



Fr Stephen Redmond, S.J.
(1919-2017; in Zambia/Malawi 1970-1979)

14 January 2017

Stephen was born in Dublin on 26 December 1919. His father was a manager in the Ballsbridge bakery and was a man of great moral courage. He went to school at Holy Faith and later to the Christian Brothers at Synge St. He completed a B A at UCD being undecided about his future. At first we wanted to be a Benedictine but later he followed his school friend, Joe Veale, into the Jesuits on 28 September 1940. He followed the usual course of studies and was ordained on 31 July 1950 in Gonzaga College where he was to spend almost 20 years of his life as a teacher.

He taught history, English and religious education in the preparatory school at the newly founded College (1952-1971). He had learned the piano in his earlier years and later he developed a talent for composition, mostly songs (both words and music). He entered the European Song contest in 1968 and his song got into the last seven of the Irish selection.

He taught in the recently established English speaking novitiate in Lusaka for nine years. He was the originator of its patron name 'St Francis Xavier'. He wrote that the novices would sing my religious songs and shared in two major musicals I composed there: *Easter is forever* and *The Great love*. In his later years, he still had fond memories of his best singer, Edmund Mallya, as well as others: Leo Amani, Fratern Masawe, Fidelis Mukonori and Groum Tesfaye. He still had occasional contact with Chindozi Ngebemenah, who is now a computer expert living in California.

He returned to Ireland in 1979 and lived at John Austen house in Dublin for 30 years, continuing his music composition, spiritual writing and retreat work. He wrote several books on Scripture and spirituality published by Veritas. In his later years his interest in history led him to work in the Province archives from 1989.

Stephen was a quiet man who listened to you carefully. His long years of teaching led him to be accurate and precise in all he said and did. His unobtrusive presence helped him to build a community atmosphere wherever he lived. He lived a deep life of faith and what you saw was what he was. He was a good sign of a caring and loving person.

From 2010 he resided at Milltown Park until he crossed over to the nursing home in 2014. He died there on 14 January 2014.