

FR LAURIE GALLAGHER



B/W photograph (reproduction).

Dated: 1969

BDHC archive collection

Fr Laurie Gallagher was a much-loved Parish Priest at St Peter's Church, Linton who held this position for a total of thirty-three years. During this time, he worked tirelessly on various committees. He began his service with the "Nashos" and then was C.M.F Chaplain for twenty-one years. He managed the Light magazine for a total of fourteen years.

Fr Gallagher received an Army Efficiency medal in 1969 for 20 years' service yet not much is known about his time as Chaplain in the Commonwealth Military Forces. He retired with the honorary rank of Lieut-Col.

During his Silver Jubilee celebration, Lt Col Dow, E.D., stated that he had established himself not only as chaplain, but as a natural leader in all phases of army life. He was already a legend in the C.M.F.

Fr Gallagher died on May 27, 2004 at the age of 80. His funeral was held at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Fr Brendan Davey gave his homily and stated: many members of the C.M.F. turned to him for help in all sorts of situations and they never went away empty handed...There was no doubt in his mind that Jesus had sent him as Chaplain to the C.M.F. to witness to the Gospel values as best he could.