

3 December

Fr JOHN BARON

26 December 1899 – 3 December 1972



John Baron was born at St Helen's, Lancashire, and was educated at St Francis Xavier, Liverpool. He entered the Society in 1916 but his novitiate was interrupted by a call up for military service in World War One. He did his regency in Beaumont and Malta and was ordained 1930. Though he loved children, he could not keep order in the classroom when he was posted to the junior school at St Aidan's (1933-39).

In 1939 he returned to the UK and worked on the parishes at Preston and Wimbledon during the Second World War when there were flying bombs in London. He never let up in his visiting of the sick.

After the war, he moved to Boscombe as Parish Priest and was known for his great friendliness. In 1961 he went to Oxford, again in the parish and he was particularly good with the people of colour in that cosmopolitan city. He was always available for counselling and confessions.

He had an arthritic hip and it made walking – and cycling - painful but he kept up his visiting. He found the new liturgy of Vatican II not to his taste but he loyally accepted it. His Requiem was in Oxford and his burial in Boscombe.