

FATHER JOHN RYAN. S. D. B.

Fr. John Ryan, who belonged to a well-known family, resident at Cowley, Oxford, and for many years associated with the Salesian work there, was born at Cleator Moor, Cumberland, on the 4th May 1903. He died rather suddenly, but after a very long and weary illness, at Twyford Abbey, London, on Sunday, 5th February 1967, at the age of 63 years.

As a young man, he went to Osterley to test his vocation under the guidance of the late Fr. Edmund Lester. S. J., who recommended him for a trial to the Salesians at Battersea. He arrived as an aspirant on the 21st September 1924, and subsequently went to Cowley, where he made his novitiate from 1926-27. He received the religious habit there at the hands of the Very Rev. Fr. Candela, a member of the Superior Council of the Salesian Congregation, on the 25th November 1926. He made his first profession on the 17th September 1927 and he did his philosophical studies there from 1927-29. He was perpetually professed, also at Cowley, on the 13th September 1930.

For a short period he acted as the assistant to the novices. He completed his practical triennium at Cowley, where he remained until 1932. He then started his theology course at Shrigley for two years and then he moved to the Salesian theologate in Turin to complete his studies for the priesthood. There in the basilica of Our Lady, Help of Christians, he received the subdiaconate on the 7th July 1935; the diaconate in January 1936 and, finally, the sacred priesthood was conferred upon him by the late Cardinal Fossati on the 5th July 1936.

His practical turn of mind made him an ideal bursar and, after ordination, he efficiently exercised this office in several Salesian schools. However, most of his priestly life was spent in Australia, where he went to supplement the small band of Salesians who were doing such good work in laying the foundations of the future province in that country.

He returned to England a few years ago in serious ill-health and, after a series of short spells in various nursing homes, he entered Twyford Abbey Nursing Home, where he remained as a patient under the devoted care of the Alexian Brothers until his death.

The Requiem Mass and funeral were held at Cowley on Ash Wednesday, the 8th February 1967, at 11. a. m.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE.