

### **BROTHER DANIEL McKEOWN. S. D. B.**

The Salesians and the parishioners of West Battersea are in deep grief following the death of Bro. Daniel McKeown (Bro. Benedict)

The deceased belonged to the Salesian Congregation and he was stationed at Battersea. He was known far and wide as Brother Benedict. For some time Bro. Benedict had not been very well and his Superior, Very Rev. Fr. C. Macey had sent him to visit his many friends in Ireland to recuperate. On November 2nd, a few days after his arrival there he had visited a number of cooperators, as was his wont when in Ireland, and he had almost reached home when he had occasion to cross a railway line. It was dark and raining hard. Sheltered by an umbrella he awaited the passing of a goods train which, in its noisy rumbling, preventing him hearing the rapid approach of an express. When the train for which he had waited had gone by he stepped forward and was caught by the express and hurled onto the bank several yards further on. He was found a few minutes later by the keeper of the level-crossing, but severe injuries must have caused instantaneous death.

Bro. Benedict had a heart of gold. His loss will be irreparable to the Salesian Fathers. He had been many years a religious and had travelled much. In West Battersea he knew all the hardy annuals, he knew the poor, the abandoned, the outcast, and had a kindly word for each. He had a fund of humour, and he used it in getting negligent Catholics to promise to return to their duties. He loved the young; indeed, all the Catholic children of West Battersea knew him and at some time or other had received numerous medals and pictures from him. He was delighted when he had a pocket full of pictures or blessed medals and the children around him receiving them for having attended Mass or Sunday School.

On the 7th November Solemn Requiem Mass was sung for the repose of his soul by Fr. Macey, assisted by Fr. Muldoon and a Salesian Brother. There were many people present, notwithstanding the early hour (7. 30. a. m. ) and noticeable were the boys who were there praying for one who did more for them than many a father would do. There were in addition some of Bro. Benedict's friends and many of the school children

As time goes on, the loss of Bro. Benedict will become more acute, but he has erected for himself in the hearts of hundreds and thousands of men, women and children, a monument of love, gratitude, and admiration, for he was a kind, tender man, gifted beyond measure with the power of physical endurance and blessed with a lively intelligence.

(Catholic Times Nov 16th 1906)

He was sixty-seven when he died... May he rest in peace.