

6 September

Fr PATRICK O'DWYER 31 August 1880 – 6 September 1961



Born in Dublin and educated at the Jesuit College, Mungret, in Limerick, Patrick O'Dwyer entered the Society in Ireland in 1900 but transferred to the English province on his being accepted for the Zambezi Mission. Ordained in 1913, he reached South Africa in 1915. He spent a short time in Southern Rhodesia before settling for eleven years at St Aidan's but there is no mention of him in the *St Aidan's Record* beyond his arrival and departure. This tells us about the man: he was 'a quiet, unassuming person who did nothing to hit the headlines.'

In 1927 he left for Salisbury and parish work there but the following year he returned to England and spent thirty years in Lancashire in different places, principally St Wilfred's, Preston. When he visited the people, they found they had to do the talking! Yet he spent hours in the confessional without complaint – sometimes from 2 pm to 9 pm during Lent.

A La Sagesse sister wrote after his death, 'He was an example to everybody, always so humble, patient and forgetful of self, always ready to help the suffering. I will always remember his great charity and patience while he worked with me in St Mary's parish. At the bedside of the sick and dying he brought them such consolation and the most obstinate sinners could not resist his kindness and he always got them to make their peace with God.'