

FATHER HUGH DRUM. SDB.

Fr. Hugh Drum was born in St. Helens, Lancs on the 17th November 1888. After attending the local Catholic elementary school, he worked for several years in the confectionery business. He was almost 27 when he joined the Medical Corps and he then served in Flanders from 1915 to 1919. Coming from a strong Catholic family and being himself a man of deep faith, it was no surprise to those who knew him that he eventually decided to test his vocation as a religious, and in 1922 he applied to join the Salesian Congregation. His application was accepted and he was then asked to go to the Salesian House at Chertsey to help with various manual jobs and also act as the infirmarian. In September 1924 he started his novitiate year at Cowley, Oxford. and he made his first profession the following September. He studied Philosophy at Cowley from 1925-7 and theology, also at Cowley, from 1927-30. He then went to Malta for two years to do some practical training before being ordained in Malta in 1932.

After ordination Fr. Drum worked for one year in Punta Arenas, South America. He then moved to Port Stanley, Falkland Islands as an assistant priest for a few months before becoming the Parish priest at Port Stanley from 1934-1946. During that time he was the only priest on the island. Fr. Drum returned to England in 1946 and he went to Blaisdon as the confessor and infirmarian. For the next 30 years he acted as confessor in Blaisdon, Melchet Court, Aberdour, Oxford, Battersea and Bootle.

During the last two years, Fr. Drum has been in a Nursing Home staffed by Sisters, at Crosby, almost back to his birthplace. He was always patient in suffering, very grateful and with his own brand of humour. He died peacefully on the 7th January 1978 in his 90th year and 45th year of priesthood. He was buried by his Salesian confreres at Bootle on the 12th January.

May he rest in peace.