

# DEVOTED PRIEST

## Impressive Tributes Of Respect

The last tribute of respect to the memory of the Rev. W. J. Meade, C.C., of Abbeyfeale, was of a most impressive kind (writes our Abbeyfeale correspondent). Having died at Milford House, Limerick, in his 39th year, his Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Keane, D.D., Bishop of Limerick, presided at the solemn Requiem High Mass at St. Michael's on Saturday morning. Approaching Abbeyfeale an immense attendance of the public awaited the arrival of the remains from Limerick for interment in St. Mary's Cemetery, beside the local parish church, in which he celebrated his last Mass on Easter Sunday, prior to retiring for a rest at Milford House. At Mountmahon a guard of honour, in full equipment, of the L.D.F., the L.S.F. and V.A.D. units, were in double files as the remains passed through, in addition to the local Garda, under Sergt. Normile. The Children of Mary followed, and the general public. All business in the town had been suspended during the day, and with blinds drawn throughout, was indicative only in part of the deep feelings of the people, who regarded the passing of their beloved curate as an individual personal bereavement. An active, zealous and devoted priest, only those amongst whom he ministered for six years knew of the affectionate regard his amiable qualities won from the parishioners in whose service he never spared himself. He was possessed of great organising ability, to whose efforts were due the success of the "Kermis" and "Carnival," which were introduced for worthy parochial purposes. He was an energetic member of the local Parish Council, and for a time the Spiritual Director of the C.Y.M.S., and wherever any other undertaking aimed at improvement this aid was unassumingly lent. Born at Kilmurry, Kilfinane, in 1903, he was second son of Mrs. and the late John Meade, and brother of the Rev. M. P. Meade, P.P., Seattle, U.S.A., and Mr. J. J. Meade, D.S.O. He was ordained at Maynooth in 1929. After ordination he went to St. Raphael's Parish, California, and was Chaplain to St. Quentin's Prison. He was appointed Curate at Abbeyfeale in 1936. In seven years, while exercising his arduous duties at St. Quentin's Prison he witnessed 31 executions, of which two were of Irishmen. In St. Quentin's he also interviewed Tom Mooney. He knew Mr. Jimmie Walker, former Mayor of New York, with whom he discussed matters of public importance.

Father Meade, who was truly beloved of the people amongst whom he ministered so faithfully, was the first curate of whom there is record, who died in the Abbeyfeale Curacy. On Sunday night the Holy Hour, at which the Rev. Father Houlihan, C.C., officiated, was offered for the repose of the deceased's soul, and was attended by a very large congregation.

Chief relatives at the obsequies: Mrs. John Meade, Kilmurry, Kilfinane (mother), Mr. John J. Meade, D.S.O., do. (brother), Mr. Michael Staunton (uncle), Rev. R. O'Sullivan, C.C.; John O'Sullivan, Rev. D. Riordan, P.P., Kilmeedy; P. Meade, Limerick; Miss B. Keane, D. Hayes, Termore (cousins).

At the graveside the prayers were read by Rev. R. O'Sullivan, C.C. (cousin). Other clergy present were:—Right Rev. Monsignor Michael Hannan, P.P., V.G., Newcastle West; Very Rev. Canon O'Dwyer, P.P., St. Munchin's; Very Rev. Canon T. Hogan, P.P., V.F., Abbeyfeale; Rev. F. Rice, P.P., Donoughmore; Very Rev. Dr. R. A. Harnett, C.S.Sp.; Rev. Father O'Donnell, C.C., Bruree; Rev. P. Ruddle, P.P., Tournafulla; Rev. J. Moloney, P.P., Parteen; Rev. T. Griffin, P.P., Duagh; Rev. Fr. Brassill, Adm., St. John's, Limerick; Rev. M. Breen and Rev. M. Purtil, St. Munchin's College; Rev. J. Houlihan, C.C., Abbeyfeale; Rev. W. O'Grady, C.C.; Rev. W. Creed, C.C.; Rev. Father McGrath, C.C.; Rev. Father Chawke, C.P.; Rev. J. Godfrey, C.C.; Rev. Dr. Cowper, Adm., St. Michael's; Rev. D. Martin, St. Munchin's, College; Rev. J. O'Regan, C.C., St. Patrick's; Rev. H. Fee, C.C., Templeglantine; Rev. E. O'Dea, C.C.; Rev. Father Minihan, C.C.; Rev. M. O'Donnell, C.C.; Rev. J. O'Donnell, C.C., Parteen; Rev. M. Quinn, C.C.; Rev. Father Quinlan, C.C., Foynes; Rev. Father Niall, C.S.Sp.; Rev. Father Roche, C.S.Sp.; Rev. Fr. White, C.S.S.R.; Rev. D. Crowley, C.C.; Rev. T. Crowley, C.C.; Rev. M. Connolly, C.C., Mungret; Rev. Father McCarthy, C.C.