

FATHER MICHAEL DE BARY. SDB.

On October 3rd the sad news reached the Salesian Community at Battersea that Fr. De Bary, Rector of the Salesian Institute at Cape Town had met that day with a fatal accident. The first Monday in October is a general holiday in Cape Town and the Salesian confreres had organised a climbing excursion up Table mountain for the boys. Fr. De Bary decided, just before the group left, that he would go with the party. After climbing for about an hour the group reached Kloof Nek and then followed the pipe track to Woody Ravine. They then left the ravine and took a zig-zag course up the buttress. Suddenly Fr. De Bary seemed to stumble and throwing his arms in the air he disappeared and dropped into the ravine 100 feet below. Some of the party made their way down to see if they could give any assistance but, when they arrived they found that he was obviously dead.

Father Michael was born at Bruges, Belgium, on April 7th, 1878. His mother was Pauline Mostyn – a member of the illustrious Catholic family closely connected with the famous Lord Petre. The present Archbishop of Cardiff, a member of that family, is a cousin of the deceased priest. Fr. Michael first joined the Salesians at Battersea in 1895. He completed his church studies there and he was ordained at St. George's Cathedral, Southwark by Cardinal Bourne, then Bishop of Southwark. A few years after ordination he was appointed Rector of the Salesian Novitiate House at Burwash, Sussex and later on he held the important post of Spiritual Director and Confessor to the Salesian School at Battersea. He was also for several years the secretary to the Very Rev. Francis Scaloni. SDB, Provincial of the Salesians in England, Ireland and South Africa. In 1919 he became the Rector of the Salesian School at East Hill, Wandsworth, where he made many friends by his genial manner and kindly disposition. During this time too, he did very useful work as chaplain to Wandsworth Prison and he was also for many years a devoted Spiritual Director to several convents. In 1923 he was nominated to the important position of Rector of the large Salesian Institute in Somerset Rd, Cape Town. His work there was eminently successful and he endeared himself to all by his kindly manner and he made many friends both inside and outside the Institute. When the late Fr. Scaloni was making his canonical visitation last year of the houses in South Africa and the Belgium Congo, Fr. De Bary accompanied him as his secretary and guide. When Fr. Scaloni died at Elizabethville, Fr. Scaloni was at his side as representative of the English Province. Moreover, all the details connected with that last journey and illness of the late-lamented Fr. Provincial came from the able pen and thoughtful care of the good Father, who has now gone to the reward of his labours, after a life spent wholly in God's service and devoted to the many varied duties which he was called upon to perform.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE.