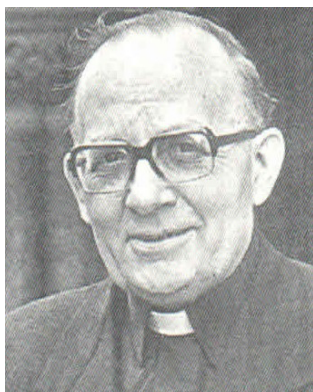


21 March

Fr RICHARD WREN

30 August 1919 – 21 March 1998



‘Dickie’ Wren was born in Liverpool and entered the Society in 1937. He went to St George’s College, 1954-60, where he was Prefect of Studies until he had a breakdown in health. He had made a major contribution to the College, both academically and on the extra mural front. He also managed the 1st XI Cricket side from 1954 until 1958, assisted by the coach, Jim Cornford. In addition, he resurrected the Debating Society in 1956, handing over to Fr. F. Rea on his departure.

He returned in 1973 for one year and wrote some reflections. While appreciating the physical improvements in the college, he ‘had some misgivings.’ He felt some of the new facilities were not being used to the full but ‘most disappointing of all to me seemed the decline in musical appreciation and activity. The choir seemed to be a mere shadow of its former self ... in its place we had the steady beat of over-amplified pop records and guitars.’ With regard to the chapel, Dickie goes on to lament the ‘slovenliness creeping in. Altar staff seem untrained and carelessly ignorant.’

‘What about the St George’s boy himself?’ he asks, ‘My overwhelming impression has been one of great friendliness’. This was unexpected for ‘I returned with the memory of aloof suspicion which once kept staff and boys at arm’s length. I leave St George’s having received more personal kindness from the boys in the last five or six months than in the five or six years of my previous visit.’

But he was ‘a little unconvinced about the success and the reality of the inter-racial policy of integration though he did not find colour or creed made any difference to staff or boys at all. If ever there was a hopeful sign that a peaceful solution might be found for the racial problem in Southern Africa, I felt it was to be found here.’

After his return to the UK, he was the man behind the Sixth Form college in Preston.

He became the Promoter of Jesuit Missions in 1984.

