

RIP FR BRENDAN



Fr Brendan Davey died at Nazareth House on August 9, 2016. Fr Brendan will be remembered throughout the Diocese but mostly in the Stawell and Ararat parishes where he spent much of his life as a priest.

Brendan Davey was born in Ballarat in 1935 and attended St Columba's Primary School in Ballarat North and St Patrick's College Ballarat (SPC 1946-53) where he was a prefect in 1953. In 1947, Brendan was the recipient of a Scholastic Prize for First Year Christian Doctrine. He was a valuable member of the premiership team which won the Oval Competition for Treacy House in 1952, and also in the same year was again awarded the Scholastic Prize for Christian Doctrine. Brendan was involved with the College Cadet Unit and the Rowing crew. Brendan completed his Matriculation in 1953, passing the following subjects: English Expression, Latin, British History, Greek & Roman History. Brendan was inducted as Legend of St Patrick's College in 2012.

After leaving St Patrick's College, Brendan commenced a period of eight years study at the Corpus Christi Seminary. He was ordained at the age of 25, on July 23, 1961 in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat. He spent a number of years as assistant priest in the parishes of Swan Hill, Ballarat, Ballarat Cathedral Parish, Ballarat North, Warrnambool (St Joseph's), as well as Chaplain to St Patrick's College. He became Parish Priest of Stawell in 1975 where he remained for over eleven years before becoming the Parish Priest of Ararat for twenty eight years.



Fr Brendan was also involved at a Diocesan level, as a member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission where he served from its formation in 1970 until his retirement in 2014. During his time on the Commission Brendan held the position of Chair and Diocesan Master of Ceremonies. Other Diocesan involvement included Chair of the Diocesan Historical Commission, Director of St Stephen's Guild for Altar Servers, Vocations Director and Diocesan Chaplain for the YCW.



In 2011, Fr Brendan celebrated his Golden Jubilee – 50 years since his Ordination. At the time Fr Brendan said he has enjoyed 50 very happy years, with no regrets about his decision at such a young age. "There are difficult times of course, particularly when you're involved in people's tragedies in their lives, that's not easy, but I certainly haven't regretted it. I've been very happy in the places I've been."

Fr Brendan retired on July 23, 2015, fifty-three years after his ordination. A farewell Mass was held at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Ararat where

more than three hundred and fifty parishioners, friends and family gathered to celebrate his retirement. Fr Brendan relocated back to Ballarat after his retirement where he could better manage his health issues.

Fr Brendan's Funeral Mass was held in St Mary's Parish, Ararat on Wednesday, August 17. Bishop Paul Bird CSsR was the main celebrant at the Mass with Bishop Peter Connors and the priests of the Diocese of Ballarat concelebrating. Family members and friends participated in the Mass. May he rest in peace.



Article courtesy of various sources, St Patrick's College Ballarat (SPC Old Collegians Facebook), Ararat Advertiser (Jodie Holwell) and Diocesan sources.

Pictured above: Fr Barry Ryan and Fr Brendan; Tom Hogan and Fr Brendan; Peter Morris, Fr Eric Bryant and Fr Brendan.