

FR JOHN FRANCIS KIRBY



B/W photograph (reproduction).

Dated: early 1930s

BDHC archive collection

Ordained at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat on November 25, 1934. Fr John Kirby was appointed a Chaplain in the Australian Military Forces in 1942. He continued in this position to the end of WWII. He saw service in New Guinea and after the war was chosen to accompany Lieutenant General Horace Clement Hugh Robertson (also known as 'Red Robbie') and the Australian Military Mission to Japan.

On his return from his duties Fr Kirby worked in nine different Ballarat parishes including Colac, Horsham, Ouyen, Ballarat, Watchem and Casterton where he remained until ill health forced his resignation in 1974. He died on January 14, 1980.