

11 February

**Fr JAMES O'CONNELL** 18 January 1873 – 11 February 1949



'Jacob', as he was known was born and bred in Dublin. He entered the Irish province in 1898 but soon transferred to the English and was ordained in 1908 which was quick. He suffered from TB and so had a shortened formation. He taught at Mount St Mary's but in 1920 went to South Africa where he was in Chishawasha for three years but his obituarist says nothing about those years. His health did not improve and he returned to England where he served in Boscombe, Richmond and Preston.

It was said everything became a comedy for him yet he was a man of firm opinions even if he could not always say why he held certain views. The advice of Lord Mansfield applied to him: 'Give your decision boldly but not your reasons. Your decision will probably be right: your reasons will almost always be wrong.'