



Salesian House,
Surrey Lane,
Battersea,
London SW11 3PB

July 1982

Dear Confrères

FATHER VINCENT POWER

The death took place peacefully, after a long illness, on Friday 21st May 1982 of Father Vincent Power.

Father Vincent had been in failing health for several years and he was particularly unwell on Good Friday afternoon. Father was anointed, a doctor was sent for, and eventually he was admitted to Guy's Hospital. The following week was the week of the retreat for the whole province and several confrères as well as Father Vincent's two brothers called to see him. The news was not good—Father had been told that he had an incurable illness and he had not long to live. Father Vincent talked about his coming death quite freely and he made several requests about the funeral arrangements. He asked that the Requiem Mass at Battersea should be said in Latin, he suggested the hymns, he chose the readings and the readers, also the main celebrants for the Masses at Battersea and Farnborough. He asked to be buried at Farnborough where he had helped for some years as the assistant priest in the Salesian parish and later as the priest in charge of the parish at Cove.

Father Vincent later asked his doctor if he could spend his last few weeks in the house at Battersea and the hospital authorities agreed, provided that some professional part-time nursing care be made available. This was arranged for a short time in the mornings and evenings—otherwise the confrères and the many friends of Father Vincent arranged that someone would be with him during the day and night. Fortunately Father did not experience much suffering during his last few days and he enjoyed the comradeship of many visitors, although the number had to be gradually reduced as he became easily tired.

Father Vincent was very well prepared for his death. He prayed often and encouraged others to pray with him. He said the morning and evening prayers from the Companion of Youth every day with Brother Joseph and he received Holy Communion every day. He was grateful, patient and wonderfully resigned. On the day before he died he asked the doctor if he could return to hospital as he had not been getting much sleep at night. Arrangements were made for his return and he died peacefully the next morning.

Father Vincent was born at Hassop-cum-Bakewell, Derbyshire, in the diocese of Nottingham, on the 12th October 1909. He entered the Salesian College, Chertsey, Surrey as a student at Easter 1926 and he was there until July 1929. He had, meanwhile, developed a liking for the Salesian life, and was admitted to the novitiate, then at Cowley, Oxford, in September of the same year. He made his first religious profession at Cowley in 1930 and was perpetually professed at Battersea in 1936. On the completion of his philosophical studies at Cowley, he was engaged in practical teacher training at Burwash, Sussex until 1935. His theological studies were pursued at Blaisdon, Gloucestershire in 1936-37; Turin (Italy) 1937-39 and Blaisdon 1940-41. He was ordained a priest at Blaisdon on the 21st July 1940.

Over an eighteen year period, stretching from 1940-58, he taught in Salesian schools at Battersea, Blaisdon, Bolton, Oxford and Farnborough (Hants) and for two years in France. A two-year spell as the professor of Church history at Blaisdon must also be included. The years from 1958-82 were mainly spent in 'supply' duties in various parishes, and in parochial assistance, particularly at Farnborough and Battersea, and also at Cove, near Farnborough. During this time, in spite of long periods of failing health, he gave generous assistance to many people; he is remembered gratefully by them for his strong faith and his never-failing kindness. His self-sacrificing and generous love for souls will long be remembered.

His requiem at Battersea on the 26th May was attended by many Salesian confrères and lay people and at Farnborough the next day there was again a fine attendance of Salesians, Clergy and laity. Father Vincent's two brothers, who had in their younger days spent some time at Shrigley, were with us for the Requiem Masses.

It is surely by the manner of his dying that those of us who were near him in his last weeks will especially remember our good confrère, Vincent, on whose soul may God speedily give the reward of eternal peace.

May he rest in peace!

Pray, please, for him and for this community.

Yours sincerely in Don Bosco,
Bernard Higgins, S.D.B.
(Rector)

Data for the Necrology: Father Vincent Power born in Bakewell, Derbyshire, 12th October 1909, died in London 21st May 1982 in the 51st year of profession and 41st of priesthood.

R.I.P.