

FATHER EDWIN SLACK. S. D. B.

Dear Confreres,

The whole Province shared our shock and distress at the recent tragic death of Fr. Edwin. May he rest in peace! His family and the Salesian Community were much comforted by the presence of so many confreres at the reception of his body and at the Mass and burial. All who were present at the Mass were much moved by Fr. Robert Coupe's affectionate and appreciative panegyric. Being companions since the first form at Thornleigh College, no one knew Edwin as well as Robert did, and I cannot hope to match his knowledge.

Edwin's first encounter with the Salesians was at Thornleigh, where he spent five years. He moved to Shrigley for 6th form studies in 1946. This was the beginning of a twenty-year long association with Shrigley as aspirant, philosopher, teacher and assistant, and finally, bursar. It is very fitting that his final resting place should be at Shrigley. Edwin will long be remembered by his past students as an excellent teacher of French, a subject he taught in Cowley and Chertsey, as well as in Shrigley. Few of us could match his careful preparation and his attention to detail. Nothing was too much trouble if it would help his pupils.

During his theological studies, Edwin became a keen Scripture scholar, which helped him to become a sound preacher and a practical man of prayer. From boyhood he was known for single-minded concentration on studies and whatever job he had in hand, including the complexities of the bursar's work. The same care and attention was lavished on his sports coaching, rehearsing boys for plays, and humdrum jobs, like taking charge of the boys' dining-room year after year. One tended to realise how much work Edwin had been doing only when the gap had to be filled.

For a naturally shy man Edwin made a great number of friends, not only among his Salesian confreres. The genuine grief shown by his past pupils was shared by friends in Pott Shrigley village and the many people who help Shrigley regularly. His funeral was a triumph and a great consolation to his family and the Salesian community. We were particularly grateful for the presence of Bishop Gray and many priest of the Shrewsbury diocese.

Please continue to pray for the happy repose of the soul of Fr. Edwin Slack and for this community which has lost such a valuable member.

Yours fraternally in Don Bosco,

Fr. Peter Dooley. SDB.

Necrology: Fr. Edwin Slack, born Great Lever, Bolton, the 27th January 1930, died in Moliets, France on the 12th July 1982 in the 33rd year of profession and 23rd of priesthood. Aged 52 years.