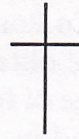


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## Fr. James Bohan SDB (1918-2000)

At 4.30am, Fr. James Bohan passed peacefully from this life at Milford Hospice, Limerick. James had experienced ailing health from November 1998 but the seriousness of his illness only manifested itself from November 1999. His last few days were spent under the watchful care of the doctors and nurses together with the presence of confreres from Pallaskenry and Milford. James had spent three weeks in St. John's Hospital, Limerick before going to the Hospice on February 1st., 2000. James appreciated the care and attention of both hospitals and didn't hesitate in expressing his gratitude days before he died. James' call came at 4.30am on Tuesday 22nd. February in the presence of two Salesians from Pallaskenry. His family had celebrated his 82nd birthday with him on the 12th. of February and little did we or they know that the Lord would call him to himself on the 22nd. of February 2000.

The funeral mass was celebrated on Thursday 24th. of February by Fr. Michael Smyth, Provincial and he was joined by confreres from the houses together with local clergy and Bishop Donal Murray of Limerick was in attendance. Fr. James' sisters, brothers-in-law, nephews and relations were in attendance together with many members of the Salesian family and friends of Pallaskenry. Fr. Pat Donnellan, classmate and confrere of James preached the homily. So ended a life of dedicated service in the Lord's vineyard and the Mission of St. John Bosco.



James was born on the 12th. February 1918 at his home in Derriniskey, Arigna, Co.Roscommon. He was educated in the local primary school before obtaining employment in the coalmines of Arigna between the age of fourteen and eighteen. He worked briefly as a barman in London before going to train as a registered psychiatric nurse in Ballinasloe, Co.Galway. His secondary education was at Pallaskenry and Ballinakill between 1945-1949. He did his Novitiate in 1949-50 at Beckford and he made his Perpetual Profession in 1955.

James spent two years at Burwash and did his philosophy at Shrigley and Ingersley and his theology at Melchet Court from 1954-57. James did an external degree in History for London University while teaching at Copewood in 1953-54. Following his ordination he taught for short periods at Cowley & Farnborough. He returned to Pallaskenry in the early 1960s and he spent five years teaching before returning to Cowley to study for a Diploma in Education. He taught at Bolton for four years before returning to Pallaskenry in 1971. James spent the last twenty nine years at Pallaskenry and he taught in the secondary school well into his late seventies.

James was a man of simple tastes with very little comforts, who walked the local roads as a keen observer of rural life and with a kindly word with the people along the way, who now miss his presence. A week's holiday in Roscommon to visit his mother while she was alive was his annual holiday. He was a man of routine and he found it difficult to defer from that. He was a committed teacher of History and Commerce, painstaking in his preparation and correction of students work. He was highly respected by his students who did not fail to see his devotion to his work and to theirs. He taught in the school nearly to his eightieth year. James was a shy man who disliked publicity yet he amazed his confreres of his ability to hear the local news and even changes in the community.

James loved to go to the sales in Limerick after Christmas or during the Summer. His trip to town would be brief and he didn't like to delay. He kept up to date with current affairs and developments in



the Irish Catholic would be shared at teatime with confreres. James loved the radio and especially Irish music and listening to tapes recorded for him by Fr.McCormack. In latter years he loved to listen to Lyric FM, a new station of classical music. At Christmas 1999 he began clearing his room of history books and liturgical commentaries. He was no longer able to read and he was aware that the Lord's call would not be long.

James was a devout man who carried out his religious exercises with devotion and care. He participated in all communal exercises until his health began to deteriorate in the last year or so. James was loved and respected by his family and it was fitting that they came to see him regularly during the final months. James didn't like putting people out or being a burden, but he wasn't afraid to thank those who cared for him. Some confreres became very close to him during his final months when he spoke of his vocation to follow the Lord in the priesthood.

James' call was a long and arduous course to priesthood from the coalfields of Arigna to the priesthood at Melchet Court. It was fitting that Fr. Pat Donnellan referred to the difficulties and blessings that accompanied his response through trials and tribulations "to this solemn day's ending of his requiem mass on 24th. February 2000". We all believe and pray that Fr.James met with the gracious greeting "Well done, good and faithful servant, because you have been faithful over little things, I will place you over many; enter into the joy of your Lord".

May he rest in peace.

Fr.John Campion, S.D.B.

Note:

I wish to thank Fr.Pat Donnellan, S.D.B. for his help in compiling this obituary

## Data for the Necrology

*Fr. James Bohan, S.D.B. R.I.P.*

Born: Derriniskey, Co. Roscommon 12th. February 1918.  
Professed: 1955  
Ordained: Melchet Court 7th. July 1957.  
Died: Limerick 22nd. February 2000.