




Speech By
Lachlan Millar

MEMBER FOR GREGORY

Record of Proceedings, 28 February 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Moore, Father D

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (8.38 pm): It is with great sadness that I rise to pay tribute to Father Daniel Mary Moore, who recently passed away at Killowen House, Castlejordan in County Offaly, Ireland, surrounded by family and friends and in the constant and loving prayers of Central Queenslanders. Father Dan, as we called him, was one of the most outstanding men I have ever met. He was a rock of the Catholic faith and the soul of community spirit and service.

Father Dan was born in 1937 in Ireland, the fourth of nine children born to Paddy and Biddy Moore. Together with his brothers and sisters, Father Dan was raised on the family's 100-acre farm in Killowen, County Offaly. They grew small crops and the children enjoyed a close acquaintance with chickens, ducks, dogs and cattle. He undertook his primary schooling at the village school, but his secondary schooling was spent as a boarder and he suffered badly from homesickness.

After being ordained in 1962, he boarded a ship for Australia, having signed up to work for the bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton. Think for a moment of that fair skinned, red-headed young Irish priest arriving into the full force of a Central Queensland summer. Father Dan became one of the most beloved priests—not just beloved by his own flock but also loved by everybody in Central Queensland.

Father Dan served in North Mackay and South Mackay before moving to Aramac and Muttaborra in the 1970s. This was followed by eight years in the new mining towns of Moranbah and Dysart. The 1980s saw him working on the north side of Rockhampton before being appointed to minister to the parishes of Emerald, Springsure, Rolleston, Anakie and Blackwater on the Central Highlands. He christened my eldest daughter, Lucy. He had a lot of territory to cover and each parish came with its unique challenges which Father Dan addressed enthusiastically.

I do not have time to list all the events and achievements of Father Dan's time on the Central Highlands, but by the time he left in 2004 he was awarded Emerald's Citizen of the Year. He returned home to Ireland when he retired the following year. His death has been greatly mourned by all who knew him in Central Queensland. His loving and gentle character, his infectious enthusiasm and engaging sense of humour are warmly remembered and missed to this day. His enduring faith in a loving God inspired many who continue to hold him in their prayers.

It was quite fitting that we had a memorial service at St Patrick's Catholic Church Emerald on Saturday. Hundreds of people turned up to pay their respects to Father Dan Moore. He was a man who was loved and will always be missed. It was fitting that we all went down to the Irish Village pub in the main street of Emerald to remember Father Dan with a Guinness. I am not a fan of Guinness, but I had a couple of Guinnesses in remembrance of Father Dan, who was a fantastic man and well loved in Central Queensland. May he rest in peace. May we all have a Guinness to remember him in the future.