

Requiem Celebrated For Croydon Pastor

A **B**OUT 150 priests and monsignori were present in the Church of the Holy Innocents, Croydon, when Solemn Requiem Mass for the soul of the late Father William Stevens, P.P., was celebrated on Wednesday of last week.

Father Stevens, who had been parish priest of Croydon for the past 13 years, died on Monday of last week, aged 75 years.

Celebrant of the Requiem Mass was the Right Rev. Monsignor E. Bond, P.P., V.F. (Concord); deacon, the Rev. Father K. Spillane (Hurstville); and sub-deacon, the Rev. Father P. Landers (Panania).

The Very Rev. Monsignor M. Cronin (Summer Hill) was master of ceremonies.

Monsignori present included the Right Rev. Monsignor J. Lawless, P.P., R.I. (Rutherglen, Diocese of Sandhurst), an old friend of Father Stevens.

Bishops Present

Monsignor Lawless officiated at the graveside in Rookwood Cemetery.

Their Lordships Bishops Lyons and Carroll, Auxiliaries to His Eminence Cardinal Gilroy, were both present in the sanctuary.

Uniformed children from the local Catholic schools formed a guard of honor as the cortege left the church.

Bishop Lyons was also present in the sanctuary of Holy Innocents' Church on Tuesday night of last week when the Solemn Office of the Dead was chanted by the clergy.

Born In Sydney

Father Stevens, who was born in Sydney, was educated by the Marist Brothers at Church Hill and the Patrician Brothers at Forest Lodge.

He studied for the priesthood at St. Patrick's College, Manly, and was ordained on October 28, 1905.

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Father Stevens served in the parishes of Rydalmere, Newtown, Campbelltown, Pambula (now in the Archdiocese of Canberra-Goulburn), Richmond and Picton before being appointed parish priest of Epping in 1923.

He remained at Epping until July, 1941, when he was appointed parish priest of Croydon.—R.I.P.