

of the early products of Manly College, he appeared to display the concept of the brash Australian, which did not always win him friends in clerical circles. He was in business terms with the controversial John Wren who guided him to court settlements in the defamation cases. Fr Bossence was truly an example of what was derogatorily called in another context, 'muscular Christianity'.

Rev. Richard Daly DD, PhD

Fr Daly was born 1865 at Barnawartha Vic., of Irish parents, native Irish language, from Durrus, Dunmannus Bay, West Cork, who settled on a small farm selection, a creek near Barnawartha. After early local schooling, he worked as a clerk in the store of C. Reis & Co. He came to the attention of his parish priest, Rev. John Daly, who encouraged his ideas of a religious vocation as a priest or religious Brother. At the end of 1884, Daly achieved good results at the external matriculation examinations of the University of Sydney, and was given a place at St Patrick's College, Goulburn, to pursue classical studies under Rev. John Gallagher. With Joseph Dwyer (later bishop of Wagga Wagga) he proceeded to Propaganda College in Rome, where he was ordained priest on 30 November 1894. There he achieved a reputation in languages, many of which he learned to speak, like his fellow students at the international Propaganda College. He was regarded there as equal to the great linguist Cardinal Mezzofanti. He was now speaking English, French, German, Italian, Hebrew, Latin, Greek, Chinese, Arabic, Russian and modern Greek, and finally reaching competency in eighteen languages.

After ordination, he returned to teach at St Patrick's College, Goulburn, but began to show signs of a 'mental weakness of a very pronounced character'. He was posted to Narrandera (1897-99), and for short periods to Howlong, Henty, Balldale, Lockhart and Yass. His peculiarities multiplied and there are personal recollections of his eccentric behaviour both inside and outside church, such as demanding that a parishioner who could not attend Mass should kneel and say 'I, John —, am rotten, rotten to the core'. Elsewhere, he subjected a penitent to a 'kick in the rear three times for his sins'. As a result he was withdrawn from pastoral duties in 1902 to allow him to pursue his academic interests in Scripture and languages, particularly in Rome. On his way to Europe, however, he delayed in London to act as private chaplain to a family. While walking through Hyde Park on St Patrick's Day, he heard a speaker, Mr O'Donnell MP, addressing a crowd in Irish Gaelic. He became fascinated by the language and began to study its phonetics. By 1905 he became president of the Irish language school at Ballingeary, County Cork, and continued in that role for twelve years.

... teachers of Irish, particularly by his book *How to Speak Irish* published in 1905. His work at Rome, if any, during this period is unknown. A report in an Albury newspaper the *News* 22 November 1910, stated: 'During Vespers at St Peter's Basilica in Rome disturbance was created by an Irish priest (sic) named Daly. He was evidently mentally deranged and was removed from the building'. Clergy recollections, inflated by retelling from Patrick Hartigan's reminiscences say that Daly discharged a pistol in the Basilica, claiming himself to be Pope! Back in Australia to recuperate, he was noted by the same *News* 25 March 1911 as preaching a most eloquent sermon at Chiltern Vic., and was based for some months during 1911 to Crookwell NSW. It is presumed that he then returned to Ireland, where from 1915 to 1920 he was attached unofficially to Farranferris Seminary in Kildare and also taught at University College, Cork, being noted in his obituary as a professor of Irish there. He later lived privately in Cork, sick from diabetes and died at the Sisters of Mercy hospital on 23 October 1930 having maintained his studies up to his final days. He is remembered in Ireland for his contribution to studies of Irish language. He always remained a devoted priest, regarded as holy and extremely charitable to the needy, but was a difficult man to speak with, being very forceful in his views and prone to labour the point of his language skills, which at least he attributed to a special gift from God. It was an extraordinary career for a boy from the bush at Indigo Creek, Barnawartha, close by the banks of the Murray River.

THE PASSIONIST FATHERS - MARY'S MOUNT, GOULBURN

The religious order of men, only a short time after their arrival in Australia, purchased a property, 'Ravenswood', on the perimeter of Goulburn in 1890 and renamed it 'Mary's Mount'. The house and land had been the home of Francis Tait, businessman and former Methodist minister who had it built about 1880. It was beautifully finished, with a fine cedar staircase and ornate decoration. It was formally blessed and opened as a Retreat of the Passionist Fathers on 9 June 1890 by Cardinal Moran. Early priests in attendance were Fr Clement and Fr Mary, who was rector in 1891. Almost immediately a novitiate building was begun with the use of study incorporated and the new building was blessed by Bishop Lanigan on 3 March 1892, the architect being the E.C. Manfred of Goulburn and the builder J. O'Brien. The

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