

Salesian College,
Bootle.

Dear Confreres,

With very sincere regret, I have to announce the death of

FATHER THOMAS LINTON MORROW, S. D. B.

former Parish Priest of St. Anne's Chertsey, Surrey, who died on Saturday, 24th January 1970. Most of the six years, since illness forced his retirement, was spent as a much respected member of the community here at Bootle. Born at Carlisle, Cumberland, on All Saints Day, 1st November 1905, he was 64 years of age at the time of his death.

His was a life characterised by sincere dedication and earnest endeavour. In everything, he showed himself devoted to the cause of God, to his Salesian vocation, and to the work for souls. Like so many another life lived in fidelity, it was marked rather by its sterling constancy than by glamorous display. It was the life of a true "man of God" and one that must surely have earned for him the praise of the Master and an eternal crown.

It was at the age of 20, that he entered the Salesian House at Cowley, Oxford as an aspirant. There, in the following year, he made his novitiate and, on the feast of Our Lady's Presentation, he received the religious habit. On the 18th September 1928, he pronounced his first vows, began his philosophy, and was soon appointed assistant to the aspirants. From 1930-31, he was teaching in Malta where, in 1931, he renewed his profession. His final vows were made at Battersea in 1934.

After two years at Shrigley as teacher and assistant, he began his theology, and this he completed at Blaistown, Glos, where he was ordained by the late Bishop Lee of Clifton on July 25th 1937.

He was then posted to Ireland, where, at Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick, he did duty as bursar for two years. Returning to England, he took charge of the Salesian Press at Battersea from 1939-41, and thereafter spent two years as an assistant priest in the parish at Chertsey, which was, later, to be the witness of his greatest work. From 1943-45 he was the bursar of the house there. There then followed seven or more years, 1945-52, as assistant priest on the parish at Battersea

In 1952, he was appointed Parish Priest at Chertsey and remained there doing zealous work until 1964. His health had been deteriorating for some time, and he found difficulty with his breathing, and so was compelled to give up active work. He was then asked to go to Bootle for lighter duties, and, apart from one year, 1967-68, spent in Dublin, he remained there until the final call of God came to him.

A letter received by the undersigned from the headmaster of St. Thomas's School, Chertsey, after Fr. Morrow's death had been announced, speaks in high praise of the efforts and of the foresight of Fr. Morrow which resulted in the purchase of the old "School of Handicrafts" at Chertsey and its conversion into St. Thomas's School and its subsequent expansion and development. This school opened in 1956 as a one-form entry Voluntary-Aided school, for 180 children. Its "catchment area" is large and to-day there are 420 pupils, with 53 of them in the 5th year. Among its past pupils are numbered several priests and teachers. As the headmaster remarks, it is a worthy monument to Fr. Morrow. It may well serve as an example of the devoted labours which were always associated with him.

Death came to him rather unexpectedly. He had gone into Park House Nursing Home, Waterloo, Liverpool, for rest and treatment with no thought of death to the fore in his mind. Indeed, he had remarked to me that he had not yet fixed the place where he would like to make his retreat this year, and was intending to arrange that. Quite suddenly, after his lunch on the 24th January, he collapsed and gave up his soul effortlessly to God.

Concelebrated Requiem Mass was offered for him in the College chapel at Bootle on the feast of St. Francis of Sales. His remains had been received into the chapel overnight, and Vespers of the Dead were sung. At the Requiem, Father Provincial was principal concelebrant, and he also officiated at the interment in Ford Cemetery, Liverpool, in a new Salesian plot of which Fr. Morrow is the first occupant.

It was impressive at the Requiem to see present, in addition to many of his fellow-Salesians and his relatives, a considerable number of the Liverpool secular clergy who had come to pray, as do we all, for his eternal repose. We commend his soul to your charitable prayers.

Yours sincerely in Don Bosco,

Albert Carette. S. D. B. (Rector)

Necrology: Fr. Thomas Linton Morrow, S. D. B. , born Carlisle, England, 1st November 1905. Died Liverpool, England, 24th January 1970. Aged 64 years. (R. I. P.)