

FATHER JAMES O'CARROLL. SDB.

Fr. James was born in Carrick-on-Suir, Tipperary on the 13th of November 1888, in the very year of Don Bosco's death and within twelve months of the beginning of the Salesian work in England. He made his novitiate in Burwash in 1905 and he was professed there the following year on the 4th October 1906. He then went to Battersea on the teaching staff for two years.

In 1909 Fr. James was asked to go to South Africa and he spent the next thirteen years there as a teacher and assistant in the Salesian Institute Cape Town. During that time he also completed his theological studies, took his final vows in April 1910 and was ordained on the 29th of September 1917.

In 1922 Fr. James returned to England and from 1922-4 he taught in the Salesian College, Battersea. From 1924-25 he taught at Chertsey. In 1925 he went over to Ireland to Pallaskenry to carry out the duties of Catechist and Bursar. Then he went abroad again – this time to Malta from 1929-33. . acting as the Catechist at Sliema, Malta. In 1933 he moved to Battersea to help on the parish.

Then he moved to Warrenstown from 1934-35, then to Oxford from 1935-36 as a curate on the parish. In 1936-40 he helped on the teaching staff at Chertsey and 1940-46 at Battersea. From 1946-49 he was at Ballinakill, from 1950-51 at Bolton and finally he moved to Battersea again in 1952.

During his later years his health began to decline and he was assigned to chaplaincy duties and gave assistance in the last years of his life in various parishes of the Southwark diocese – notably Orpington, Guildford and Littlehampton. In the latter place he became seriously ill and he was moved to hospital. When he became a little better he was taken over to Ireland.

Fr. James died on the 30th July 1960 at the Salesian College, Warrenstown Co. Meath, at the age of 72. Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated at Warrenstown on Monday 1st August and the interment followed in the cemetery in the College grounds.

As an unmistakable background to all that Father James did and said there stood out his intensely strong and fervent Irish Catholic faith. Small of stature, he can safely be described as having always been "a great little priest."

MAY HE REST IN PEACE.