



**Fr Edward Kilbride, S.J.**  
**(1912-1998. In Zambia 1969-1978)**

**13 April 1998**

Edward (Ted) though born in Galway on 3 June 1912, came from a family whose origins were on the Laois-Kildare borderlands near Athy. In the post famine days, the fact that they had suffered eviction from their land and that his father had been a pupil of the famous Tullabeg school showed that they were part of the post emancipation Catholic middle classes.

Ted went to school with the Christian Brothers in Cork and then on to Clongowes Wood College. He entered the Society on 31 October 1929. After philosophy, for regency he went to his old school as teacher and Lower Line and 3rd Line prefect, work which he liked and he would have loved to remain in. That was not to be. He was ordained at Milltown Park on 29 July 1943. His care for others, his ability to organize and his welcoming approach as guest master made him almost tailor-made for the job of minister. He was minister for almost 30 years in five of the Jesuit houses, not just in Ireland but also in Zambia where he worked for nine years as Minister in St Ignatius, Lusaka. Retreat work was another aspect of his ability, at Manresa Retreat House, Rathfarnham Retreat House and at Tullabeg. A part of this so varied and versatile life was his work on the mission staff when he preached all over Ireland and was most helpful to Irish emigrants in England. His unflinching humanity to pupils and people in trouble was a part of his large, strong personality.

Ted was given to duty and generous work in the church and the house where he lived. His affable and interesting presence made people welcome and feel at home.

A great man to converse on all subjects of the day and of the past, he had a ready and cultured mind. This was enriched by the variety of his interests. He was a member of the Bird Watchers Society, collected stamps very successfully and had a keen interest in rugby and hurling. All things artistic, poetry, painting and music were important in his life. The staff working in the houses loved and respected him as a true Christian gentleman. He had a *noblesse* of great natural and spiritual conviction – never one to be a time server. Loyalty, almost to a fault, was most marked in him. In his later years he showed an openness to new and valid developments in the Church. People always felt comfortable in his presence and he was always ready to serve. He died in St John's Hospital, Limerick on 13 April 1998 at the age of 86.