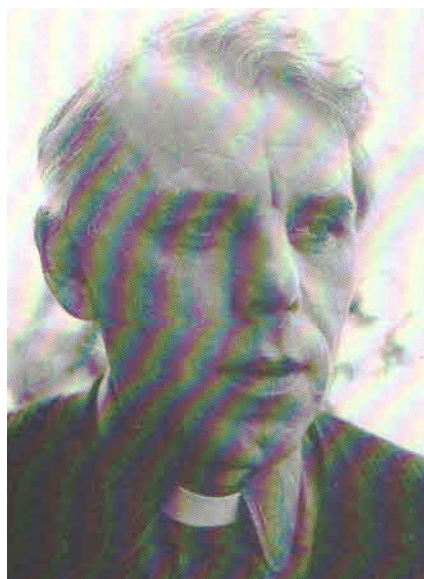


9 April

Fr ALPHONSE POLLET 8 October 1981- 9 April 1983



Alphonse's father was a Belgian wool merchant, a Catholic, who had a business in South Africa where he met his wife. Alphonse grew in this Catholic environment and went to school at St Aidan's. He joined the novitiate at Harlaxton in the UK in 1951 and did his regency at St George's. After ordination he was at St Ignatius, Stamford Hill, in London from 1967 for eleven years though this was interrupted briefly.

He took great care of Br Lynch, who was deaf and sacristan for many years. Alphonse made sure he went on some of the pilgrimages organised by the parish. Alphonse was always around after Mass and was great for visiting the people. It was most important, he felt, to get to know everyone in the parish. 'He loved people' (Maurice Nassan). He also took an interest, and supported, the activities of the local borough.

In 1981, he was back in South Africa at Braamfontein in Jo'burg but he had a distaste for South Africa even though it was his country of birth. He found apartheid 'ridiculous'. You would be talking to people on the platform of the train station and then would have to go into separate carriages when the train arrived. Towards the end of his life he was a parish priest at Kuilsriver near Cape Town but did not like it as he had to live on his own. He would not ask for it but another Jesuit, realizing how miserable he was, asked the provincial to get him back to England.

He went back to England and died unexpectedly of a coronary aged 52 at Stamford Hill.