



Salesian House,
47 Surrey Lane,
Battersea,
London SW11 3PB

On Thursday evening April 1st 1993, **Fr. Thomas Joseph Swanzey SDB** after a long and painful illness died peacefully at Nazareth House, Hammersmith. His body was received into the community chapel at the Salesian House, Battersea, on Tuesday evening 6th April. The funeral Mass took place on the following day in the Parish church of the Sacred Heart presided over by Fr. Michael Cunningham, Provincial, in the presence of Bishop Howard Tripp and many confreres and Salesian Sisters. Also present was one of his sisters together with a number of nieces and other relatives. Many religious Sisters from several congregations were also there to pay their respects to a priest who had served them over many years.



Fr. Thomas was born on the 2nd July 1912 in Motherwell, Scotland, and baptised there in Our Lady's church. He began his Novitiate at Cowley, Oxford in September 1931 and made his profession as a Salesian on the 18th of September 1932. After studying philosophy he taught at Beckford and Shrigley before going to Turin for his theological studies, where he remained until the outbreak of the war. He completed his studies at Blaisdon and was ordained there in 1941. After ordination he remained on the staff at Blaisdon teaching the students and boys. In 1945 he was appointed headmaster to the Junior Seminary at Shrigley and remained there until he returned to Turin for further studies leading to the licentiate in Pedagogy and Doctor of

Philosophy. On his return to England he became Rector of the Student House of Philosophy at Beckford where he also taught Philosophy for seven years. In 1963 he moved to Shrigley as Rector. Then in 1968 he was asked to take on the post of Provincial Secretary, which post he continued to fulfil until 1984. It was at this time, as the Provincial Office was being moved from Oxford to Stockport, that Fr. Thomas was admitted to hospital. The prognosis was that he would not have much longer to live. However, he moved to Battersea and gradually regained his strength. With a renewed enthusiasm for preaching and teaching religious in formation he helped a number of religious congregations. He had a special affection for the Poor Sisters of Nazareth, who invited him to help their novices.

It was a great consolation for him that he could spend his last days being cared for by them.

After a long and painful illness endured with outstanding faith, courage and cheerfulness, Fr. Thomas died comforted by the rites of the Church in the presence of Fr. Terrence O'Brien SDB and several of the Sisters who cared for him so devotedly.

May he rest in peace.

Please pray for Fr. Thomas and also for the Community here at Battersea.

Fr. Paul McAleer SDB.