

Provost Joseph Moore, 1886—1909

THE PROVOST HAD the distinction of serving under six successive Bishops of Southwark. He was born near Thomastown, Kilkenny, on June 18th, 1838. He



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was educated at St. Kieran's College in Kilkenny, All Hallows College in Dublin, and at the Seminary of Bruges. On December 21st, 1861, he was ordained priest by Bishop Grant, whose secretary and confessor he was to become. He was a curate, first at Bermondsey and then at the Cathedral, where he later became Administrator. He was appointed a Canon of the Chapter in 1877, Rector of Crayford in 1882, and Provost of the Chapter in 1895.

In 1886 he became Rector of St. Mary Magdalen's. When Bishop Bourne of Southwark became Archbishop of Westminster in 1903 Provost Moore was elected Vicar Capitular, and as such administered the Southwark diocese until Bishop Amigo took possession in March, 1904.

During his years at St. Mary Magdalen's he was much revered, and his dignified charm and attractive manner are still remembered by the few parishioners who were here in his day. On his death, the local press paid him the following tribute: "During his long residence in Brighton, Provost Moore, by his geniality, his kindness of heart, benevolence, and devotion to duty, won the love of his own people, and the deep respect of hosts of friends outside the Church". In the year 1892-1893 he served on the Brighton Board of Guardians and was the first Catholic ever to serve on that body. He increased the Sunday Masses to three owing to the growing numbers of the Catholic population; there had been only two since the time of Father Oldham. To him we are chiefly indebted for the well-designed presbytery. In 1888 he purchased the site, occupied then by five houses, two in Upper North Street and three in Spring Street. The actual building began on July 2nd, 1890.

In 1904 the Provost had a serious illness. He never completely recovered, and from that time his powers began to decline. In 1909 he resigned the Rectorship but continued to live in the presbytery until March, 1915. In spite of his failing memory and bodily weakness he said Mass regularly up to the end of January, 1915. In the February of that year he had a serious relapse and now needed constant attention. He was taken to Twyford Abbey in March, and there he died a year later on March 23rd, 1916. On March 27th, his body was removed to the Cathedral. The following day in that church where he had worked for over 20 years Canon Sprankling, the Administrator, sang his Requiem in the presence of Bishop Amigo. He was buried in Kensal Green Cemetery, the graveside service being performed by Father Tatum.