

FATHER JOHN MOLLOY. SDB.

Fr. John Malloy died at Battersea on the 13th July 1937 after a long illness which he endured with admirable patience and courage. He was born at Huddersfield, Yorkshire on January 30th 1864. As a young man he was attracted to the religious life and accordingly joined the Brothers of Mercy, with whom he spent some years engaged in the ministry of education. Eventually, feeling that he would like to be a priest, his superiors gave him permission to apply to the Salesians, who accepted him as an aspirant at Battersea. He entered the novitiate at Burwash in the autumn of 1902, where he made the temporary vows, followed in 1907 by his perpetual profession.

In the meantime he had been studying theology and he received the Minor Orders. He then went to work at St. Patrick's in Malta, where he was admitted to the subdiaconate and diaconate; in 1909 he returned to Battersea and was ordained a priest by Bishop Amigo. After ordination he was asked to take charge of the Salesian Printing Press. Soon afterwards he was asked to go to the parish of St. Anne at Wandsworth, which at that time was in charge of the Salesians. This became the principal labour of his life, to which he dedicated all his energy and zeal. He could never allow himself rest from the many, and often arduous cares of his office, which included a daily visit to the Wandsworth Prison. During the Great War, he also acted as chaplain to the Third General Hospital which was established in this parish. When the Salesians ceded to the Bishop of Southwark the parish and beautiful church of St. Anne, which they had built, Fr. Molloy returned to Battersea, where he offered himself as a confessor to several convents, a work which was helped by his fluency in French. Over and above this, he made himself available in all parochial duties, especially in officiating at funerals, where his presence and kindness became proverbial.

At the time of his sacerdotal Silver Jubilee, he was congratulated for his readiness and good-humoured promptness in listening to any request, no matter whatever the time or place, and also for his simplicity and pleasant manners which made him acceptable wherever he was sent. Two years ago he was paying a visit to his sister in Bradford and he was knocked down by a motor-cyclist, suffering a double fracture of a leg. Given his age of 71, the broken bones would not heal and he was also found to be suffering from a stomach ulcer and this accelerated his end.

On the day of his funeral, all the priests and friends of the House gathered round his mortal remains and recited the Office of the Dead. The whole school attended the Solemn Requiem Mass and paid their affectionate farewell to their faithful old friend, priest and confessor.

Your affectionate confrere,

Fr. Walter Austen. SDB.