

May 12

Fr GERALD LANDRETH 3 February 1904 – 12 May 1954

‘Gerry’ was born in Stroud Green, London and educated at Mount St Mary’s. He entered the Society in 1925, after having tried his vocation as a diocesan priest at Oscot, and was ordained in 1935. His contemporaries noted his sensitivity, especially to unkindness to others but they also observed he had ‘an uncanny genius for being late and brought unpunctuality to a fine art. You wanted to slay him but ended up loving him.’



For fifteen years he was at St George’s, where he took on teaching, sports and landscaping the terraces. He had ‘a profound appreciation of his priesthood and his approach to everything was almost sacramental.’ His ‘pleasant, musical, slightly husky voice was never raised either in anger or enthusiasm. He was rarely *heard* to laugh but he laughed with his eyes.’

He visited the school boys in the sick bay and the sick Nyasa staff in their houses.

He had an operation for hernia but developed an embolism, ‘a blocked artery caused by a foreign body, such as a blood clot or an air bubble’, which killed him. He was only 50 years old.