



**Fr Denis Mangan, S.J.**

**(1927-1988. In Zambia 1963-early 1965)**

**8 August 1988**

Denis Mangan was born in Enfield, Middlesex, England 12 March 1927. He was educated at St. Ignatius College, Stamford Hill and St. Peter's, Southbourne. He entered the novitiate at St Beuno's in 1943 but his course was interrupted due to military service and so he took his first vows only in October 1948 at Roehampton. He had a year's teaching at St John, Beaumont and then he went for philosophy to Heythrop from 1950-1953. He taught at Stonyhurst for a year before going on to theology in Heythrop again in 1954. He was ordained in 1957. He did his tertianship at Gandia from 1958 to 1959.

His first assignment was to work for the Apostleship of Prayer in the central curia in Rome from 1963-1964. He was responsible for the Apostleship of Prayer for English speaking Africa. When he arrived in Rhodesia in 1965 he was in charge of it again, as well as the Sodality of our Blessed Lady. He did a short spell in Zambia doing this work in 1963-1964. He operated from Prestage House from 1965-1968 and from Campion House from 1968-1969.

He then moved into vocation promotion (1969-1984) and was responsible for the pre-novitiate. He was parish priest at Umvuk. He was in the Cathedral parish at Campion House and was superior and parish priest from 1977-1984. He always kept his attention on the needs of the youth. He was available for the Study Group at St Peter's, Mbare and in his time at Chinhoyi started up a study group there. He was the prime mover of 'Ministers fraternal'. Originally this was to have been a group of Catholics who were senior people in Government and in business, to discuss subjects concerning the present set up, including the then Prime Minister, Cde Mugabe and later Dr Bernard Chidzero, the Minister of Finance.

He worked with Fr Paul Crane, S.J. at Claver House in London for a short while from 1984-1985. When he came back to Zimbabwe he was parish priest at Corpus Christi, Chinhoyi and local superior. He died from a weak heart at the relatively early age of 61 in 1988.

The funeral Mass was in the Cathedral which was packed by a congregation that was made up of a good cross-section of the Catholic community: clergy, brothers, sisters, lay people of all walks of life, very many *chita* women, a busload of parishioners from Chinhoyi, with 75 priests concelebrating (Jesuit, Franciscan, Carmelite and diocesan). The cathedral rarely saw a funeral Mass like this. The way people made the effort to be present was a great tribute to Fr Mangan's touch with people.

8 August

## Fr DENIS MANGAN

12 March 1927 – 8 August 1988



Born in Enfield close to St Ignatius, Stamford Hill, Denis went there for his schooling and entered the Society sixteen years later. But it was war time and he had to serve in the armed forces for three years before he could finish his novitiate. Ordained in 1957, he worked in the Apostleship of Prayer in Rome and continued this work, together with the Sodality, when he came to Lusaka (1962) and Salisbury (1964). He was based at Prestage House until 1969 when he went to Mazoe to combine the work with taking charge of the pre-novitiate and being Vocations Promoter. Also, during these years he tried to help young people by starting Study groups in St Peter's Mbare and, later, in Chinhoyi.

In 1975, he went to Umvukwes (Mvurwi) as parish priest but returned to Salisbury in 1977 as administrator of the Cathedral. He started a meeting called 'Ministers' Fraternal' and it was not for religious ministers but (mainly) Catholic politicians, especially ministers. Five, including the then prime minister (Mugabe), came to the first meeting at St George's and Bernard Chidzero, Minister of Finance, attended several later ones. In 1984 he was asked to go to Claver House in London to assist Fr Paul Crane who had started this study house in London for African Students in 'Civics and Leadership Training'. He returned to Zimbabwe a year later and went to Chinhoyi as parish priest at the Cathedral there. But he had a heart condition and within three years he was dead.