



Salesian House,  
47 Surrey Lane,  
Battersea,  
London SW11 3PB

**Fr. William Joseph Chadwick SDB** died peacefully in the loving care of the Sisters and staff at Nazareth House, Hammersmith, London on the 9th March 1993. Fr. William was born in Templemore, Co. Tipperary, on the 4th January 1907 and died in the 70th year of his religious profession and the 56th of priesthood.

He entered the Novitiate at Cowley, Oxford in 1922 and made his First Profession there in September 1923.

He came to Battersea in 1929 as a Cleric having graduated at Oxford University mainly in Geography as there was no honours school of Geography at Oxford at that time. He remained teaching in the school until 1965, a total of 37 years, 25 of which he was Headmaster. Still at Battersea, he was ordained in 1934 and became 'Catechist' in 1937.

In 1939 the school was evacuated to Cowley, Oxford, in consequence of the war. Father William went with them. The then headmaster, Fr. James Hickey, moved to Burwash as rector and Fr. William became headmaster in September 1940.

He then had periods at Cowley and Bolton as Rector, returning to Cowley again as Bursar, finally returning to Battersea in 1973.

Here he spent the last 20 years of his life totalling 57 years as a member of the Battersea community.

During his long and active life he enjoyed extremely good health. He enjoyed sport and was a keen and competent tennis player.

I don't know if he ever had a day off school. I think he told me once that he had never missed a single day offering Holy Mass until the last years of his life, when he was afflicted both with Alzheimers disease and Parkinsons disease. He bore the disability which resulted from these with great patience and serenity.

The most fitting tribute I can share with you is to quote from some of the many letters received in response to our notification of his death. These give an overall witness to a life shared with and for others.

"I want to write at once to record my appreciation of a remarkable man . . . Fr. Chadwick was not only a man dedicated to the progress of the school but was able to take a deep personal interest in each of the pupils – all of whom he knew intimately. His firm discipline combined easily with a unique style of humour and with a great concern for the welfare of all connected with the school. He always appeared to be motivated by an enthusiasm to

put into practice the principles of his founder, Don Bosco, for whom he had such an obviously deep affection and devotion."

*D.R. (now headmaster himself)*

"During the years I was lucky enough to be a part of the Community at Battersea I experienced so often his rather shy, gentle kindness. It was he who so often took me to the classical concerts in the Albert Hall. I was so fortunate that he shared three tickets with me when he was always such a genial companion. He so enjoyed sharing happiness with others."

*J.P. SDB*

"It would be difficult to over-estimate the valuable work he did during his twenty-five years as Headmaster of the College, and I am sure he will long be remembered by the many people who were educated there during his time in office"

*Most Rev. Michael G. Bowen, Archbishop of Southwark.*

"His advice, gentleness and spirit of goodness was tremendous. The spiritual comfort he imparted was beyond words. Although it has been some time since we met, his influence has stayed with me."

*M.E.W.*

"We are deeply grateful for the dedicated service. Fr. Chadwick offered the staff and students here over so many years. He was always so cheerful and good-humoured that everyone brightened up in his presence."

*P.R. (Miss)*

"He was sponsor to my husband when he was received into the Church and a few weeks later he officiated at our wedding. He was a great source of help and information on questions relating to theology and church teaching, and always cheerful."

*B.M.*

"I owe him a great deal in the way of inspiration and good example. My thanks to you and the Community. I have come away much enriched and with deep thankfulness for the three years I spent with the Salesian family."

*Rev. V.M.M.*

We give thanks and praise to God for His faithful love and for the fidelity of Fr. William. Please keep him and this community in your prayers and Masses.

*Sincerely in Don Bosco,  
John Docherty SDB,  
(Rector)*

