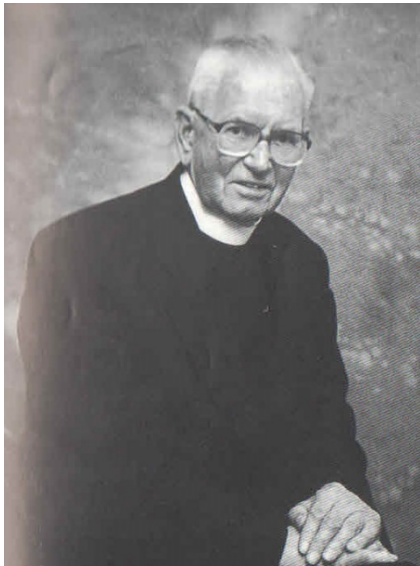


13 February

Fr VICTOR RIEDERER

15 April 1920 – 13 February 2002



Born In Edinburgh, Victor Riederer entered the Jesuits in 1937. As was often the case during the war, he did six years regency before doing theology and being ordained. In 1953, he was at Lowe House St Helen, NW England as pastor and minister to the community. In 1959, he came to Salisbury (Harare) again as pastor and minister with a special role as visitor of the sick in hospital.

After 27 years, he returned to the UK and became parish priest of Lerwick, capital of the Shetlands, the most northerly archipelago of the UK. In 1996 he moved to Preston. He was untiring to the end and precise about time. On the day he died he was asked to give the sacraments to a sick person. He answered, ‘One twenty’!

His standards were rigorous and he was unyielding on Church teaching. For some he was a rock of support. For others he was stumbling block. Michael O’Halloran, at his funeral, said aptly, ‘he had a preference for things as they had been rather than an enthusiasm for things as they had become. ... He spoke swiftly, moved swiftly and smiled swiftly.’ Brian Enright gives an example. On arriving at the hospital in Harare where he carried out his devoted, if whirlwind, ministry, he would ask the sister-in-charge, ‘Anyone worse today, sister?’