

Death Notice:-

CAHILL: Aug. 2, at the Palace, Portsmouth, Dr. **John Baptist CAHILL**, Bishop of Portsmouth, aged 69.

DEATH OF BISHOP CAHILL

Our readers will learn with great regret of the death of the Right Rev. Dr. **CAHILL**, Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth, which occurred at the Bishop's Palace, Portsmouth, on Tuesday afternoon. Dr. **CAHILL**, who was 69 years of age, and had been seriously ill from neuritis for a considerable time, and a few weeks ago his condition took so grave a turn that it was not expected that he could live. He, however rallied, and for a time no danger was apprehended, but a relapse set in, and he passed away, as we have stated, on Tuesday afternoon. Dr. **CAHILL'S** death will be particularly regretted in Ryde, for it was here that he spent many of the best years of his life, and made so many life-long friends. He was happy in the possession of an attractive personality, and a genial and kindly nature, which not only endeared him to those to whom he ministered, but made him popular to all classes of the community, in which he worked so long. It is rarely the case that the active head of a religious community can say that no bitterness never existed between religious opponents and himself, but this can truthfully be said of Dr. **CAHILL** than whom no more popular and respected priest, clergyman or pastor, ever ministered in Ryde.

He was educated at St. Edmund's College Old Hall, Ware, which he entered at the age of 13. afterwards he joined the professional staff of that Institution. In 1862 he graduated B.A., at London University, and after his ordination in 1864, he was attached to the old church of St. John, Portsea. He first came to Ryde as assistant to Dean **PHILLIPS**, and in 1866 he was appointed permanent Rector of St. Mary's by the founder Elizabeth, Countess of Clare. During the time he was at Ryde he saw the Convent commenced. It was first occupied by the Sisters of Mercy, who were succeeded by the Sisters of the Holy Cross. The Church was greatly beautified during his rectorship, and the services became extremely popular, owing chiefly to the beautiful singing and to his eloquent preaching. Dr. **CAHILL** was himself the possessor of a fine base voice, and his singing was much enjoyed. Up to the year 1882 Dr. **CAHILL** was a priest of the diocese of Southwark, but in that year the Hampshire, Berkshire, the Isle of Wight, and the Channel Islands were constituted the new diocese of Portsmouth. Dr. **VIRTUE** being the first Bishop. Almost immediately on the formation of the diocese Dr. **CAHILL** was appointed Vicar-General and he subsequently became Comiere Segreto, a post similar to that of Lord Chamberlain at the English Court. Afterwards Dr. **CAHILL** became Prothonotary Apostolic. On the death of Dr. **CROOKALL**, Dr. **CAHILL** succeeded him as Provost of the Chapter. When the late Dr. **VIRTUE** was unable, through illness to fulfil the arduous duties of the Episcopate, Dr. **CAHILL** was appointed Auxiliary Bishop, taking on a titular and Tragora, in Asia Minor, and the imposing ceremonial of his consecration took place at the Cathedral, Portsmouth, on May 1st 1900. It was scarcely necessary to say that the

honour conferred on Dr. CAHILL gave great pleasure to his congregation at Ryde, and they presented him with an emerald and diamond Episcopal ring, while other friends gave him a pectoral cross and chain. VIRTUE died the same year, and on August 30th Dr. CAHILL was appointed Bishop of Portsmouth.

The late Bishop's rule has seen the completion of Portsmouth Cathedral, and a vast increase in the strength of the diocese. In addition to the Cathedral, which was completed on a scale of lavish magnificence by the direction, many new churches have been erected. Under his sympathetic care, also the Catholic Federation, a body actively in touch with the wider interests of the Church in the life of the nation, has grown into great power. In spite of continued ill-health the late Bishop laboured hard in his diocese, and only gave up work when compelled to by a complete nervous breakdown. He was appointed to say the mass at the ***** *there is a blank space where text should be.*

The burial will take place at Ryde Cemetery, on Tuesday at about 2.45, in the Catholic portion of the cemetery by the express wish of the deceased Bishop CAHILL.

The body will be taken to the Portsmouth Cathedral on Sunday evening, when there will be vespers of office of the dead. Throughout Monday the body will be watched by representatives of the various religious communities of nuns throughout the diocese. On Monday evening at 6.30, a solemn dirge will be chanted by the Priests' Choir of the Clergy of the diocese.

On Tuesday morning at 10.30, solemn pontifical requiem will be sung by His Grace the Archbishop of Westminster, to be followed immediately by the five absolutions prescribed for a Bishop who dies within his own diocese.

The funeral party will be conveyed by a special boat leaving Clarence Pier, Southsea, not later than two o'clock. A special train will await the arrival of the boat to bring the funeral party to the Esplanade Station. The funeral procession will then be formed, consisting of the Clergy (Priests, Abbots and Canons of the Cathedral Chapter, Prelates and Bishops), followed by the representatives of the congregations of St Mary's and the Cathedral and the various bodies of the Catholic activity in the Cathedral city of Portsmouth, and other representatives of the naval, military and municipal life.

ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday 13th August 1910 page 5

THE LATE BISHOP CAHILL Funeral at Ryde.

The mortal remains of the Right Rev. **John Baptist CAHILL**, second Bishop of Portsmouth, whose death on August 2nd was reported in our last issue, were interred in the Cemetery at Ryde on Tuesday, in the presence of a large concourse of people. If there were any doubt at all as to the affection and esteem in which the late Bishop was held by the people whom amongst he lived for so long, it would have been dispelled by the crowds of people who lined the route from Ryde Pier to the Cemetery, and the fact that almost every shop was partially closed during the afternoon. Irrespective of creed, the people of Ryde have been anxious to pay their last tribute to the late Bishop not because of the high place he held in the Church he served, but because of his genial kindness to all of whom he was brought in contact, and his unobtrusive charity to all who needed it. The solemn services in connection

with Bishop CAHILL'S death began on Sunday afternoon, when the remains, encased in a leaden coffin, with outer shell of polished oak were privately carried from Bishop's House by way of the corridors and vestries into the Cathedral accompanied by the Right Rev. Bishop COTTER (Auxiliary and secretary to the deceased prelate) and the Cathedral clergy. A space had been cleared in the nave immediately in front of the sanctuary entrance, and on two trestles draped in purple mourning the coffin was placed, with the deceased Bishop's biretta resting on it. The sanctuary rails and the benches within were hung with mourning draperies of the rubrical colour, and in addition to the three tall torches on either side of the coffin, there were six similar torches along the front of the rails, three on either side.

The official letter sent out by Bishop COTTER announcing the death of the beloved Bishop was read at the Sunday masses throughout the Diocese, in which the arrangements for the Requiem services and funeral were indicated. There was an immense congregation at the Sunday evening service in the Cathedral. All the local missions sent contingents, and there was a delegation of six sisters from Nazareth House, Southsea. Vespers of the day were first sung, Bishop COTTER pontificating, then followed Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and the singing of Allegrì's famous setting of "Miserere," and the service was prolonged for the singing of Vespers of the Dead. The English hymn "O turn to Jesus, Mother turn" was sung by the whole congregation and surpliced choir. Bishop COTTER was assisted by the Rev. Fathers O'LEARY, SWEENEY, HAMILTON, MACDONALD and J. MURPHY, while the Rev. Father KING conducted the choir. At the conclusion the whole congregation stood while CHOPIN'S Funeral March was played on the grand organ by Mr. Fritz WIBER, formerly of Ryde.

The Cathedral doors opened at a very early hour on Monday, and during the lying in state there were many visitors to offer a prayer for the repose of the soul of the Bishop. Nuns of various religious houses throughout the diocese kept watch by the coffin all day until half past six in the evening, when His Grace the Archbishop of Westminster, accompanied by Bishop COTTER, the Provost, and Vicar General, and the Cathedral Chapter of Portsmouth, and surpliced clergy to the number of about forty, took their appointed places in the Cathedral, and sang the solemn Dirge. The Absolution was given by the Archbishop of Westminster, and at the conclusion the long procession of servers, choir, and clergy and dignitaries left the Cathedral to the strains of the Dead March from "Saul."

THE FUNERAL

The procession to Clarence Pier was formed at the Cathedral at 1 o'clock. There was a long procession headed by Father KING and the Cathedral Choir and the Guild of Servers, all in surplices and cassocks; then came the priests, secular and regular, in about twenty carriages followed by the Provost and Chapter in more carriages; the hearse came next, followed by carriages containing Bishops COTTER and FENTON and their chaplains; the household staffs of Bishops House, Portsmouth, and St. Mary's, Ryde, nuns and children of Nazareth House, and the delegations before mentioned.

There was again a crowded congregation on Tuesday morning for the Requiem Mass, within the sanctuary, in cape and mitre, were the Right Rev. Dr. AMIGO, Bishop of Southwark; the Right Rev. Dr. FENTON, Bishop Auxiliary of Westminster; the Right Rev. Abbot O NEILL, O.S.B.; and the Right Rev. Dr. COTTER Bishop of Clazomenæ and Auxiliary of Portsmouth.

There were also present a large number of dignitaries, secular and regular, including His Grace the Archbishop of Westminster, the Right Rev. Abbot DELATTE, O.S.B. (Quarr), etc.

His Grace the Archbishop of Westminster (the Celebrant at the Requiem Mass) was met at the great door of the Cathedral by the Provost (Canon BALLARD) and Chapter, and the procession up the nave to the sanctuary formed a striking scene. At the conclusion of the Mass each Bishop in turn incensed the coffin and gave Absolution., and the Archbishop pronounced the final Absolution over the deceased prelate. The great congregation dispersed to the strains of the Dead March from "Saul."

At Clarence Pier a special steamer was waiting, and when all were on board the scene was at once most solemn and picturesque. The coffin was placed on a purple-covered bier amidships on the upper deck, the Cathedral Choir taking a position forward and singing appropriate hymns. The Rosary also being recited en route. The remainder of the vessel was filled by the accompanying Bishops, Abbots, Clergy, and representatives of Catholic societies.

On the arrival of the boat at Ryde the coffin and the funeral party were conveyed to the Esplanade Station, there, the cortege was joined by the Mayor (M. MAYBRICK, J.P.), Mr. Douglas HALL, M.P., Colonel HOWARD-BROOKE, J.P., Colonel HAMILTON, J.P., Dr. KENNEDY, Mr. C.H. COLLIS, Mr. STANTFIELD, and members of the congregation of St. Mary's Carriages were in waiting to convey the Bishops, Canons, and Priests to the Cemetery, the procession being headed by the choir on foot. The massive oak coffin on the breastplate of which rested the late Bishop's mitre was placed in an open car and followed immediately behind the carriages. The main streets of the town through which the cortege passed were lined with reverent onlookers and all along the route there were signs of mourning. At St. Mary's Church where the late Bishop ministered for so many years, the Nuns assembled in the vestibule to witness the procession, and the organ pealed forth the solemn strains of the Dead March as it passed by. At the entrance of the Cemetery there were present to join the cortege Aldermen S. FOWLER, J.P., A. MILLWARD, J.P., E. GROVES, J.P., and H. SWEETMAN, J.P.; Councillors G.A. BLACKALL, J.P., C.J. DE LAUNAY, J.B. PURNELL, W. DORE, L. SOUTER, and J.I. BARTON; Mr. C.G. VINCENT (Town Clerk), Mr. C. MATHEW (Borough Surveyor), Major C. SWEETMAN, Major ELLERY, Dr. DAVIES, Mr. A. PURNELL, Mr. C. COLNUTT, Mr. COOKS, etc.

On removal of the coffin to the bier at the Cemetery gates, the opening passages of the final rites were recited by Bishops, and the procession moved slowly to the place of interment, the choir singing appropriate music on the way thither. In vicinity of the grave, there was a vast concourse of people whose respectful behaviour was in keeping with the sad occasion. The remaining portion of the impressive service which was partly in Latin, concluded in English with the words "May his soul, and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace," which were pronounced by Bishop COTTER.

The following was the inscription on the plate of the coffin:

John Baptist CAHILL,
Second
Bishop of Portsmouth.
Born 2nd September, 1841,
Died 2nd August 1910.

Confidit in Domino.
Anime ejus proprietur Deus !

On the day of the funeral the Chapter met and elected the Vicar-General (Canon LUCK) to be Vicar Capitular until the appointment of a Bishop to the see.

Researched & typed by
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