

May 30

Fr EDWARD CARTER

24 January 1885 – 30 May 1944

Edward Ignatius Vincent Walmsley Carter, as he would sometimes remind people was his name, ‘combined complete simplicity with an unlimited capacity for acting the foil to the subtlest thrusts; and his assailants were always legion, for it was impossible to resist twitting his whimsically humorous personality.’ So wrote his obituarist almost eighty years ago and we can try to unravel the sentence to get some idea of the man.



He was born in Preston and educated at Stonyhurst and entered the Society in 1904. He served as chaplain in the last year of the war and went on to teach at Stonyhurst for five years. He was so concerned about his charges that if a boy had a cold he would write to the parents.

In 1925 he moved to St Aidan’s where Richard Condell considered him a ‘a spot of sunshine in the community’. He was energetic, jovial and a ‘good mixer’. He was good at ‘marshalling guests’ at functions.

From 1932 he was at Triashill, Chishawasha and Driefontein and in 1934 he returned to the UK where he toured the province in support of the missions before settling down to teach at Wimbledon and, in 1940, Stamford Hill. His health broke down in 1943 and he became chaplain to the sisters at Westgate-on-Sea where he used to do much walking and getting to know the people of the area; tradesmen, labourers and children.