

19 April

Fr FRANCIS SHARP

3 January 1911 – 19 April 1987



Born in Manchester, Francis Sharp went to school at Jesuit Mount St Mary's from where he entered the Society on 1931. He was ordained in 1944 in his home city. In 1948 we find him at St Aidan's and three years later at St George's College in Salisbury. John McCarthy of the St George's archives writes: 'Fr. Francis Sharp was transferred to the College at the beginning of 1951, having been First Prefect of Discipline at St. Aidan's from September 1948. He came primarily as a teacher of English, but was also put in charge of the Under 13 Cricket group. In March 1951, he took over as Choir Master from Fr. Frank Preston and retained that responsibility until he returned to St. Aidan's at the end of 1952. Also in 1951, when the

outside coach who looked after the 1st XV Rugby side was taken ill, he took over that responsibility for one season. The accompanying photo is of him in that role.'

Chris Farwell found him to be a 'genial companion, giving a ready ear to those in trouble'. So, he only stayed two years before returning south to St Aidan's until 1959. On returning to England he taught at St Francis Xavier's in Liverpool for nine years before having a change of career and going full time into retreat work at Rainhill (Loyola Hall). He seems to have done this for only two years as he was at St Aloysius, Oxford, in 1970. He was a conscientious teacher and used his musical gifts in producing Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. He was in constant attendance at the Liverpool Philharmonic when he was at SFX. During his days in Oxford he acting as chaplain at the Radcliffe Infirmary and collapsed there one day and was able to be quickly attended to.