

18 March

Br ANDREW McINALLY 3 March 1896 – 18 March 1976



Born in Alloa, Scotland, Andrew McInally was the ninth child of ten of whom five became religious. He worked in a coal mine for a while before entering the Jesuit novitiate in 1913. His first posting was Mount St Mary's as a cook where a boy made a fuss about a mouse in the porridge one morning. Br Mac was called and apologised to the boys that he had only one mouse.

In 1921, with 24 hours' notice, he was sent to St George's in Bulawayo, again as cook. He quickly learnt Sindebele but soon found himself helping packing up for the move to Salisbury (Harare). That done and the move made, he went to Chishawasha in charge of the farm and gardens where he was keen to share his skills with the people. In 1931, he moved to St Benedict's where he added building to his skills and constructed a huge dam for the benefit of the locality (not just the mission). Mac also cared for the machinery and pumps.

In 1939, he went to Driefontein where he built three dams and was also in charge of the forestry. In 1943, he moved to the seminary and built a new dormitory and kitchens. In 1951, he went on home leave with his Redemptorist brother, who was working in South Africa, – their first leave in thirty years – and, on his return, he went to St George's. His next posting was to St Aidan's as cook in 1957 and he returned to Rhodesia in 1959 to be administrator at the new novitiate at Silveira House. Two years later he returned to St George's and in 1962, he had a stroke from which he never fully recovered. He retired first to Chishawasha, where he eyed a site to be buried and was frustrated when some 'young fellow' got there before him, and later to St George's where he was when he died.

His contemporaries remember him as warm and friendly and one who loved having his leg pulled. He had a fund of anecdotes which he delighted to tell. Henry Wardale said, 'there was an atmosphere of peace about him.' The list of his activities, recalled here, shows an immensely versatile man who could turn his hand to anything.