

BROTHER ANTHONY MURPHY. S. D. B.

Brother Anthony was born in Naas, Kildare, Ireland on the 19th May 1907 and later baptised in the parish there.

After elementary schooling he became an apprentice carpenter and he worked in this trade for several years. Anthony was always a very active Church member and when he was in his thirties he decided that he would like to try his vocation as a lay-brother. He was advised by the Parish priest to apply to the Salesians at Pallaskenry, Limerick – and this Anthony did. He was accepted for a period of trial preparatory to entering the novitiate and he spent the next year at Pallaskenry.

At the end of a successful year Anthony was accepted for the Salesian Novitiate, which was then at Beckford. Anthony travelled over with about twenty other novices and they started their preparation for the novitiate with a ten-day retreat at the Salesian House, Oxford. There were about fifty novices from Shrigley, Oxford and Ireland that year.

After the retreat Anthony went to Beckford to start his novitiate year. With the exception of Tom Chambers and Edward McAvoy the other novices were quite young. Nevertheless, Anthony was very popular and he was a very helpful, sensible and pious novice. Edward McAvoy, also a carpenter, worked with Anthony and they completed many useful tasks in the house.

At the end of the novitiate year Anthony was professed on the 31st August 1940. He was then asked to stay on at Beckford for another year. At the end of that year he was given an obedience for Warrenstown and Bro. Anthony remained a member of the Warrenstown community for the next twenty years. There he was able to use his skill as a carpenter in a teaching role and also in the maintenance of the buildings.

Bro. Anthony's only other move during his Salesian life was when in 1961 he was asked to move back to Cowley, Oxford. The buildings were now being used for school purposes and Bro. Anthony again helped with the maintenance of the property as well as being a much appreciated member of the community.

About this time Bro. Anthony's health began to give some cause for concern and he was not able to tackle jobs with the same enthusiasm and vigour. After a short illness he died on the 30th December 1970 at the age of 63.

May his good soul rest in peace with Jesus and Mary.