

### FATHER HERBERT BAMBER. S. D. B.

Fr. Herbert Bamber died at Chertsey aged 58 on the 28th January 1967 from the effects of a stroke. Fr. Bamber came from Accrington in Lancashire, a town that has given many priests and religious to the Church. His first contact with the sons of Don Bosco was at Salesian College, Battersea. There under the kindly influence of Fr. Franco his vocation strengthened and developed, and as soon as he had completed his secondary studies he went to the Salesian Novitiate at Cowley Oxford in 1925 and he made his first profession as a Salesian on the 6th January 1927. Then followed his philosophical studies and a period of teaching at Burwash. He started his theological studies at Shrigley in 1931 and then went to Turin to complete the final two years before ordination. He was ordained in Turin in July 1935 by Cardinal Fossati.

The following years were spent at Cowley, Burwash, Shrigley and Blaisdon as Catechist or Bursar. During his time at Shrigley he began the work of searching out vocations in Scotland, which was always his main preoccupation in later years, leading to his appointment as treasurer of the Vocations Exhibition Committee. Many tributes were paid to his ability and the devotion that he showed in this important task. In 1947 he became headmaster at Cowley and did much to set the school on its feet in those very difficult early years when there was a post-war shortage of many things necessary for teaching. From there he went as bursar to Chertsey. A long period of illness, including a major operation to remove a tumour in his neck, was followed by a spell of teaching at Battersea. In 1959 he went back to Chertsey as a teacher and there he passed the last years of his life, engaged in the unspectacular duties of the school. Fr Bamber took the greatest interest in all the boys and his kindness and affability endeared him to them. Many of them continued to write to him and to visit him long after they had left school.

Fr. Bamber delighted in being a Salesian and found a great joy in community life. At the table and in recreation his invariable good humour and happy wit kept everybody amused. Visitors to the house were taken under his protection and speedily made one of the family by a species of gentle leg-pulling which was entirely Fr. Bamber's own. He never refused to do a service or a favour, inside or outside the house. Many people in the town can speak of little things which he did for them and the help and encouragement he gave them. The progress of our work both in the House and the whole Province delighted him and he was an entire stranger to any feelings of jealousy or envy. The very warm congratulations he showered on other people's successes were most sincerely expressed. He is much missed by his confreres who beg your prayers for the repose of his soul and for God's blessing on the house in which the last very fruitful years of his life were spent. . . . May he rest in peace.