

2 November

Fr LAWRENCE WISELY 22 June 1905 – 2 November 1954



Born in Leeds, Lawrence Wisely came from a staunchly Catholic Yorkshire family with ‘simple and rocklike faith’. He entered the Society in 1922 and taught at Beaumont for his regency, 1930-33, and was ordained in 1936. He then went to St George’s where he taught French and Maths.

His contemporaries saw him as ‘unimaginative in his stubborn Yorkshire way’, essentially a realist calling things by what they were. His community at St George’s enjoyed his creation of a fictitious ‘Wisely Hall’ in his home county which seems to this writer to suggest he was not so ‘unimaginative’ after all! Certainly he was seen as warm and sympathetic in his relationships and he was loved by children

He was faithful to the drudgery of school life: preparing lessons and marking books but he was a sick man. He had a weak heart and climbing those stairs at the college was a huge ordeal for him. He died aged forty-nine of a thrombosis.