

20 October

Fr OSWALD FISHWICK 10 August 1910 – 20 October 1989

Born in Liverpool, Ossie was still 16 when he entered the Society in 1926 after his education at Benedictine-run Ampleforth College in NE England and Jesuit SFX college in his home city. Ordained in 1940 he was given various teaching jobs but he was not a teacher. He was a pastoral man with a bent towards administration and he shone in this dual role as, what the Jesuits knew as, Min Dom, Minister of the House – ‘with much power and little responsibility’.



He did this in Boscombe and Manchester and it was during this time that he came to Africa for two years in the early 1960s in St Aidan’s and Campion House, Salisbury. Neilus O’Donovan was with him in St Aidan’s and found him pleasant and friendly but he, Neilus, had the impression Ossie saw himself as a visitor and never ‘unpacked’.

Back in England he was much liked for his kindness especially with children. He always had a secret drawer in his room where they could find goodies – except in Lent! While in Boscombe he made such an impression that Bishop Worlock made him a sort of delegate for religious which meant he had to visit religious houses and keep them happy.

Nick King once celebrated a Taizé Mass with a group of youngsters informally sitting on cushions or on the floor. Ossie joined them and Nick was impressed at his breadth of openness.