

May 4

Fr RICHARD CORISH

7 November 1887 – 4 May 1953

Richard Corish had a long association with St Michael's College in Leeds and a shorter one with St Aidan's when he was rector there. He was born in Liverpool and was educated at St Francis Xavier and entered the Society in 1905. His first stint at St Michael's was from 1912 when he taught physics and maths. He was 'rather intimidating to us youngsters', one of them later remembered, 'as he was tall, stern and sarcastic.' When this former student asked him about this sarcasm, he said, 'yes, I know it was a great mistake. I stopped it.'



After ordination in 1920, he returned to Leeds until 1928 when he went to St Aidan's. It was not a happy time. He was a good teacher, the record says, but not a good rector. We are not told exactly why but there is a file full of his letters expressing his frustration to his superiors about the difficulties he was facing with his community. There was one teacher, Fr Carter, who was a bad teacher and a bad disciplinarian. The boys ran rings around him.

By 1933, there was rumour the college would close as the enrolment fell to 60 but the former students and the bishops rallied round and the college was saved – for a while. On finishing his term he returned to Leeds and was involved not just in the teaching but in summer camps, plays, and the Catholic Evidence Guild, a Church body popular at the time for promoting Catholicism.