

BROTHER JAMES BROCKBANK. SDB.

Bro James died peacefully at the Salesian College, Shrigley Park on Saturday 7th April 1962, at the age of 76.

Bro. James spent 27 years in Shrigley serving faithfully in the infirmary, the Salesian Cooperators' office, and in general assistance in the house.

Bro. James was born at Barrow-in-Furness on the 27th October 1885 of strict non-conformist parents. During the first world war he became interested in the Catholic Church, receiving particular help from a fellow-soldier, who was, in fact, a laybrother aspirant of middle age from the Salesian College, Battersea. James was so impressed and edified by this man's strong faith and example that he sought instruction in the faith and, as soon as the war was over and he had been demobilised, he decided to ask to be received into the Church. In doing so he had to overcome intense family opposition.

Bro. James was received into the Church at Battersea and, at the same time he joined the community as a laybrother aspirant. After spending a year at Battersea he went to Cowley, Oxford to join the Novitiate in August 1921. He made his first profession on the 16th September 1922. He was then asked to go back to Battersea to help as the infirmarian there. In 1925 having made his final profession he left Battersea and went to Chertsey to help as infirmarian there. He worked in the same caring role at Bolton from 1927-35 and at Shrigley from 1935 until he died. During all this time Bro. James had continued to edify by his fidelity to religious life.

Thirty priests, including seven of his former Rectors, joined the boys and community of the Missionary College to pray for the repose of his soul at a Solemn Requiem at Shrigley on Tuesday, the 10th April. Father Provincial preached a short panegyric and later conducted the obsequies at the graveside in the College grounds.