

FATHER FRANCIS McCORMICK. SDB.

Father Francis, who was born at Carrickmulkin Co. Tyrone on the 12th May 1881, died at the Mount Alvernia Nursing Home, Guildford on the 30th October 1968.

As a late vocation, he entered the Salesian Congregation in the September of 1908 at the age of 27 and he made his first profession at Burwash on the 8th December 1909. After his profession he remained at Burwash to study Philosophy. He was then asked to go to the Salesian School at Sliema, Malta to help with teaching and assisting the boys there. In 1910 he was asked to go to Foglizzo, Italy to start his theological studies in preparation for the priesthood. He was finally ordained in Ivrea on August 10th 1917 at the age of 36.

From that date onwards he worked in various Salesian parishes. He went to Battersea as the assistant parish priest and remained there until 1934, when he became the parish priest. He worked all through the war and saw all the bombing and destruction in his London area. In 1942, due to ill-health he retired to Farnborough. As he recovered somewhat he was again asked to work in the parish and in 1946 he became the parish priest at the age of 65. Here he remained at work until 1961 when failing health forced him to retire. He died when he was 84 years of age.

Of his many qualities, the most outstanding was his indomitable spirit and strength of character. It was this which enabled him to overcome the many and seemingly insurmountable obstacles on the way to the priesthood. For forty years he served his people faithfully. His apostolate in the confessional must have done untold good to souls. His life was totally dedicated to his parish work and year after year without holiday or respite he stayed at his post. By nature he was reserved and self contained but, in community, he would expand and share the fun and lively repartee with his confreres.

In the last few months of his life he suffered great pain. He bore his suffering with courage and as a man of faith.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE.