



Father William C. Mooney

May 2, 1940 - February 16, 2025

Father William C. Mooney, dedicated pastor dies at 84

Father William C. Mooney, a devoted priest of the Diocese of St. Augustine and the last of the Irish missionary pastors to serve in the diocese, died Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025. He was 84.

Born May 2, 1940, in County Sligo, Ireland, to Dominic and Mary Mooney, he was one of 15 children, all preceding him in death. He is survived by 11 nephews and nieces.

He excelled in school and was known for his diligence and conscientious nature. However, the possibility of attending university was not a reality for working-class families at the time. At the age of 17, he traveled to England in search of employment, like many of his older siblings. When his father, Dominic, passed away in 1957, he felt a strong obligation to return home to Sligo to support his mother.

He secured a position at the post office in Sligo, where he impressed his superiors with his mathematical and writing skills. During this time, he began feeling a strong call to the priesthood. He wrestled with this decision, as he was deeply concerned about his mother's financial well-being. After seeking counsel from his parish priest, he confided in his mother, who encouraged him

to follow his calling, assuring him that the family would manage.

In 1961, he joined St. Kieran's Seminary in Kilkenny. Throughout his seminary years, he spent much of his free time with his sister Helen's family in Galway, a tradition he continued even after moving to Florida. He was ordained June 9, 1968, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Kilkenny by Bishop Peter Birch of Ossory. His family gathered from near and far to celebrate the occasion, marking a significant day for their community in Sligo.

That same year, Father Mooney arrived in the Diocese of St. Augustine, where he dedicated five decades to pastoral ministry. His early assignments took him across Florida, serving as an assistant pastor in Pensacola, Tallahassee, Fort Walton Beach and St. Augustine. From 1970 to 1971, he served as master of ceremonies for Bishop Paul Tanner, often traveling with him between St. Augustine and Pensacola. In 1975, he was appointed pastor of St. Ambrose Parish in Elkton and its mission church at the time, Our Lady of Good Counsel, before being asked in 1977 to develop a new parish in St. Augustine Shores—Corpus Christi Parish.

For 42 years, Father Mooney shepherded Corpus Christi Parish, guiding it from a small mission to a thriving faith community. The early years were a time of transition, with Masses celebrated in borrowed homes, garages and even the Riverview Club before Corpus Christi Catholic Church was dedicated in 1981. Under his leadership, the parish continued to grow, adding an administration building in 1990 and the Marian Hall parish center in 2001.

Father Mooney was known for his warmth, wit and wisdom. His deep appreciation for sacred art shaped the beauty of Corpus Christi, where every element of the church's design reflected a call to discipleship. "Everything should have a certain beauty, particularly if it is important. I see every form of beauty as an avenue to God," he said in a 1984 interview. His love for liturgical art was evident in the intricate mosaics and stained-glass windows

adorning the church.

Beyond his pastoral work, he had a remarkable ability to connect with people. Parishioners fondly called him “the most priestly priest in St. Augustine” due to his ever-present black suit and clerical collar, no matter the weather. His straightforward nature, dry humor and deep faith endeared him to those he served. Even after retiring July 1, 2017, he remained active at San Sebastian Parish, where he wrote the weekly “Faith and Reason” publication and continued offering spiritual guidance, hearing confessions and ministering to the sick and homebound.

Father Mooney leaves behind a legacy of faith, service and devotion. His influence is evident not only in the structures he helped build but in the countless lives he touched.

Funeral arrangements are as follows:

Tuesday, Feb. 25

Visitation from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Vigil presided by Very Rev. Timothy Lindenfelser, V.F., J.C.L. at 7:00 p.m.

Corpus Christi Catholic Church, 6175 Datil Pepper Road, St. Augustine

Wednesday, Feb. 26

Funeral Mass at 2:30 p.m. with Bishop Erik Pohlmeier as the main celebrant and Father Timothy Lindenfelser, homilist

Corpus Christi Catholic Church, St. Augustine

Interment at San Lorenzo Catholic Cemetery, 1635 U.S. 1 South, St.

Augustine with Father Timothy Lindenfelser, presiding.

Those unable to attend the mass may watch the live-stream by going to: <http://iframe.dacast.com/live/2a7a09ae1c0559a83ef537e05e6a14a6/0d926f14-3fd3-923f-c556-1f0bb777106f>.

Those desiring may share memories of Fr. Mooney by going to his tribute page at: <https://www.stjohnsfamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/william-mooney-18/#!/TributeWall>.

St. Johns Family Funeral Home of St. Augustine is in charge of arrangements

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace. Amen.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **25**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Corpus Christi Catholic Church
6175 Datil Pepper Rd
St. Augustine, FL 32086
(904) 797-4842

Vigil Service

FEB **25**. 7:00 PM (ET)

Corpus Christi Catholic Church
6175 Datil Pepper Rd
St. Augustine, FL 32086
(904) 797-4842

Funeral Mass

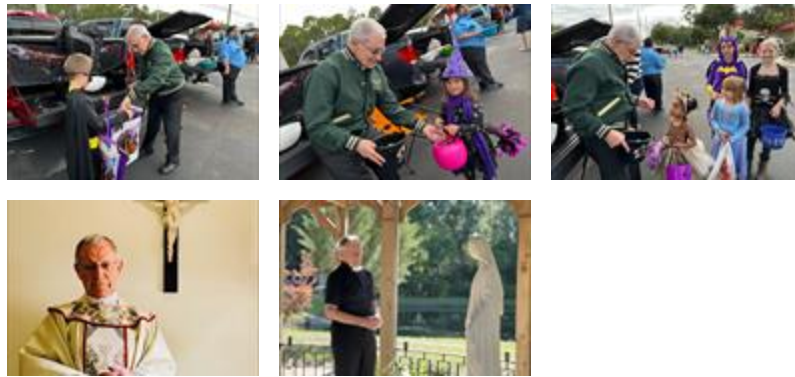
FEB **26**. 2:30 PM (ET)

Corpus Christi Catholic Church
6175 Datil Pepper Rd
St. Augustine, FL 32086
(904) 797-4842

Tribute Wall

SE

“ 90 files added to the album *Fr. Mooney*



Sebastian - June 12 at 10:14 AM

WO

“ 1 file added to the album *Funeral Mass*



Wayne Osterling - February 28, 2025 at 03:15 PM

AN

May his soul rest in eternal peace

Annet - March 02, 2025 at 01:17 PM

LG

“ Grand Uncle Billy, you will be remembered for your kindness and gentleness and I will always remember your laugh. We looked forward to your annual trips home to Galway when you stayed with Granny. She was incredibly proud of you and you made her very happy💜 I have lovely memories of us going to Sligo to visit Granny Mooney, visiting the Holy Well, going to the Rock Shop in Co Clare and drives out Connemara. We loved hearing your stories of your life, you were so knowledgable. We enjoyed visit St Augustine and meeting your parishioners who adored you. You will be sadly missed by your family in Galway 💜 I'm sure you are reunited with Granny and Granny Mooney and catching up 😊
Go dtí go caster le chéile sinn arís

Laura Gaughan - February 27, 2025 at 05:06 AM

SG

“ Billy, I will always remember you for your kindness and generosity to us all when you came home every summer and when we came to visit you in St Augustine when I was a child. You always had fascinating stories to tell and you could have a conversation about any topic. I will mostly remember how happy you made my Granny, your sister, Helen. She adored you, you brought her so much joy and pride. Your trips home every summer were something of a state occasion!
I am comforted that you will be reunited with her for a long over due catch up

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam

Sarah

Sarah Gaughan - February 26, 2025 at 02:48 PM

EG

“ Dear Grand Uncle Billy,you were a kind gentle soul,I have so many memories of you throughout our childhood,there was always such great excitement when you were coming home in the summer and Granny used to have us all up cleaning and scrubbing the house to have it perfect for the guest of honour!You made granny so proud.You were a great man for stories especially about animals and you always loved seeing all our pets when you were home,I will always remember your relaxing voice and the way you spoke,may you rest in peace and I hope you and Granny are having lots of chats now up in heaven,love always ,Elaine

Elaine Gaughan - February 26, 2025 at 11:07 AM

IO

“ Irmir Orr lit a candle in memory of Father William C. Mooney



Irmir Orr - February 25, 2025 at 02:49 PM

EH

“ Evelynne Hopkins lit a candle in memory of Father William C. Mooney



Evelynne Hopkins - February 25, 2025 at 02:48 PM

SG

“ Dear Uncle Billy, it's time to say our farewell, I've been thinking over the last few days of how to put into words what you meant to us, the two words that stand out are..... Thank You..... Thank you for being a devoted son, for being a supportive brother to our mother Helen, for being the kindest Uncle anyone could ask for, thank you for being the most priestly of priests, thank you for your wisdom and advice..... there are so many wonderful memories that we will hold in our hearts forever your legacy will shine for a very long time..... now is the time to reap your just rewards..... Thank you, Uncle Billy.
Your Niece, Susan.



Susan Gaughan - February 25, 2025 at 11:45 AM

AL

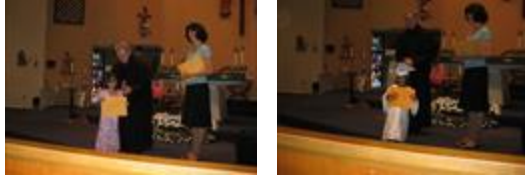
“ Alexandra lit a candle in memory of Father William C. Mooney



Alexandra - February 25, 2025 at 09:07 AM

AL

“ Words will not be sufficient for the amount of gratitude my heart holds for Father Mooney. He is dearly missed but joy feels within me knowing he will be reunited with God. Continued prayers for the repose of his soul and peace for his family during this time.



Alexandra - February 25, 2025 at 09:05 AM

SF

“ Shoals Family lit a candle in memory of Father William C. Mooney



Shoals Family - February 24, 2025 at 02:08 PM



“ *Our Uncle Billy, Fr William Mooney to the rest of the world was a kind and gentle man, softly spoken but with an abundance of knowledge and wisdom to share.*

His visits home to his Mam and sister Helen were the highlight of our summer.

Trips to Sligo, stories from his parish in Florida, his other passions; the world of science, history and nature... we hung on your every word.

Uncle Billy; you enriched our lives and provided much needed support for our Mam Helen, a young widow mother to six children and in time Grandmother and Great Grandmother to many who all grew up hearing about Uncle Billy.

Enjoy your well earned rest.

Your Mam and sister Helen welcoming you home one final time. ❤️

Rest in peace and love 💜

Laura and family ❤️

Laura Gaughan - February 24, 2025 at 05:40 AM

AG

“ *Farewell Uncle, older brother, friend. Go now into the arms of your beloved mother and mine. Their love for you was eternal as yours was for them. Your memory lives on with us and our children here on Irish soil which you never forgot. Rest now Anne and family*

Anne Gaughan - February 24, 2025 at 01:42 AM

JD

“ Although I live out of state, whenever I was in the area, I often arranged my schedule to attend Mass in St. Augustine with Father Mooney. I always had the feeling he had important information and wisdom to impart.
His enthusiasm for the Catholic faith and optimism were inspiring. He will always be remembered by those of us who knew him. A true gentleman who educated and motivated those around him.

John Dougherty - February 23, 2025 at 09:56 AM

SC

“ I teach the kindergarten religious Ed at San Sebastian. Our class always loved when Father Mooney would stop in for a visit. He would bring something very special from his personal collection of artifacts. Of course the children always had questions. He was always so kind when asked . Why hair is grey or How old are you .
RIP Father Mooney

Sophie chute - February 22, 2025 at 04:41 PM

TO

“ We were so sorry to hear of the death of Fr. Mooney. What a wonderful and lovely man he was. He will be missed. May he rest in Peace and enjoy his family. God Bless him and his family.

Terry & Bill O'Brien - February 21, 2025 at 07:07 PM

CG

“ Fr Mooney guided both of my girls in CCD at Corpus Christi. Also throughout all of their Sacraments. Sometimes stern with them but always looked after their best interest. I missed when he stopped doing Mass.
Prayers to his family and wonderful Parishioners.



Connie- Giannotta-Mulligan - February 21, 2025 at 11:20 AM

JH

“ Father Mooney welcomed my husband Bill & I, my mom & dad in July of 1988 to C.C.C.C. from N.Y, and then my whole family in time. He was a big part of our life's, from baptisms, Holy Communion's, & confirmations, and our marriage on April 2, 2001, to make us true Catholics! He was not just "our" priest, but my Dr. when I lost my mom for many yrs. My "Bill" was Irish also, so you can Imagin the friendship between them. There is so much more I could share about this Kind, loving, caring, devoted Priest...I will celebrate his arrival in Heaven, with the HOLY FAMILY, his family, his parish family and my husband Bill. I will miss you terribly. Until we meet again, sleep in peace Father Mooney. Mrs. Jennie Hallinan

JENNIE R Hallinan - February 20, 2025 at 09:36 PM

MT

“ Father married us at Corpus Christi 2015, he was a wonderful man , he will be missed by many, Rest in peace father.



Michael Traydon - February 20, 2025 at 07:24 PM

MT

Father married us at Corpus Christi 2015. He's a wonderful man he will be missed by many rest in peace, father

Michael Traydon - February 20, 2025 at 07:25 PM

TL

God bless you Fr Mooney- You will be missed.
Terry Leo

Terry Leo - February 23, 2025 at 01:37 PM

MG

*We are very grateful that Father William Mooney was in our lives as he enhanced our journey. "May Flights of Angels sign thee to thy rest."
Dr. & Mrs. Gerard Gerling*

mary gerling - February 25, 2025 at 10:09 PM

CA

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Carolyn Anderson - February 20, 2025 at 07:03 PM

CA

“ *Father Mooney taught me how to be Catholic, teaching my RCIA class for a year. He taught me the reason for being Catholic. He taught me how to worship and adore before the Blessed Sacrament, singing the beautiful words of the "O Salutaris" and "Tantum Ergo" in Latin. He taught me how to make a good confession, how to make restitution. How to receive the Holy Eucharist reverently and prayerfully. On November 22nd, 2018, I became Catholic with my Sponsor and dear friends by my side. Here are some of those moments in photos! The past 8 years I have also been blessed to be a Lector and Eucharistic Minister. Father Mooney , I will miss you terribly, but rejoice with you as you have arrived in Heaven! You see the Saints, your Family, your Parish family, Our Holy Mother, and Jesus!!*

Carolyn Anderson - February 20, 2025 at 07:01 PM

CS

“ I knew father Mooney sence 1973 he was a part of our family always at every funeral or baptism. He did remarkable work.what a great man and servant to God.

Cathy scott - February 20, 2025 at 03:13 PM

MM

“ Fr Mooney I am having a hard time realizing that you are gone to God . I will never forget you . Till we meet again may God & Mary keep you in their loving care . God rest your soul . Margaret MacDonaugh .

Margaret MacDonaugh - February 20, 2025 at 03:10 PM

BH

“ For 27 years Fr Mooneys was my Spiritual Advisor as a convert he guided me on my path to practice faithfully the Catholic faith. While i am sad that he is gone i rejoyce in the knowledge that he is enjoying his reward with jesus in heaven. He was a Saint among us and will now be reunited with all of his loved ones and members of Corpus Christi Church that have been waiting for him in Heaven. Barbara Howerton

Barbara Howerton - February 20, 2025 at 02:16 PM

CN

Father William was known as 'Uncle Billy'. My father Dominic enjoyed his visits to see his brother at Corpus Christi in the early days. My early memories of Uncle Billy was swimming in the sea at Rosses Point. In 1980 uncle Billy officiated at my wedding and we spent some lovely holidays in St Augustine, with my son, William, who is now 37! Rest in Peace Catherine and all the family in England x

Catherine North - February 20, 2025 at 02:58 PM

JR

Dear Father Mooney, you will be greatly missed. You started me off on my Catechetical journey in 1990 and I am still teaching. I will be forever grateful to you for your wisdom and patience and for teaching us the right way. Rest in peace dear faithful servant. Joanne Robinson.

Joanne Robinson - February 20, 2025 at 04:23 PM



I haven't known father a long time, but I had enough time to know he's so great in what he did and a great person to have in our lives. I have memories of father, cause I knew him through Jodi lane. I was always in his presence and loved his stories. He's blessed the schools for the school year, he's blessed us when we needed it. I can't believe he is gone, but happy he's with his father the almighty God. ❤️ he loved doing what he did n will continue to do so in our hearts n prayers. Forever will be missed.

February 20, 2025 at 06:49 PM



It came up anonymous. Jessica mcculloch

February 20, 2025 at 06:50 PM

NF

I first met Fr. Mooney in 1996 during my visits to see my parents, and in 2008, I moved here to stay. He became my confessor and spiritual guide, deeply impacting my life. I was heartbroken when the bishop retired him; he was truly a priest's priest. Fr. Mooney had a special love for children, always welcoming their questions. I fondly remember when a young person in youth group asked him if he had ever seen a ghost, to which Fr. Mooney responded with a delightful smile!

Noreen M Fitzgerald - February 20, 2025 at 09:32 PM

TL

I have known Fr Mooney as pastor for at least 30 yrs. He was full of common sense advice and wit. I remember his beautiful irish tenor singing voice in church. I missed him when he had to retire to San Sebastian, and blessed when he came back to participate in saying Mass before his final days. He was good priest and a saint among us. Teresa Lopez

Teresa Lopez - February 21, 2025 at 09:24 AM

CJ

I got to know Fr. Mooney when I was volunteering in San Sebastián's rectory. My memories of him are so wonderful. His beautiful Irish smile and words of wisdom are something I will cherish forever. Rest in peace Father and May God hold you in his arms always.

carol Jankowski - February 21, 2025 at 10:05 AM

CL

I came down to visit my Mom and Dad, John and Lillian Long, along with my Uncle and Aunt, John and Charlotte Brock. My Uncle John Brock, who was the Manager of the Riverview Club and made it available to Father Mooney for Masses until his church could be built. Father Mooney was a very special priest who made you feel the Love of God.

Cecilia Lewis

Cecilia Lewis - February 23, 2025 at 08:18 AM

JD

Father Mooney - The finest Roman Catholic Priest I have ever met. Rest in peace faithful servant.

James Dougherty - February 23, 2025 at 08:50 AM

AP

Father Mooney has been an integral part of our lives since he prepared us for marriage in 1983. Our priest, spiritual director, confessor and friend for over 41 years, he baptized all 3 of our children and gave them all the rest of their sacraments. Always gentle and kind, we knew that Father had our best interest at heart and considered each one of us his family. He was wise, encouraging and a true holy man of God, devoting every waking moment to the care of his beloved Corpus Christi parish. We will miss him. May he rest in peace.

Tom and Ann Pearrow

Ann Pearrow - February 24, 2025 at 06:14 PM