



## **Father Anthony ISHERWOOD**

**(1911 - 1998)**

*Died 23 September 1998, in Liverpool (England)  
aged 87, with 65 years of Religious Profession.*

Anthony Isherwood was born in Bolton, Lancashire, on 22 September 1911, and grew up in the Wigan area. Having spent some time at the Diocesan seminary, he went to Montfort College, Romsey, where he completed his secondary studies, and then went to France to make his novitiate at Celles-sur-Belle, where he made his first profession in the Company of Mary on 8 September 1933. There followed six years of priestly studies at Montfort-sur-Meu, after which he was ordained priest in the Cathedral of Rennes on 4 March 1939.

He asked to be appointed to the foreign missions in Malawi, then called Nyasaland, and departed for Africa towards the end of 1939, just after the outbreak of the Second World War. There he hoped to be given a direct apostolic ministry, but instead was asked to devote himself to education. He spent many years engaged in this ministry, and was one of the founders of the first Catholic Secondary School in the country, the Zomba Catholic Secondary School, popularly known as "Box 2". He also served as headmaster for some years of the junior seminary in Zomba diocese, the Child Jesus Seminary at Nankhunda. Later he served in a number of mission stations, before being forced to return to England after nearly 37 years in Africa, by the influence of a former student of the Nankhunda seminary whom he had had to dismiss, and who, having gained a position in government, was able to deny him a work-permit.

On his return to England, Fr. Isherwood continued to work in parish ministry for a number of years, first in Todmorden (as curate to his former bishop in Zomba, Bishop Hardman, then later as parish-priest there), then in Blundellsands, Liverpool, where he acted as assistant priest in the local parish. Eventually failing eyesight and hearing led him to retire from an active ministry, but he retained his physical fitness, and spent many hours gardening. At length even his keen interest in gardening had to be foregone, and he then spent his time saying the Rosary or listening to his radio. The Lord finally called him home, after a brief illness, on 23 September 1998.

**MAY HE REST IN PEACE**