

17 November

Br JOHN TAYLOR

21 September 1899 – 17 November 1981



John Taylor came from an Anglican family in Westhaughton near Bolton, Lancashire, and he never lost his Lancashire accent. Those who lived with him in later years recall his fund of stories about his home country as well as his different experiences on the mission. He served in the army from 1918 to 1920 and soon after was received into the Catholic Church. He entered the Society in 1923. Nine years later he was in Chishawasha and in 1936 he moved to Driefontein. He then went to Mhondoro in 1945 for twenty years before moving to the Seminary where this writer met

him. His last years were spent at St Ignatius.

At 16, before being called up for military service, Br Taylor had become an apprentice mechanic and engineer in Bolton and this was his trade where ever he went in this country. The photo, by Fr Jack Gillick, captures him perfectly. He combined practice with teaching others and included carpentry in his subjects.

Migraine and deafness plagued his last years. He was an avid reader and this helped him in his later days. The provincial, Henry Wardale, after one of his visits to him, reported him as saying, 'I am liquidating my assets', seemingly meaning he was giving away his pipes. At his funeral Henry spoke of him as a man whose 'hands were moving and whose eyes were smiling for fifty years'.