

## FATHER WILLIAM DALY. S. D. B.

Fr. William Daly died in Glasgow on the 18th March 1972. May his good soul rest in peace.

Fr. William was born in Blantyre, Lanark, the birthplace of David Livingstone, the great African explorer, on the 17th February 1900, just five years after his brother, Thomas, who also became a Salesian. William was baptised at St. Joseph's, Blantyre.

Thomas, after working as a miner for ten years, applied to join the Salesians at the age of 24. William also decided to try his vocation for the priesthood when he was 24. He started his novitiate at Oxford in September 1924 and he made his first profession on the 12th September 1925. After the novitiate he went to Cowley, Oxford for a year in order to start his Church studies. He continued his studies in Philosophy the next year in Warrenstown, and he also gained practical experience there by helping to teach the Agricultural students for two years.

Bro. William returned to England in 1929 and he went to the Salesian College at Bolton to help on the teaching staff and also to study Theology in preparation for his ordination. He was ordained in London on the 15th August 1933.

After ordination Fr. William returned to Bolton for a further two years as a member of the teaching staff. In 1935 he was asked to go to Blaisdon Hall, a property and farmland which had just been acquired, with the intention of helping and training some boys from the Crusade of Rescue hostel in London. Fr. William was the bursar during those early and difficult years. He also helped with the teaching and caring duties. In 1937-42 he was once again in Bolton as a member of the teaching staff. In 1942-6 he was at Cowley, Oxford, where the Battersea school had replaced the House of Studies. There were over a hundred boarders and Fr. Daly took on the job of bursar during the difficult war years and the restrictions of rationing.

In 1946 when the Battersea boarders had moved back to London, Fr. Daly returned to Blaisdon as bursar for a further two years. About this time the Crusade of Rescue were considering the advantages and possibilities of starting a hostel in London for some boys, who had been at Blaisdon, and had been found work in London. The Crusade asked the Salesians if they would be willing to help in this venture and Fr. Couche, acting on Fr. Hall's advice promised to help in the early days of the venture. He then asked Fr. Daly if he would be willing to pioneer the work and he agreed to try to start the work. The work did start in 1948 and Fr. Daly stayed there and organised the beginning of the work. He remained there for about eighteen months and then returned to Blaisdon.

In 1950 Fr. Daly moved back to his native Scotland and he spent most of his time until his death working for the boys or for vocations in that country.

His first ten years in Scotland (1950-60) were spent with the boys at Aberdour. This was a List D school. In Scotland such schools cater for emotionally disturbed youngsters and also for boys who have committed minor crimes. The work was quite difficult and demanding. Father Tom Daly was the Rector of the community when the work first started - and Father William Daly was a member of his community.

Whilst Fr. William was helping in the school, he was also doing much apostolic work with the different groups of Salesian Cooperators in Scotland. There were many boys from Scotland at Shrigley at that time and their parents and friends were enthusiastic Salesian Cooperators. Fr. William visited them regularly, organised monthly meetings of various groups and generally kept them interested in all things Salesian.

In 1960 Fr. William moved from Aberdour to Shrigley and for the next twelve years he organised the Co-operators' office at Shrigley as well as visiting the groups in Scotland and elsewhere fairly regularly. He also took on the additional work of fostering and visiting boys in Scotland, who showed some signs of a religious vocation. Father did this work with great enthusiasm and not a little success.

Father William died in Glasgow and was buried at New Stevenston Lanark, amidst the people who had known him so well.

A holy priest and a great apostolic Salesian has gone to spend his eternity in the company of Don Bosco. May we who remain and owe much to his saintly life and example – things which benefit the whole Congregation and not merely the particular house in which a confrere happens to reside – not forget to ask Our Lady, Help of Christians and St. John Bosco to hasten for him the speedy attainment of that everlasting reward which awaits him after his holy and apostolic life on earth.