

13 July

Fr LAURENCE CREHAN 31 March 1910 – 13 July 1968



Born in Sheffield, Laurence Crehan studied analytical chemistry for four years before joining the Society in 1932. He was ordained in 1944 and spent eleven years at St Mary's on the Quay, Bristol. In 1958, he became rector in Glasgow where he was known for his great care of the sick, his promotion of the family going to church together and his involvement of the laity in the parish work. In 1964, he came to Africa as rector of St George's. He had always been interested in

Africa from his time in Bristol. Two years after arrival he joined his task as rector with being administrator of the cathedral and died after a further two years of a cerebral haemorrhage.

Provincial Terrence Corrigan had this to say of him: 'His views had a touch of originality and were a little irritating because difficult to refute! There was a deep and lonely courage about him.' He knew he would die young (58) and prepared for it.

In the July issue of Chaplains' Weekly, two weeks before his death, he wrote extensively about his well underway plans for renewing the roof of the cathedral; his support of the bishops' straight speaking about politics, including Fr Georg Sunder's warning that the church must not remain silent as it mostly did in Germany during the Nazi period; and finally, he protested at the cost of hospital beds for African people. 'How can they pay', he asked, '£3 or £4 a day for a bed?' And he added, 'one of the greatest obstacles to recovery is lying in bed worrying how one was going to pay the bill.'