

18 February

Fr EDWARD SMITHIES 3 February 1901 – 18 February 1969

Ted Smithies was born in Liverpool and was educated at Preston Catholic College. He joined the Society in 1917 and was ordained in 1933. In 1935, he was at St Aidan's where he was to stay until 1953. He was described as 'quick and efficient though diffident and shy, even aloof'. But he was friendly and had a sense of humour. He was a 'competent' teacher and a devoted coach, especially of cricket. He directed the Sodality of Our Lady in the Middle School.



A companion observed that this shining in the middle school fitted his character. He was not one for the high flyers but was 'an ideal middle school master' and the companion went on: it even showed in his golf! Not for him the adventurous stroke with a wood where the ball might or might not reach the green, but the steady progress up the middle of the course with his iron.

The record says he suffered from 'severe heart attacks' but was made rector anyway without getting relief in his work as prefect of studies, teacher – and cricket coach. He ended up a wreck and wrote to Fr General asking to be relieved of his post. The general complied and he returned to England in 1953. He had still some fruitful years at Mount St Mary's and when he did die, one of the lay staff complained about God taking away Fr Smithies 'when there were so many others to choose from.'