

24 April

1 August 1953 – 24 April 2024

Fr Peter Brook SJ

Peter was born in Bradford, Yorkshire, on 1st August 1953. He was educated at St Blaise secondary school in the city, and then at the Bradford Regional College of Art and Design. At the age of 20 he went to Osterley (then the Jesuit-run college for "late vocations"), and in 1975 entered the Jesuit novitiate at Loyola Hall. After taking First Vows he studied philosophy in London, first at Allen Hall, the Westminster diocesan seminary, and then at Heythrop. Two years' regency at St Ignatius College Enfield was followed by him taking a BA in French and Art at the Roehampton Institute. In 1984 Peter spent a year working as chaplain at Wimbledon College, and then went to the Gesù for theology. He was ordained in Wimbledon by Bishop Victor Guazzelli in 1988, and next spent a year studying for a post-graduate certificate in education, living at Osterley. Between 1989 and 1995 he taught art at Wimbledon College, then made his tertianship under Howard Gray in Detroit. After a year back in Wimbledon he moved to Glasgow, and spent five years teaching in St Aloysius College, initially combining this with work in the parish. Between 2002 and 2003 Peter enjoyed a sabbatical, spent in part working in the Holy Trinity parish in Braamfontein, South Africa, then moved to Rome where he became Director of Publications for the Gregorian University and the Biblicum. He returned to the UK in 2008 and worked as co-ordinator of business development and communications at Heythrop, combining this with setting up the new Jesuit community accommodation in Wapping. His last appointment was to St Wilfrid's in Preston where, from 2011, he assisted in the parish and later became minister in the community. He died after suffering a heart attack, having been in hospital in Leeds for two weeks with heart problems related to a pre-existing diabetic condition. He was 70 years old, in the 49th year of religious life.