

23 August

Br LAURENCE CONNORS 8 March 1909 – 23 August 1985



Larry Connors' father served in a military band based in Aldershot, England, where his son was born. Larry went to Mount St Marys and after school worked in a solicitor's office for a while and was trained as a singer, becoming 'a magnificent tenor'. He wanted to be a Jesuit but not a priest. He entered in 1933. After vows he was posted to Stonyhurst where he and Fr Dicky Wren became close lifelong friends. Unbelievably

Brothers were not allowed to talk to the boys. Larry had a nephew in the school and tried to doge this injunction. This seems to have been an experience that made Larry wary of superiors all his life. He felt they were 'out to get you'.

In 1947 he came to Africa and was at St Aidan's for a short time and then Chishawasha. He then moved, in 1949, to St George's for almost thirty years. He was secretary to the rector and in charge of the college choir. He later became minister and was inclined to say 'no' to every request for money. But his community learnt that if they came back again the next day, he would often say 'yes'. This was a time, Dicky Wren tells us, when he flourished. It was the time of the Federation and they toured Zambia (N Rhodesia) with the college choir; Lusaka, the Copper Belt, Livingstone and Bulawayo. Larry was prominent in the music world and once sang solo in the *Messiah*. Dicky says he lacked self-confidence yet longed to behave and speak freely.

In 1978 he moved to Garnet House as the Superior's secretary and minister to the house. Three years later he was minister at Prestage House. He was 'a good man – humble and loving'.