



## Catholic Diocese of Bathurst

### Media Release

#### Vale: Father John Beaven

Father John Beaven died on the morning of 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015 after ongoing illness. He is survived by his sister, Patricia Harris.

Father Beaven was born in Sydney in 1933, one of five children. Father Beaven was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Bathurst by Cardinal Gilroy in 1963.

Father Beaven will be remembered gratefully by many people in the parishes he served across the Diocese including Bathurst, Orange, Canowindra, Gilgandra, Dubbo, Mudgee, Wellington, Coolah, Kandos, Cowra and Lithgow.

From 1992 to 1993 he served as Chaplain to the Aboriginal people of the Diocese.

His last appointment was as Parish Priest of South Dubbo from 1994 until his retirement in 2005.

Bishop Michael McKenna said, "Father John Beaven was a priest of the Diocese of Bathurst for more than 50 years. John's devotion to Liturgy and his love of the Word of God resulted in him being awarded the inaugural Margaret Press rsj Liturgy Award in December last year. John received this award for his involvement in the liturgical life of the Diocese, the contribution to the promotion of the liturgy and its understanding by the faithful, throughout the Diocese and the wider Church. He will be sadly missed."

Anglican Bishop, Ian Palmer said, I am sorry to hear of the death of Father John. I did not know him personally but many people have spoken of him with great respect and affection."

Bishop Palmer especially highlighted Father Beaven's work amongst Aboriginal people.

**Bishop McKenna, Fathers Greg Kennedy, Mark McGuigan and priests of the Diocese will be concelebrating a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Laurence's Church on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 2.30pm.**

Light refreshments will be served at the St. Laurence's Primary School Hall, corner of Fitzroy and Tamworth Streets after burial at Western Districts Lawn Cemetery.

May he rest in peace.

For further information please contact Kimbalee Clews, Communications Coordinator, Catholic Diocese of Bathurst ph: 02 6334 6400 or mobile: 0407 888 407