

13 November

Fr GEORGE EDMONSTONE 12 July 1916 – 13 November 1986



George, known also as ‘Eddie’ or ‘Ed’, Edmonstone was a South African, born in Pietermaritzburg and educated by the Christian Brothers. He did a BSc in Engineering before joining the novitiate in 1938 and was ordained eleven years later. For almost twenty years he taught Maths at St Aidan’s before moving to Rhodes University where he was the most intelligent and yet boring teacher of his subject (Mike Lewis)! In 1976 he moved to a parish and finally became chaplain to the Assumption

Sisters in Grahamstown.

In the 1960s he became more politically aware of what was happening in his country and he joined the South African Institute of Race Relations in the early 1970s.

He was known to have a bluff manner but also people knew there was a kind heart beneath it all. He cared for the poor by being involved in feeding schemes and with those with mental disabilities. At his funeral, Xolile Kateyi spoke of his having a difficult and independent character but of his commitment to justice. He loved people in his own way – not as they always wanted to be loved.

People not only lamented his passing but also he was the last link in the one hundred and eleventh years’ relationship of the Jesuits with Grahamstown (today Makhanda).

Finally there was the dog! Ed was very fond of his dog Gertie and brought her everywhere. She had the front seat beside him. Passengers travelled in the back! Mike Lewis tells us there was a Theological Winter School in Lesotho one year and there was much correspondence to and fro arranging a visa for Gertie.