

13th September, 1973.

Dear Confrères,

It is my sad but pious duty to convey to you the news of the death, in hospital at Dunfermline (Scotland), at the comparatively early age of 54, of our good brother in Christ.

FATHER PHILIP BRADY, S.D.B.

He had gone from Battersea to spend a short holiday at our house at Aberdour, and the news of his sudden illness and death came as a shock to us all. He had seemed, when he left London, to be in his normal health, but, whilst taking an evening walk with another confrère from this house, Brother Joseph McCarthy, he suddenly collapsed and had to be taken back to the house at Aberdour by car. There, in spite of all the kind attention of the Rector and Community—for which we are all most grateful—he grew steadily worse and, during the night, his removal to hospital was ordered by the doctor. There, on the evening of that day, Tuesday, 21st August, 1973, he breathed his last. I had just time to fly from London to see him, with his sisters, before he died.

The remains were flown to Battersea later in the week, and, on their arrival, Concelebrated Mass was offered, in the presence of Father Provincial, confrères and relatives, in the college chapel. There the body rested until, on Wednesday, 29th August, over thirty priests concelebrated with Father Provincial, who also preached the homily and officiated afterwards at the Salesian plot in the cemetery at Morden.

If one asks the essentials of the story of Father Brady, they are most truly summarised in the short, but consoling statement that he was a good, faithful and humble Salesian and devoted priest of God. His highly-nervous disposition caused him to keep very much to himself. His Silver Jubilee of priesthood, observed only a month previously, saw how much he shunned the lime-light and how he preferred to live his life quietly in God. He was a man of fine intelligence, a splendid scientist and mathematician, but, in later years more especially, he had been unable to use these gifts to full advantage: the strain of teaching was beyond him.

His Requiem Mass revealed perhaps better than anything else his true worth. Not only were his bereaved relatives and brethren there, but also an unusually large number of nuns from various convents in London. They had come to pay tribute to a priest whose work for them had made such a holy and edifying impression upon them. His fidelity as chaplain at their convents; his self-effacement and his obvious goodness had preached an undying lesson to them all. The letters received by us from them tell the same story; that of a real man of God.

Father Brady was born in Larah, Co. Cavan, in the diocese of Kilmore, Ireland on 22nd March, 1919. He entered our college at Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick, in 1934, and made his novitiate in England at Beckford (Glos) from 1937-8. He made his first profession there in 1938 and his final profession at Pallaskenry on 6th August, 1944. He was ordained at Blaisdon (Glos) on 18th July, 1948. His teaching and other duties took him, during the years, to our houses at Pallaskenry, Oxford, Farnborough, Ingersley and Battersea. With us here, he spent the last ten years of his life.

With confidence I commend his soul to the charity of your good prayers, and will you also, please, remember this community and myself.

Yours sincerely in J.C.,
Francis Treanor, S.D.B.
(Rector.)

Data for the Necrology:

Fr Philip Brady, S.D.B. Born, 22nd March, 1919. Died at Dunfermline 21st August, 1973, in the 36th year of his religious profession and the 26th of his priesthood. R.I.P.