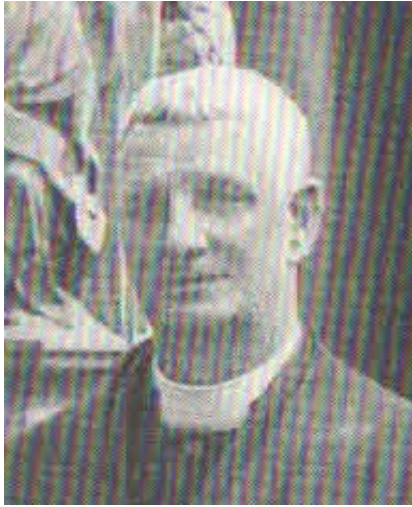


19 October

## Fr JAMES CROOK

13 June 1871 – 19 October 1950



James Crook, from Accrington in Lancashire NW England, went to Stonyhurst and seems to have found it – at least for a time – the centre of the universe. A contemporary wrote, ‘He liked being in a great and self-contained community. There was no place like Stonyhurst and there were no Jesuits to compare with Stonyhurst Jesuits. He was massively cheerful ...’ He spent one year in Africa (1909-10) in which he taught small boys at St Aidan’s. But his career in the classroom did not last and he ‘spent from 1911 to 1942 in a succession of parishes in the north, ... As he grew older his sermons became more and more inaudible and his Mass longer and longer. In 1942, he retired to St Beuno’s and eight years later died there.

In passing, his brief obituary observes that James Crook’s was ‘a period when, year after year, Stonyhurst and Mount St Mary’s regularly provided between them a good third of the vocations to the novitiate in Manresa.’