

# Local priest dies at 73

Father Martin Joseph Burke, 73, a Catholic priest for 45 years and pastor at many churches in Great Falls and around Montana, died Monday of natural causes at a local hospital.

Vigil service is at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at St. Ann's Cathedral. Mass of Resurrection will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at the cathedral with burial at Mount Olivet Cemetery, with O'Connor Funeral Home handling arrangements.

Memorials are suggested to the Priest Retirement Home, P.O. Box 1399, Great Falls, MT 59403.

Burke was born in Killawardy, Illea, Templemore, County Tipperary, Ireland, on Jan. 6, 1920.

His secondary education was from Templemore Christian Brothers School and he began college studies at the Cistercian College in Roscrea. He went to the seminary at St. Patrick's College, Thurles.

He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Great Falls in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Thurles, on June 8, 1947.

His first assignment at St. Ann's Cathedral lasted only a month before he became assistant in Sacred Heart Parish in Glendive, where he stayed four years. In 1952, he returned as first assistant in St. Ann's

and was named rector of the cathedral in 1956.

In August 1956, he was appointed pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Black Eagle. A year later he was moved to Glendive and made Vicar Coadjutor of Sacred Heart Church there, and became pastor in 1960. He held that post 10 years, until his transfer to St. Mary's Church of Malta in August 1970.

After three years in Malta he was assigned to Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish in Great Falls and appointed vice chancellor of the diocese and officialis of the marriage tribunal in June 1979. Two months later he was made pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Fort Benton.

In November 1980, he was appointed chancellor of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings. He returned to the cathedral parish for the third time in July 1985 where he remained for two years and was reassigned to Blessed Sacrament in Black Eagle.

He was active in the following diocesan organizations: chaplain of the Catholic Daughters; moderator of the Presbyteral Council; Council of Catholic Women; Diocesan Consultor; chaplain of the Knights of Columbus; spiritual director of the Legion of Mary and member of the Diocesan Financial Council.

He is survived by three brothers, Ned, John and Peter Burke, and a sister, Bridget Gried, all of Ireland.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Bartholomew.



**Burke**