

3 December

Fr HENRY WILCOCK 2 February 1904 – 3 December 1953



Born in Blackpool, NW England, Henry Wilcock spent most of his life as a priest in the then Rhodesia. He was educated at Mount St Mary's and joined the Society in 1922. He did his regency at his old school and after ordination in 1936 moved to Africa and settled at St George's in 1940.

He was a successful teacher but 'did not like opposition' and brushed it aside. He wanted things done his way! He was a man of 'overwhelming enthusiasms' which he expected others to share.

One of his enthusiasms was Rhodesian history and he would have the boys cutting out relevant articles and put them in a scrap book which some of them kept for life.

He also made films of school life and developed the dark room at the college. He coached rugby and tennis and gave retreats during the school holidays.

When he moved to Champion House in 1948, he took a great interest – and got personally involved – in adding substantial additions to the Catholic Centre, a kind of Social Centre for Catholics. Given the era, this writer would think the centre was mainly, if not totally, used by whites. Wilcock's desire to get the job done astonished his companions as he had little money, just big powers of persuasion.

He had heart trouble and nephritis, 'a condition in which the tissues in the kidney become inflamed and have problems filtering waste from the blood' (Google). He was only 49 when he died.