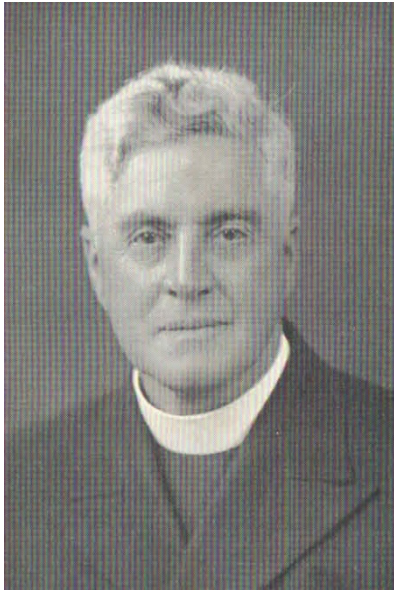


May 16

Fr BERNARD WHITESIDE 8 April 1882 – 16 May 1962



Bernard was the middle of five boys in the family who became Jesuits! His father was 'pious' and 'it was almost automatic,' one of them wrote, 'that we became priests. I don't think that any of us had any special difficulty in following the call.' Bernard was 'near the top' in class results at the Mount and in 1900 it was his turn to enter the Society. He did a BSc in Science at London University and then taught for 5 years. Ordained in 1916, he immediately joined the corps of chaplains serving the troops in the first world war.

In 1920, he was sent to St George's and was very disappointed he could not pursue his specialising in science but he got on with his new life and built up the science department at St George's from almost scratch. He was interested in the wireless as a means of communication and set up at the college one of the first wireless stations in the country. There were times when he would pick up feint messages from distressed ships off the coast. He went on the 'potter about' in the labs exploring radar and was in touch with the military authorities in the UK during the second world war.

Bernard was 'popular' with the boys and had a genius for friendship which showed both at St George's and St Aidan's, where he had a spell of four years before returning to Salisbury and then returning again to St Aidan's. He coached soccer (at St George's?) and tennis. He also liked to go camping with the boys in the Matopos. He was appointed rector at St Aidan's and, though he disliked the position, he worked quietly to reduce the debt.

He asked to retire early from the job as rector and, in 1948, returned to the UK where he became minister at the Holy Name, Manchester. As his health deteriorated, he retired to Manresa and died there.