

FR. THOMAS FIELDING. SDB.

Salesian College,  
Farnborough.  
Hants.

Dear Confreres,

Only a few weeks have passed since I had the sad duty of recommending to your prayers one of our priests, and now I must inform you of the death of another priest from this community – Fr. Thomas Fielding – who died on February 12th 1947 at Stillington Hall, Yorkshire under the care of the Brothers of St. John of God.

Fr. Fielding was born in the town of Oswaldtwistle, near Blackburn, on February 11th 1898 of good Catholic parents. Whilst still young he thought about becoming a priest – which was not surprising considering the Catholic atmosphere in which he lived. His younger brother became a priest in the Salford diocese. After Thomas' elementary studies, he applied to join the Salesians and, being accepted, he entered the novitiate at Burwash in August 1913. During the novitiate his happy character, his docile and prompt obedience, was noted – and he made great progress in studies. He spent the first year of the war at Burwash, then he went to Battersea and took his perpetual vows there in 1920. Since he was a good, intelligent student he was asked to go to Italy to study theology at the Crocetta and he was eventually ordained in Italy in 1924.

When Fr. Fielding returned to England he was asked to teach theology to some of the clerics at Battersea. He also taught Latin to the College boys with considerable success. He was then asked to move to Farnborough and he spent the greater part of his priestly life there mainly teaching Latin to the boys. During the later years of his life his health deteriorated quite rapidly and he had to abandon his work as a priest and teacher. He retired to the Nursing home, Stillington Hall, run by the Brothers of St. John of God. In his long period of suffering there he tried to cope with his illness without complaint and with resignation to God's will. He died on February 12th 1947 of coronary thrombosis at the age of 49 and in the 23rd year of priesthood.

We hope and pray that the good Lord has already given him the recompense for his patience and resignation.

Pray also for the confreres and boys of this house.

Your affectionate confrere,

William A. Walsh. SDB. (Rector)