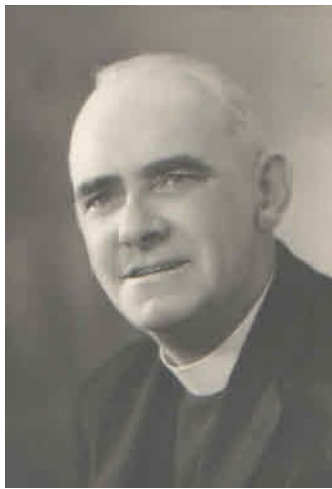


May 8

Fr AUSTIN GANLEY

24 July 1899 – 8 May 1959



A Yorkshireman from Goole, Austin Ganley lost his parents while still a child and he and his siblings were brought up by a devoted aunt. Educated at St Michael's, Leeds, he entered the Society in 1917 and was ordained in 1931.

In 1934, he was sent out as rector to St Aidan's just at the time there was talk of closing the school. There were only about 70 students enrolled. A member of the community later wrote, 'Ganley filled us with hope.' The first thing he did was paint the school in brighter colours. Then he set about contacting the former students

to gauge their interest.

He set up a preparatory school and applications began to pour in.

Contemporaries said it was his personality that was decisive. He always had a weak heart – he had been excused active service during the great war on account of this – but he never seemed to allow it to slow him down.

The boys at St Aidan's were scared of him and his booming voice – 'which could shatter rocks' - but they loved him too! He promoted sports facilities and renewed the buildings and he was active and welcome in the public life of Grahamstown.

After ten years as rector he moved to St George's in Salisbury and became a teacher of Maths and Science. He was also chaplain to Nazareth House and it was there that he collapsed and died while giving Benediction. He was only in his 60th year.