

23 February

17 August 1940 – 23 February 2022

Fr James Chaning-Pearce

James was born in Mussoorie, India, on 17th August 1940, and was educated at Edinburgh Academy and at Stonyhurst. He joined the Jesuit novitiate in Roehampton in 1958. After taking his First Vows there he moved to Heythrop in Oxfordshire for philosophy, and between 1963 and 1967 studied physics at Campion Hall in Oxford. After a few months in St Wilfrid's, Preston, he went out to St Paul's Mission, Musami, in Rhodesia, for regency as a science teacher. He did his theology studies at Canisius College, New South Wales in Australia. He was ordained at the Sacred Heart church in Wimbledon in 1973, and spent the next fourteen years teaching at St George's College in Salisbury, Rhodesia (which later became Harare, Zimbabwe). He joined the newly-formed Zimbabwe Province in 1979, having taken one year off from teaching to make his tertianship at St Beuno's in 1977-78. He returned to Britain in 1987, and taught at Stonyhurst until 1995. He was withdrawn from ministry in that year, and served a prison sentence between 1997 and 1999. On his release he moved to St Beuno's, where he remained for the rest of his life, assisting in the house and grounds until he became too unwell to do so. Fr James Chaning-Pearce SJ died peacefully at around 11.00pm, Wednesday 23rd February 2022, at St Beuno's in Wales, United Kingdom. He had been suffering from cancer for some time. His sister Janet, Tom McGuinness, and one of the caring staff were with him. He was 81 years old, in the 64th year of religious life.