

June 22

Fr GEORGE CARRY

28 September 1919 – 22 June 1981



Though born in Ireland, George Carry became a Yorkshire man reared in Leeds. He entered the Society in 1937 and was one of those who made the novitiate ‘experiment’ of walking/begging to the shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham (over 100 miles). As he ended the novitiate the war began and the juniors, of which he was one, went on air raid alert and all-night fire guard duties. Eventually study in London became impractical and he went to teach in Preston before going to Oxford to study classics. While there he obtained a ‘blue’ in soccer (meaning he played for the university), albeit a war-time blue. He went on to study theology in Lyons which he loved, ‘almost becoming a French man’, and landed in Southern Rhodesia in 1955. He spent twelve years teaching at St George’s and St Ignatius and in the early 1970s was ‘our contribution’ to the growing coming together of formation in Africa: he went to teach philosophy in French in Kinshasa.

It was difficult and he was happy to be back in Mabelreign in 1976. In 1979, he was at the Cathedral, chaplain to the Dominicans, doing ‘right of entry’ in five government schools and helping with the Shoestatt movement.

At his funeral, provincial Henry Wardale mentioned his art work – a bare wall was an invitation and a challenge to him – and to ‘the delight or despair of his successors’ he would paint some biblical or other scene. This writer’s memory of his attempts at Mhondoro is they were short lived as he took little account of the weather and his paintings were almost instantly defaced by the elements.

Henry also said he was ‘an effervescent character’ and enjoyed what he was asked to do even when – in later life – it was filling in as a ‘spare part’. He had a massive coronary at Campion House in the balcony on his way to the bathroom in the middle of the night. Bro Waddelove heard his cries and helped as best he could but George died almost immediately. He composed the prayer for the blessing of the Zimbabwe flag at the time of independence which was approved by Robert Mugabe.