

OBITUARY

Noted Cleric Passes

By the death of Rev. Father Paul E. Zundolovich at 6.50 a.m. yesterday at the Moama Presbytery, there is removed one of the most picturesque personalities of the Catholic Church in Southern Riverina. During the past eighteen years "Father Paul," as he was popularly known, was one of the most beloved priests who ever administered to the people of his religion and his unexpected demise has cast a gloom over the large district in which he acted as Parish Priest for so many years. Following medical advice, Father Paul was taken to Melbourne for treatment in February, where he was under the care of the Sisters of Charity at Mt. St. Evin's Private Hospital until his return to Moama on Thursday last. Arriving in apparently good health, the venerable priest immediately arranged to take over his former parish duties, which during his absence were carried out by Father T. M. Stokes. An unexpected relapse came suddenly early yesterday morning and the end came with tragic suddenness at 6.50. The last rites of his Holy Church were received at the hands of the Rev. Prior Doyle of Echuca.

Born in Lithuania about 70 years ago, in which place he spent his early years, Father Paul, following his ordination in Rome, came to Australia in 1893, as a missionary priest. Parochial responsibilities at Wilcannia and Whitecliffs, N.S.W. absorbed his

and Whitecliffs, N.S.W., absorbed his religious labors for some years when his priestly work necessitated the use of primitive horse-drawn vehicles. Always holding an honored position amongst his far-flung parishioners, Father Paul made many friends in all spheres of outback life and he was loved by Catholics and non-Catholics alike for his personal charm and devotion to his holy religion. A noted linguist, he was able to converse in many tongues and was a reputed Hebrew scholar. His wise counsel was sought by many prominent members of his church, and he numbered amongst his scholastic classmates the present Archbishop of Tasmania, Most Rev. Dr. Hayden, with whom he studied in Rome. To the present Bishop of Wilcannia Forbes, the Right Rev. T. M. Fox, he had the distinction of administering the Sacrament of Baptism. During his 18 years in charge at Moama Father Paul carried out a progressive programme and established the Convent at Mathoura and a new church at Womboota. Typical of his love for his parishioners and church, one of the last expressions of the departed priest on his return to Moama on Thursday was his delight at being back in the field of his labors, where, had God willed, he was prepared to continue his noble work.