

Father Anthony McCOY
(1931-1997)

*Died 2 December 1997, in Liverpool (England)
aged 66, with 43 years of Religious Profession.*

Fr. Anthony McCoy was born in Liverpool in 1931, a parishioner of St. Sylvester's, and in 1947 after a primary school education, he went to study for the priesthood at Montfort College, Romsey, Hampshire.

From Montfort College, Fr. Tony went to the Noviciate, at St. Joseph's, Ashurst, Hampshire and then on to St. Mary's Scholasticate, Church Stretton, Shropshire where, after six more years studying, he was ordained priest on 13 March 1960. In 1961, he went off to Malawi in Africa. He spent the first six months learning the language at Mpiri and Magomero, and then he was sent to teach at Nankhunda Seminary, where he taught for six years. A change came in his life when, in 1967, he was appointed by the late Bishop Lawrence Hardman, s.m.m. to work in the parishes of Utale Mission and Namitembo. So, after nearly eighteen years on the Missions, Fr. Tony returned back to England and in 1978 he was appointed assistant priest at St. John the Baptist's, Andover, Hampshire. But after only one year there, he, in his usual generous and obliging manner, accepted to go to Cromwell House, the then student house, in London, to be the bursar and a member of the formation team. But this was not Fr. Tony's forté, so in February 1981, he departed for the parish of St. Peter's in Ludlow, Shropshire and from there, in September 1983, he was appointed Parish Priest at St. Teresa's, Totton in Hampshire.

After several years there, ill-health forced him to semi-retire, and he went to Montfort House in Liverpool, where he spent his latter years, ministering to the Convents in the area and the local church of St. Joseph's, Blundellsands. After several years trying to cope with his illness and more than one visit to the local hospitals, Fr. Tony finally lost his fight to survive.

He died on the 2nd. December 1997 in Fazakerley Hospital in Liverpool, his home town.

He will be remembered for his affability, friendliness and of course his smiling face. No matter how one approached Fr. Tony, he always had that beam across his face. He spoke with such simplicity and with absolutely no malice or anger behind any of his words. He was such an affable and friendly person with a very special character, a character that was truly Montfortian.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE