

# Fr Brian Conaghan SM

12.11.1931 ~ 2.7.2018



Brian Conaghan was born at Rozelle near Hunters Hill on 12th November 1931. His father Patrick was the ninth of thirteen children of Irish immigrant parents. His mother Delma nee Donnelly was the third child of nine children again of immigrant parents from France and England. Patrick and Delma had five children, the eldest dying of whooping cough at the age of five. A younger sister joined the Parramatta Sisters of Mercy and was matron of the Stella Maris nursing home at Cronulla for 25 years.

Brian was educated first by the Good Samaritan Sisters at Rozelle and then by the Christian Brothers at Lewisham. It was there that he obtained his Leaving Certificate in 1948. Brian always maintained that it was the Christian Brothers who enkindled in him his devotion to Our Lady and subsequently led him to the Society of Mary. He joined the Society as a postulant at Toongabbie in 1949. After his Novitiate at Armidale in 1951 he returned to Toongabbie and was ordained from St Patrick's in 1956.

Fr Brian's first appointment was as Curate in Redcliffe (1957-60) in West Australia and then to West Sunshine (Melbourne). A year teaching at Burnie College (1963) and two years as Chaplain at Royal North Shore Hospital (1982-84) would be his only time out of parish ministry in 44 years. He served as either Parish Priest or Assistant at St Patrick's, Hunters Hill or St John's Wood (Brisbane) from 1964-79.

Following a short period looking after the parish at Helensburgh in 1980, Fr Brian then worked "On loan to the Archdiocese of Sydney", being stationed in Liverpool, Panania (three separate occasions) and Bondi until 1996. From April 1996 until the end of 2000 he was priest-in-residence in Macquarie Fields, a part of Sydney's western sprawl that belongs to the Diocese of Wollongong.

In January 2001 he was appointed Superior of the Maryvale Community caring for the elderly members of the Society in the Australian Province. From there he moved to Villa Maria in 2007 and from this base carried out relief work in many parishes around the country.

In 2015 Fr Brian took up residence in the Maryvale/Montbel retirement community, Hunters Hill, where he lived peacefully until moving to Aged Care facilities at Marsfield, NSW, in 2018.

He died at Ryde hospital, NSW, in the early hours of Jul 02, 2018.

May he rest in peace.

