

FATHER JAMES FLOWER. SDB.

The Salesians of the English Province have recently sustained another severe loss in the death of the Rev. James Flower, which occurred on June 13th 1935. Born in Blackford in Somerset on the 2nd June 1878, Fr. Flower received part of his early training at the college of the Fathers of the Sacred Heart, Glastonbury. He entered the Salesian College Battersea on February 3rd 1893, made his religious profession on May 26th 1895 and was ordained priest at Womersley on December 20th 1902. Soon after his ordination, symptoms of the painful illness of which he eventually died began to show themselves. But, with his characteristic cheerfulness he carried on his work as bursar of the college. He remained at Battersea in this role until 1919 when he went with Fr Macey to open the new Salesian College at Chertsey. The beauty of the house of God was always one of his pre-occupations and he did excellent work helping Fr. Biebuyck in the decoration of the Sacred Heart church at Battersea. He was, with Fr. Macey amongst the prime movers in the erection of St. Anne's church at Chertsey. Fr. Flower's condition became gradually worse during the seven or eight months that preceded his death, but, even then, he was reluctant to rest. During the month of May 1935 he became so weak that he agreed to go away for a few months in the hope of recovering. But the end was drawing near and on Thursday June 13th he passed away quite peacefully, fortified by all the rites of Holy Church.

The funeral which took place on June 19th was a very impressive one and the church of St. Anne's was crowded. The pupils of the Salesian College and of the Salesian Sisters assisted throughout the ceremony and lined the pathways leading to the cemetery. There he rests in a quiet corner of the cemetery of Chertsey close to the scene of his labours of the past 16 years. Of a gentle and amiable disposition, always smiling, always cheerful, always kind to others, he left a lasting impression on all who knew him. His heroism and patience in suffering were extraordinary and astonished those who knew what he had to endure. His spirit of work, his constant concern for others, his forgetfulness of self were characteristics which will never be forgotten by those who knew him and who will always hold his memory in veneration.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians and St. John Bosco take care of his good soul.

R. I. P.