

BROTHER THOMAS HOGAN. SDB.

Bro. Thomas was born in Croagh, Limerick on the 28th November 1907. He was accepted into the Novitiate at Cowley, Oxford on November 28th 1922, his fifteenth birthday, the earliest date permitted by Canon Law. He took his vows the following year and repeated them three years later, still only 19 years of age! From 1923-26 he studied Philosophy at Cowley, Oxford.

In 1926 Bro. Thomas started his practical apostolate and he went to Burwash to teach in the Preparatory school. He stayed there until 1929. He then transferred to the Chertsey community and taught in the Secondary School for a year. From 1930-31 he taught in the Secondary School at Battersea. He then went to Shrigley as a theological student in 1931, but in 1933 he discontinued his studies and changed his official status from a cleric to a laybrother.

Bro. Thomas then took on various teaching assignments - at Burwash from 1933-34, Warrenstown from 1934-5, Burwash from 1935-8, Battersea 1938-9, Cowley-Oxford from 1939-49. From 1949-51 Bro. Thomas tried to take up the study of theology once again but again he found the adjustment even more difficult due to his advanced age. In 1952 he again returned to Burwash, which was now the Novitiate house for the Province.

When the Novitiate at Burwash closed and moved back to Beckford, Bro. Thomas stayed behind to look after the property as a caretaker until a decision could be made about the future of the house and work there. It was a long and lonely job, caring for the house, the church and the cemetery. A hard-working man, who served the Lord quietly since his boyhood for almost 57 years. He was two months short of his 73rd birthday when he died.

May he rest in peace, in the little country churchyard which he had cared for for many years.