

5 November

Fr FRANCIS HULL

12 August 1925 - 5 November 2018



Born in Blackburn and educated at Mount St Mary's, in 1947 Frank followed his elder brother Ronald into the Society after four years' service in the Royal Marines. For part of his novitiate he was involved in the move from Roehampton to Harlaxton. They were the Walkerley years. He was a Master of Novices who made the novitiate less 'military'. But Frank's contemporaries noticed in him a restraint and control of feelings that would recur throughout his life. He was ordained in 1957 and so began a life where he was always willing to do supplies. Paul Kennedy, his tertian instructor, thought him 'too wedded to tradition and not appreciative enough of those who thought differently.'

Frank certainly seemed unsettled in the political and church turmoil of the 1960s when he was in Rhodesia. He was out here 1960-67 at Kutama, Chishawasha, Monte Cassino and St George's. In 1963, Terrence Corrigan, the Superior, wrote to the provincial to say Frank was not committing himself to the Mission and some years later when Edward Ennis took over, Frank was anxious to go back to Britain and Ennis had to ask him to 'possess your soul in patience' as he was needed on the mission and he encouraged him 'to give yourself wholeheartedly to the job you are doing'. Frank, seemingly was one who sent off 'representations' to his superiors on a regular basis. Ennis encouraged him; 'I am still far from convinced that your fulfilment and happiness in the Society lies in a return to the province'.

But return he did and he became a 'revisor' of accounts in the province – a task he did well and was much appreciated. 'A grand man; the best boss I ever had' was the succinct verdict of a long-time worker at the Mount. In the 1980s Frank was working in the prison service and his work was much appreciated again. He even had a letter from Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, commending his courage in negotiating with the inmates who had gone on strike and taken to the roof of the prison.

His last task, at the age of 75, was to become the parish priest at Chipping Norton where he was much loved by the people. He then retired to Preston where he died.