

Fr Paul Brassil, SJ

(1944-2025; in Zambia 1960-1963 and 1968-1998)



He was 91 years old and in his 73rd year in the Society of Jesus, 33 of those were in Zambia.

Born:	18 April 1934 in Dublin
Entered:	06 September 1952 at St Mary's, Emo, County Laois
Ordained:	28 July 1966 at Milltown Park Chapel, Dublin
Transcribed:	15 August 1971
Final Vows:	15 August 1971 at Canisius College, Chikuni, Zambia
Died:	02 June 2025 at Cherryfield Lodge, Dublin

Paul Brassil was born in Dublin on April 18th, 1934. He went to school at CBS Synge Street and Belvedere College in Dublin. On Sept. 7th, 1952, he entered the Novitiate at Emo. Then followed the usual course, BA in Rathfarnham Castle, Philosophy at Tullabeg. In 1960 he was sent to the then Zambia Mission, where he studied the Tonga language, together with McKenna and Carroll, at Civuna out-station. The language teacher was Fr B. Collins. In 1961 he was sent to teach in St Canisius College, Chikuni. On their return to Ireland for Theology, in 1963, Brassil with his companions McKenna and Carroll were invited to visit Rome. They were fortunate to be in Rome at St. Peter's Square for the inauguration Mass of Pope Paul VI (at the time it was called coronation of the Pope).

He studied Theology at Milltown Park in Dublin and was ordained at Milltown Park Chapel, on the 28th July 1966. He was sent for Tertianship at Rathfarnham in 1967-1968 and returned to Zambia in 1968. He was Parish Priest at Fumbo Parish in 1968-1969 and secretary to Bishop Corboy in Monze in 1969-1972. Meanwhile, he had been transcribed to the then vice-Province of Zambia on the same date he pronounced his final vows, the 15th of August 1971. In the same year, he was a teacher and spiritual father at Charles Lwanga Teacher Training College.

After further studies in Spirituality at St. Louis, Missouri, USA, in 1973, he became socius to the Novice Master at Xavier House in Lusaka, Vice-Province Consultor and Vocations Director. In 1976 he was appointed Novice Master and Rector at the Noviciate. From 1979-1981, he was director at Kizito Pastoral Centre in Monze, Zambia.

He was Provincial of the Zambia Vice-Province from 1981-1988, after which he did a year Sabbatical in Ireland. In 1989, he came back to Lusaka and became rector at Emmaus Spirituality Centre, position he occupied until 1995. His last assignment in Zambia was as Parish Priest at Choma Mater Dei Parish while living at Mukasa Minor Seminary in Choma.

Fr Brassil returned to Ireland in 1998 and directed Spiritual Exercises and assisted in the Church in Galway until 2021, year in which he went to Cherryfield Lodge to pray for the Church and Society.

On his return to Ireland in 1998 he wrote in *Interfuse No 98* that he was shocked by the extent of violence he found and by the number of old people living alone, but also how he missed the singing and dancing at liturgies.

May he rest in the Peace of Christ