

FATHER PATRICK RIORDAN. S. D. B.

Father Patrick was born on the 14th April 1917 in Dungarvan, Waterford, Ireland. .

He attended the local Catholic school, where several of the boys were considering joining the diocesan clergy or religious orders. Patrick had heard about the Salesians and knew some young men who had joined the Congregation, so, with the assistance of his Parish priest, he asked to be allowed to join the Salesians.

After spending a year at the Salesian College, Pallaskenry, he was accepted for the novitiate, which was then at Cowley, Oxford. The novitiate year started in August 1935 and Patrick made his first religious profession on the 28th March 1937.

Bro. Patrick then continued his philosophical studies at Oxford until August 1938. He was then asked to go as a teacher and assistant to the boys at Blaisdon Hall. This work for boys, mainly from the Westminster Crusade of Rescue, had just recently been started and it was quite a challenging work. After three years at Blaisdon, Bro. Patrick went to the Salesian College at Farnborough to teach for a year. At the end of the year he went back to Blaisdon, but this time as a theological student. The combination of a school and theologate at Blaisdon had become necessary as a result of the war. Bro. Patrick was eventually ordained at Blaisdon by Bishop Lee on the 14th August 1946. After ordination Fr. Riordan went to the Salesian College, Pallaskenry, as a member of the teaching staff. In 1948-50 he returned to England and became a member of the teaching staff at Bolton. From 1950-52 he joined the teaching staff at Farnborough.

Fr. Riordan was not a natural teacher and he was not really at ease in the classroom. He was therefore moved to Beckford where he could do some parish supply work and also attend a practical course for Silversmith work. From 1956-60 he was at Battersea again doing some chaplaincy work and he also had a small workshop for his practical work. In 1960-65 he was at Limerick and doing some supply work and in 1966-67 at Ballinakill.

In 1967 he returned to England and, after a short time, he went to a parish in Merthyr Tydfil as an assistant priest. After a short illness he died at Pontypool, Wales on the 15th December 1969. The Solemn Requiem Mass was held at Battersea and he was later buried in the Salesian burial plot at Morden.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.