

13 March

**Fr GERARD BUSSY** 31 December 1907 – 13 March 1986



Born in London, Gerry Bussy tells us he joined the novitiate because his mother wanted him to. He lasted ten days and then walked out without telling anyone. He tried his hand in business but go nowhere and decided to reapply and was graciously accepted. He entered (the second time) in 1927 and was ordained in 1936.

His great interest in philosophy did not prevent him being ‘obstructed’ from going to Heythrop College in the UK but Bishop Chichester, desperate for staff at the Chishawasha seminary, welcomed him in 1940. It did not work out and he returned to England two years later with the ‘obstruction’ still operative. He served as a military chaplain during the war in North Africa and Italy.

Returning home at the close of hostilities, he asked to leave the province and, with the help of a fellow Jesuit, applied to the Oregon province where he had a fruitful apostolate for almost forty years. He taught philosophy at Seattle University where he combined his being a priest and a teacher into a wonderful unity to judge by the warm words of Fr Jim Royce at his funeral. ‘Gerry was fond of reminding his students,’ Jim recalled, ‘that science is simply discovering the intelligibility that was put into the physical universe by its creator.’ ‘He was a priest and teacher and loved both roles.’