

4 January

## FR PHILIP CONDELL

1 August 1874 - 4 January 1967



Philip Condell was born in Edinburgh and educated at Stonyhurst Jesuit College in NW England. He joined the Society aged 17 in 1891 and did the usual studies including a degree at the relatively new Campion Hall in Oxford. He taught in the Jesuit colleges in Liverpool and Leeds before being sent to Africa in 1915. Fr Waterhouse SJ was a boy at Leeds and remembered an incident when he slapped the face of a boy who was irritating him while he was trying to study. Condell was present supervising the studies and looked at him but said nothing.

Later, at break time he called him and said, 'that was hardly the best way of dealing with the situation.' Waterhouse later reflected, 'it was a superb example of inculcating discipline and self-restraint.'

In Africa his first assignment was prefect of studies at St George's, still in Bulawayo, but after three years he went to St Aidan's where he stayed for 32 years. Fr Copeland remembered that he wrote out the names and years of all the boys in a notebook back to 1876, when the college was founded and kept up a wide correspondence with many of them. A writer in *The Shield* described him as 'a born school master' but Copeland thought him 'a gentleman scholar, ... too much of a scholar to be a school teacher and too much of gentleman to deal firmly with unruly boys!'

It seems too he was a bit diffident. Copeland again, 'he would give a wonderful answer to a theological or moral question if he thought it was just academic. But as soon as he realised his answer might be used as a basis for action, he would hedge.'

From 1949 to his death at the aged of 92, the oldest in the province, he was at Campion House where he helped in the parish and celebrated Mass for the Dominican sisters in the convent across the road.