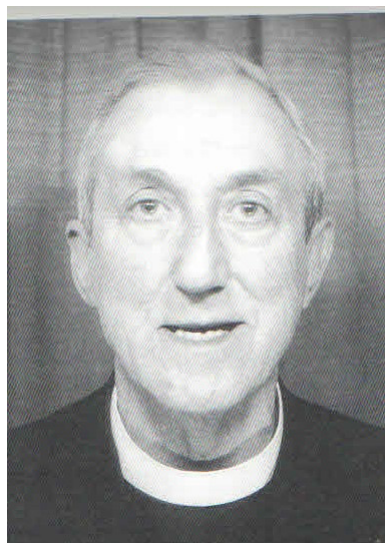


10 October

## Fr CHARLES HUGHES

10 July 1907 – 10 October 1998



Charles Hughes – also, perhaps, called Boxer Hughes (?), was an enigma. He was very intelligent and trained to be a professor to teach Jesuits but those who knew him would say, with wry smile, ‘he was never cut out to be a teacher’. Yet he studied ancient languages in Beirut for two years and did studies in Rome. But somewhere there was a disconnect. His obituarist calls him a *polyhistor*, a word this writer had to look up. It means a man of varied learning. He knew a lot about many things but perhaps could not put it together to enable him to become a teacher.

He was born in Gillingham, Kent, England, and was educated at the Mount and St Aidan’s. He entered in 1924 and was ordained in 1937. He did a variety of parish placements and teaching assignments but none lasted long. In 1957 he was in Blackpool where he was to spend the next 35 years on and off.

He came to Africa to teach at the seminary in 1967 and helped out in teaching Maths at St Ignatius. But he only spent the inside of two years.

After his many years in Blackpool, the people mourned this ‘gentle giant’ when he died.