. of St. Stephen's Cathedral, and formerly curate at Ipswich-road, was the celebrant of the Mass; Rev. Father Vincent Wheeler, deacon, and Rev. Dr. C. Lynch, sub-deacon; Rev. Fathers M. Lane and T. O'Connor were masters of ceremonies. His Grace the Archbishop, who presided, gave the final absolutions, and in a touching address, paid a high tribute to the life and work of the deceased priest. The interment took place at Nudgee Cemetery, his Grace, assisted by the Right Rev. Monsignor Byrne V.C.

by a large society, his grave, assisted by
the Right Rev. Monsignor Byrne, V.G.,
reading the prayers at the graveside.—
R.I.P.
