

FATHER JOHN BUTLER. S. D. B.

Fr. Butler was born in Millstreet, Cork on the 8th June 1919.

In 1936 John decided that he would like to try his vocation for the priesthood and also to join a Religious Congregation. He came in contact with Fr. Cianter, who was recruiting aspirants for the Salesians in Ireland and John made the decision to become an aspirant during the academic year 1937-8 at the Salesian College Pallaskenry, Limerick.

John spent a successful year there and then, with sixteen other aspirants he crossed over to Oxford, England for a year's aspirantate. The following year he started his novitiate year at Beckford, Glos. There were fifty novices from England, Ireland, South Africa and Australia at Beckford that year. John made his first profession on the 31st August 1940. He then went to Shrigley to start studying Philosophy. The course lasted for three years as most of the students were doing additional secular studies. John was a good community man, who was always organising something for the benefit of the community. Food was not plentiful during these war years and John was asked to take charge of the poultry. This he did willingly and successfully with great benefit to the community.

John did his theological course at Blaisdon. Here again he was often down at the farm helping with the poultry and helping the boys who were working there. He again showed his spirit of generosity by organising late meals for some of the theology students who were attending evening classes in Gloucester. He finished his theology course in 1950 and Fr. John was ordained together with twelve other students on the 16th July 1950. The ordaining bishop was Bishop Rudderhan of Clifton diocese.

Fr. John returned to Ireland after his ordination and his future work there was mainly in connection with the Salesian Press and publications at Pallaskenry and also the Salesian Cooperators. He continued to work with great enthusiasm in these activities until his death on the 19th January 1983.

May his good and generous soul rest in peace.