

9 December

Fr IAN FALCONER

5 September 1916 – 9 December 2004



Victor Ian Falconer was born in Panang, Malaysia, and did his secondary education at the Mount. He visited Rome before joining the Society where he met Mussolini, Pius XI and Fr General Ledochowski. He joined in 1934 about the time his family changed their name from Ezechiel to Falconer. Ian studied 'Greats' (Classics) at Campion Hall and then taught at Stonyhurst. He was a gifted musician, a violinist, and played, sang in the choir and even taught dancing as well as putting on plays and coaching rugby.

After ordination in 1949, he returned to Stonyhurst in 1952 and remained there until he moved to Southern Rhodesia in 1960 to teach at St George's. Ian taught classics there and did religious broadcasts and, no doubt, returned to the rugby field. When he became known, he was invited to join the University and he became a lecturer and tutor in classics, helped in the drama society and the Bach Choir as well as being the chaplain. He even became the first public orator at the university college, a post which involved him in 'presenting interesting people for honorary degrees'.

After 15 years, he reached retirement age in 1981 and received an 'unsolicited and unexpected' invitation to teach in Perth, Australia, and he moved there for the remainder of his life. He taught Classics, Ancient History, Music, German and French. He also ran 'extension courses' in Religion, Classical Studies and Michelangelo!

He worked up to the end and was doing a translation of a study of Chinese rites on the day he died.