

12 January

## **Fr EDWARD ENRIGHT**

19 November 1893 – 12 January 1962

Edward Enright (no relation of Brian Enright) served as superior of the Salisbury Mission for twelve years, longer than any of those who preceded him, except Philip Beisly (sixteen), in the Zambezi Mission or followed him in the Zimbabwe province. And he did this without a socius or a treasurer.



He was born in Liverpool and distinguished himself in the Jesuit school there, becoming first among 10,000 who sat the old Oxford Local Exams. He joined the Society in 1910 and did 'greats' (Greek and Latin classics) at Oxford and studied theology at Hastings. He spent eight years teaching philosophy at Heythrop where one of his students found his style 'cramping' as Enright was a 'close rather than a wide reader and a teacher rather than a lecturer.'

He became Master of Novices at St Beuno's during the war where he was seen as 'impatient with vagueness and emotionalism' among the novices but they appreciated his clarity of mind and his high ideals. He became rector of Heythrop in 1944 where he relaxed by growing flowers - tulips and chrysanthemums – as well as vegetables and fruit. All much appreciated during the war years.

In 1947, he was appointed superior of the Salisbury Mission. He was then 54 but threw himself into this new task. He was too old, and anyway lacked the time, to learn the language and, more importantly, he could not adjust to the mind of the local people. He would analyse a situation with clear logic but seemed unable to, as one contemporary put it, see the 'human' side of a situation. His fellow Jesuits felt he had a lack of understanding and sympathy for them and he would react by becoming shy, sensitive and reserved.

None of this prevented him from acting once he saw what had to be done. He supported the fledgling Marymount Mission in the face of opposition and he was responsible for the founding of the Chichester Memorial School at St Peter's in Mbare at a time when the education of African children was only just beginning in the urban areas. He also started the novitiate at Silveira House which was to serve all the countries of the Federation as well as South Africa. In 1958 the government awarded him the MBE in recognition of his services to education. The following year he was happy to hand over to Terrence Corrigan and he went to St Aidan's to teach. After two years, he was finally free to do what he always wanted to do; to give retreats and conferences and he was much appreciated in this role. He had a full schedule of these planned when he suddenly had a thrombosis and died in Kroonstad. His body was brought back and buried in Chishawasha.