

### FATHER THOMAS DALY. SDB.

The death occurred on the 18th July 1981 of Fr. Thomas, one of Scotland's best known priests and a member of the Salesian Congregation for 54 years. Fr. Tom was born in Blantyre, the birthplace of David Livingstone the great African explorer, on the 11th February 1895. He left school at Bothwell at the age of 12 and began working first at the local railway station and then, on the day before his 14th birthday becoming a miner at Bothwell Castle Colliery where, as he put it he "wrought in the pits" for ten years before joining the Salesians at the age of 24. He seems to have made the decision to find out if he had a vocation for the priesthood and religious life after attending a retreat at Craighead, Bothwell. In a letter recommending him Fr. Geddes, a Jesuit, wrote "He has not had the opportunity of much education but he is a fine fellow and a red-hot Catholic."

Tom Daly started his Salesian life as an aspirant at Burwash from 1919-20. He then started his novitiate year and he made his first religious profession in September 1921. He started his studies for the priesthood at the Salesian House of Studies at Cowley, Oxford and later at the Salesian Theologate in Turin. He was ordained in Turin on the 10th July 1927. After ordination Fr. Thomas was asked to go to Ireland and he became the Prefect of Studies and Bursar at Pallaskenry and later the Bursar at Warrenstown before returning to England in 1930. He was assistant priest in the Sacred Heart parish at Battersea from 1930-35. Then, after three years teaching at Farnborough, he joined the Army as a chaplain soon after the war started in 1939. At various times during the war he was stationed in England, Scotland, North Africa, Sicily and Italy.

After the war Fr. Thomas became the Rector of the Junior School at Burwash until 1949. He was then asked to go back to Scotland and help his brother, Fr. William Daly, in starting a "List D" school for Catholic boys at Aberdour in Fifeshire. After eleven years at Aberdour, Fr. Thomas returned to Farnbough as teacher and confessor. In 1970 he made his final move to Aberdour to lead a very active retirement there. The Golden Jubilee of his ordination in 1977 was for him a recollection of "50 glorious years" which he celebrated at Aberdour and also at Lourdes when he made his 20th visit to the grotto - a jubilee of thanksgiving and praise. He continued to help unofficially in the work of the school at Aberdour though becoming progressively disabled by Paget's disease which causes decay of the bones and he eventually died peacefully in St. Raphael's hospital, Edinburgh on Saturday, 18th July 1981. A Requiem Mass, at which Cardinal Gray concelebrated, was offered in the St. Bride's church, Bothwell, for the official requiem attended by Mgr. John Conroy, representing Bishop Thomson of Motherwell and a large congregation of fellow priests, relatives and friends.

Let us pray for the repose of this priestly soul.