

FR. JOHN CRESSEY. SDB.

Dear confreres,

With great sorrow I must inform you of the death of Fr. John Cressey. He died on Sunday 25th July, when the confreres were gathered in Battersea for the start of the Provincial Retreat. He had recently undergone a difficult operation in the Sisters of St. Francis' hospital in Guildford. On the previous day the operating surgeon had congratulated him for recovering so quickly after the operation and had allowed him to get up for a short time. The following day he had a serious hemorrhage and a blood transfusion was unsuccessful. The death of this good, pastoral priest leaves a great void in our province.

Fr. Cressey was born in London on the 13th May 1877. Whilst still young he gave clear signs of a missionary vocation and he applied to join the missionary priests of St. Joseph at Millhill. However, after finishing his philosophical studies there he decided to apply to join the Salesians and, being accepted by Fr. Macey, he made his novitiate at Burwash. He went on to complete his theological studies with the help of Fr. Bonavia he was ordained priest on the 17th December 1910. He was then asked to teach first at Farnborough and later at Battersea. Whilst at Battersea he went daily, as the chaplain, to the convent of perpetual adoration in Beaufort St. He was later appointed Bursar at Battersea and besides caring for the administration of the house, he took a great interest in the Printing Press and the publication of religious publications.

Later, Fr. Cressey was appointed as the Parish priest at Farnborough. He was a great worker and organiser and he found the money needed for enlarging and improving the Parish schools. He was very concerned about the poor, the old, and the sick. At the burial service the Vicar General represented the Bishop, who was ill at the time. Many Salesians and Parish clergy were present.

I recommend him to your charitable prayers.

Your affectionate confrere,

Fr. Richard McElligott. SDB.