

FATHER THOMAS SLYTH. S. D. B.

Father Slyth died on the 14th March 1959 at Shrigley in the 64th year of his age, in the 35th year of profession and the 26th year of priesthood.

Father Thomas was a Yorkshire man, born in York on the 30th April 1894. He was twenty-seven when he decided that he would like to try his vocation as a priest and a Salesian. He was accepted as an aspirant and then as a novice in 1922. Having successfully completed the novitiate he made his first profession on the 15th September 1923.

He then started his philosophical studies at Cowley, Oxford and two years later he was asked to remain at Cowley for a further two years to be the assistant of the novices. In 1926 he made his final profession and a year later he went to Battersea to teach in the school there for two years. He then started his study of theology at Battersea whilst also acting as the Provincial Secretary. He was ordained a priest in Southwark Cathedral on the 15th August 1933.

After his ordination Father Slyth continued his work as the Provincial Secretary until 1938. He then went to Turin for a year to help with the publication of the English version of the Salesian Bulletin. After a year he returned to Battersea and he acted as the Provincial Secretary again until 1941. He then stayed in Battersea during the difficult war years as assistant priest on the parish there. He continued his parish work until 1953, when, for health reasons, he moved to the less-exacting role of confessor to the Salesians and boys at Shrigley. He remained at Shrigley until his death.

Fr. Slyth was a man of utmost simplicity, with a childlike sense of humour. His superiors gave him the religious name of Ignatius and he was affectionately known as "Iggie". For many years he concerned himself with interesting catechetical games to teach catechism to young people.

Concerning his religious and priestly life, he was most faithful in his observance. In his work, he took life as it came and he was inclined to let it flow over him, even during the difficult war years in London.

Having served his God and God's people faithfully here on earth, may Father now enjoy the vision of God for ever in heaven. and unite with all God's faithful people in praising him for ever.

May he rest in peace. Amen.