



## **Father Brian FARRELLY**

**(1924 - 1996)**

*Died 29 March 1996, in Liverpool (England)  
aged 71, with 51 years of Religious Profession.*

Father Brian Farrelly was born in Liverpool on 3 April 1924, and baptised the day of his birth because of fears for his health. After completing his primary education at St. James's, Bootle, he did his secondary studies at Montfort College, Romsey, between 1936 and 1942. Because of the War, and the fact that no novitiate had yet been set up in England, he went straight from Montfort College to Leagram Hall, Chipping, to begin his study of Philosophy, then after one year made his Novitiate at St. Joseph's, Totton, where he made his first Religious Profession on 8 September 1944. Returning to Leagram Hall, he continued his priestly studies there and at St. Mary's Scholasticate, Church Stretton, and was there ordained priest on 12 March 1949.

The first twenty years of his priestly life were dedicated largely to the itinerant mission. He was based at Leeds, Liverpool, Totton and Barrhead at various times, while preaching parish missions around the country. He also had two periods (of two years and one year, respectively) when he taught Scripture and Church History at the Scholasticate. In 1970 he became director of the Retreat House at "Sandymount" in Liverpool, from where later he returned to preaching missions.

In 1975, he began a new phase of his ministry: he went back to study for a postgraduate qualification in education, armed with which he spent the next ten years as head of Religious Education teaching in a comprehensive school outside Liverpool. In 1986, having already successfully qualified in the study of English Civil Law and obtained an LL.B., he turned his attention to Canon Law. He spent two years studying for a degree at the Gregorian University in Rome, after which he was appointed in 1989 as *Defensor Vinculi* in the Marriage Tribunal of Liverpool Archdiocese, a post which he held until he was taken ill early in 1994, at the same time offering his expertise in Canon Law as a service to the Province.

The illness from which he suffered over the next two years gradually incapacitated him more and more. He had to be cared for in a Nursing Home, with occasional stays in hospital, but it seemed that nothing more could be done for him. He died in Fazakerley Hospital in Liverpool in the early hours of 29 March 1996.

**MAY HE REST IN PEACE**