

## FATHER ANDREW RUSSELL. S. D. B.

Father Andrew died peacefully at Mount Alvernia Nursing Home on the 10th December 1973.

Father Andrew was born on the 19th November 1907 in London and he was baptised in the Sacred Heart church, Holloway, London. Andrew was a pupil at Battersea and he eventually decided to try to become a Salesian. He started his Novitiate year at Oxford in 1925 and, after completing a successful year, he made his first religious profession on the 18th September 1926. He then stayed at Oxford for the next two years in order to complete his philosophical studies and for another two years during which he helped to teach the aspirants there before moving to Shrigley to teach the boys there from 1929-31.

Bro. Andrew started his theological studies in 1931, studying for three years at Shrigley and one year in Turin. In 1935 he was asked to go to Burwash to teach in the Salesian School there. Two years later he moved to Battersea where he taught for three more years before being ordained at Blaisdon on the 21st July 1940. The Battersea school moved into the Salesian House at Cowley during the war and Fr. Russell was on the staff there until 1944. He then became a member of the teaching staff at Bolton for three years before finally moving to the school at Farnborough, Hants, where he spent the remainder of his Salesian life. Fr. Russell was essentially a man of action - all his Salesian life was full of good works for boys. He fulfilled his Salesian vocation by organising various works and activities for boys, with whom he was always very popular and to whom he dedicated his life in the apostolate of youth. He himself was an excellent sportsman. At Battersea as a boy he had been a member of the first teams in football and cricket. He helped and enjoyed all forms of activities for the boys he taught, trying to imitate Don Bosco in doing spiritual good to youngsters by means of the ordinary activities of their daily routine. During the war years at Cowley he started a very successful boxing club and cross-country team, thus helping to keep the boys cheerful during those difficult days. He was especially good in writing plays and sketches and getting his boys to join in their production with enthusiasm.

Fr. Russell during his years at Farnborough introduced the highly popular Boys Summer Camps on the island of Guernsey. He organised and prepared these very well and during his later years this was one of the principal activities he was able to undertake. When Fr. Russell's health began to fail, he was admitted to Mount Alvernia hospital, Guildford, where he eventually died. He was buried in the Salesian plot at Farnborough.

May his good soul rest in peace.