

FATHER SEAN BUTTERFIELD. SDB.

Fr. Sean Butterfield was born on the 6th September 1919. He was the son of Edward and Helena Butterfield (Dowling) of Rathsallagh, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow. When Sean reached school age he went to the National School at Dunlavin but, after a short time there, he came in contact with the Salesians and he expressed the wish to eventually join the Congregation. After speaking to Fr. Cianter the necessary arrangements were made for accepting Sean as an aspirant at Shrigley. Sean arrived at Shrigley in September 1933 and he spent the next five years there. In August 1938 he started his Novitiate year at Beckford and he made his first profession on the 31st August 1939.

During the Novitiate year Sean volunteered to work on the missions and he was chosen for the Chinese mission. Bro. Sean went to Shanghai and continued his studies there. He spent the first two years studying Chinese and Philosophy. He then went to the Salesian house and school (St. Joseph's) in Shanghai for his practical training during the next three years and he made his perpetual profession on the 28th July 1945. He then started his theological studies and he was eventually ordained by Bishop James Walsh M. M. on the 29th June 1949.

From 1949 – 51 Fr. Sean acted as assistant to the Provincial Economist in Shanghai. From 1951 – 62 he was teacher and assistant at St. Louis, West Point, Hong Kong. Unfortunately his general health was giving cause for concern at this time and he returned to Ireland during 1962.

Fr. John Butterfield died at Ballinakill, Ireland on the 6th October aged 49. May he rest in peace.