

FATHER WILLIAM HARROD. SDB.

Fr. William was born in London on the 12th February 1880. He went to the Salesian Novitiate at Burwash in 1899 and he made his religious profession the following year. His final profession of the vows was made on the 24th May 1901. He then stayed at Burwash for another two years studying Philosophy. He spent his period of practical training at the St. George's Hostel in London. After two years there he moved to Battersea where he spent the next four years studying Theology and also acting as a part-time teacher.

He was ordained a priest by Archbishop Amigo in St. George's Cathedral, Southwark, on May 25th 1907. He celebrated his first Mass in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Battersea the following day. After his ordination he was asked to go to the Salesian School at Sliema, Malta as a teacher and also the bursar of the house. In 1912 he returned to Battersea as a teacher until he became a chaplain to the Armed Forces in the First World War. During that time he served in France, Constantinople, Salonika and other parts of the Near East, being mentioned also in despatches.

Fr. William left the Forces in 1920 and went to Chertsey where he was in charge of the parish for seven years. He was then asked to return to Malta as Rector of the Sliema community for six years. Then followed a year as Rector at Burwash before he returned to Malta as Rector for another nine years. He was there during the difficult days of World War 2 and he lived through all the bombardments and was himself wounded in one of the many air raids on the island. In 1943 he returned to England and for two years acted as chaplain at a convent in Windlesham. From 1945-51 he was the Rector of the Novitiate House at Beckford. He then went to Guernsey for a short time before finally settling at Battersea during the last years of his life. During the latter part of 1958 his health had deteriorated very much and the Alexian Brothers accepted him at Twyford Abbey and they cared for him until his death on the 5th November. He was 78 years of age and he had celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his priesthood the previous year. He was the possessor of two great gifts, a powerful constitution and a solid background of spirituality, which he called upon in order to undertake much important work in the Province.

Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated at Battersea on November 10th prior to the interment at Burwash. Fr. Provincial preached the panegyric and officiated at the graveside.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE.