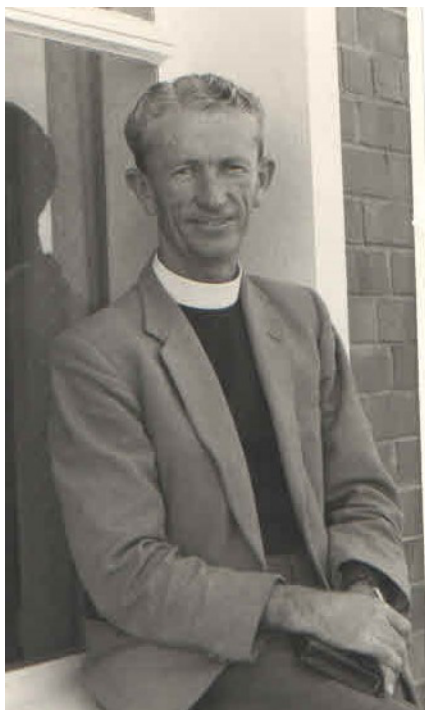


May 27

Fr JAMES WALLACE

31 January 1915 - 27 May 1971



Born in Canada at Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Jim Wallace's family moved back to the UK and he went to school at St Francis Xavier's Liverpool. Though 'tough and wiry' he was 'useful rather than brilliant' at games. He liked cycling and camping. He entered the Society in 1932 and studied physics at London University and later at Oxford. He was ordained in 1947.

The image of an advertisement for sparking plugs – 'fit and forget' - came to one headmaster's mind to describe Jim for, once given a job, he got on with it. There were no complaints from him or from his students. John Duggan remembers his 'quiet manner and friendly smile revealing an inner spring of happiness.'

Arriving in Africa in 1951, he went to the Seminary and in 1958 became the first novice master at Silveira House. Canisius Zishiri remembers his 'dedication and great patience' as well as some of his sayings: 'Learn to control your tongue. Be good, kind and loving to people. Never criticise or laugh at other's people's failures.' It was a barren place when he arrived and he planted trees to soften the landscape.

When his term ended, he went to study Shona and worked at Silveira House in the social work as well as standing in for Ted Rogers at the School of Social Work when he was away studying in Cardiff. John Bradburne described Jim as 'such a warm hearted and light-some friend to us all, now gone to heaven on wheels inevitably...' He was deeply interested in the problems of the country and wanted to listen to what people said on both sides of the spectrum. It saddened him how people were hurt by the situation and he also tried to hear the fears of the white population.

Returning from Nyanga with two mission helpers in May 1971, he was in the back seat when they rounded a corner straight into the setting sun. The driver was blinded and the car went off the road and Jim sustained fatal injuries. He died two days later without regaining consciousness.