

### **FATHER FRANCIS FLYNN. SDB.**

Father Francis died at home in Linwood, Scotland on the 25th March 1976. Francis was born on the 10th January 1905 and he was educated at St. Conval's School, Linwood and then at the nearby Greenock Grammar school. He then went on to Glasgow University for one year (1923-24). However, he had been thinking about his future career and during his first year at University he decided that he would like to join the Salesian Congregation and study for the priesthood. In September 1924 he went to the Salesian House in Oxford as an aspirant and student of Philosophy and the next year he began his Novitiate year. After successfully completing the Novitiate year and taking his religious vows, he resumed his study of Philosophy for another year and then from 1927-30 he studied English at Oxford University. In 1930 he was awarded an M. A. Honours degree in English.

In 1930 Fr. Francis lectured in English and Music to the Salesian students at Cowley. In 1932 he went to the Salesian International theologate in Turin to study theology for four years. He was ordained a priest at the Salesian Mother House in Turin in 1936. After ordination Fr. Francis became the Prefect of Studies for the Philosophers at Cowley until 1939 when he returned to Oxford University for a year's study in order to obtain the Dip. Ed. At that, with the beginning of the war, the Salesian students were moved to Shrigley and the Salesian School (Battersea) pupils were evacuated from London and billeted at Cowley either as boarders or with local families. Fr. Flynn then became attached to the Battersea staff and became the Deputy-head eventually returning to Battersea after the war and staying with the school until 1966. In 1966 he joined the Philosophy students again in Beckford Gloucestershire teaching them French and English. In 1968 he moved to Chertsey and became the Rector of the community there for six years. It was towards the end of his time at Chertsey that his health gave some cause for concern. He went to the Salesian community at Farnborough for a while and finally to his home town and relatives at Linwood.

Salesian confreres who lived and worked with Fr. Francis would emphasise his wholehearted dedication and enthusiasm for the Salesian apostolate – working for young people. He was a very hard and self-sacrificing worker even after his official retirement. He was very talented – as a teacher of English, French Italian. He was a good retreat preacher constantly keeping up to date by reading. He was a good religious and his cheerfulness, sympathy and openness to others were valuable qualities which made him a good Rector and guide. During his last illness he showed great courage and strength of character.

May the soul of our good friend and Salesian confrere rest for ever with God in peace.