Fr James F O’Grady, Glen Keen, Louisburgh, who has died on March 17, 2013 at the age of 86, was a priest of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, California since his ordination in 1954.

In his priestly ministry he served as Associate Pastor, St Mary’s Catholic Church, Los Angeles, 1954-1957; St Anthony Catholic Church, El Segundo, Associate Pastor, 1957-1958; St Mariana de Paredes Catholic Church, Pico Rivera, Associate Pastor, 1958-1964; St Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, Reseda, Associate Pastor, 1964 – 1970; St Clement Catholic Church, Santa Monica, Associate Pastor, 1970-1972; Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church, Claremont, Associate Pastor, 1972-1973; St Gregory Nazianzen Catholic Church, Los Angeles, Pastor, 1973-1983; St Anthony Catholic Church, El Segundo, Pastor, 1983–2001; St Anthony Catholic Church, El Segundo, Pastor Emeritus.Retired, 2001.

Fr James retired home to Glen Keen, Louisburgh in 2001 to assist his elderly brother, Thomas who was in ill health. Fr James had many interests mainly Irish music, nature and farming. He had a specific interest in the farming business having being reared on a farm. During his retirement years at Glen Keen, Fr James received many visiting friends and parishioners from his former parish of El Segundo.

During his time in Los Angeles, Fr James made many friends and was widely known for sharing his talents, his support and dedication to the Emigrant Community and to his parish. The parish of El Segundo honoured Fr James by the dedication of the parish hall to his name, now known as the Fr O’Grady Parish Hall. It was a facility that Fr James worked very hard to ensure became a reality prior to his retirement in 2001.

Removal was from Sweeney’s Funeral Home on March 20 to the Church of the Holy Family, Killeen. Mass was concelebrated on March 21 by Fr Micheál MacGréil, Fr Paddy Gill and Fr Leo Morahan. Burial took place at Kileen Cemetery.

The O’Grady family thanked the priests for concelebrating Mass, they also thanked Fr Mattie Long for
his support to Fr James during his retirement years in Louisburgh and they thanked Peter Sweeney, Dr Oliver Whyte, GP, nurses, doctors and staff at Mayo General and Swinford District Hospitals and they also expressed their sincere thanks to Fr James’s home carers Mary B, Kathleen, Cathy and Mary.

May he rest in peace
‘Called to serve the people’.