



**Father George SMITH**  
**(1911 - 1983)**

*Died 3 September 1983, in Lunzu (Malawi)  
aged 71, with 50 years of Religious Profession.*

Father George Smith succumbed to a heart attack on the morning of 3 September 1983. He was an English confrere, originally from Preston, where he was born on 23 September 1911. He was 14 years old when he went to Romsey for his secondary education.

He made his novitiate in France at Celles-sur-Belle, where he made his first vows on 8 September 1932. Ordained a priest on 4 March 1939 in Rennes Cathedral, he received his obedience for the mission house at Le Calvaire in Pontchâteau. But the war had just broken out, and so he stayed in England, where was to be a teacher and bursar in Romsey first of all (1939-1946), then in the scholasticate in Church Stretton until 1953. In that year he was sent to Malawi where he was to continue his career as a teacher and bursar in the minor seminary of Nankhunda (1953-1972). Then he was appointed to the preparatory school of St Stanislas in Thondwe, where he remained until 1983.

As he spoke French very well, and was endowed with a happy temperament, during the years he spent in the diocese of Zomba, he contributed greatly to the unity between the two groups of Montfort Missionaries (English and French), facilitating exchanges between confreres of different languages.

At Nankhunda and at Thondwe Fr Smith made the minds of those aspiring to the priesthood bloom. As well as priest and religious he was a natural teacher, who would accept any subject as a good religious should but especially relished the teaching of Latin. In the Chapel his talent as a musician enabled Nankhunda's choir to rival any in the country and gave its students an abiding love of Gregorian Plainsong; while as bursar his prodigious ability in gardening enabled the seminary to become self-sufficient in fruit and vegetables. This man never buried his talents but used them fully in the service of God and of those given into his care.

His final call to God came quickly and unexpectedly but he was ready for it. In his breviary he had a paper on which he had written the following words: "We are warned many times by Our Lord to be ready, to be watchful at all times. We all know that we are but travellers and strangers on this earth."

A telephone call from Father Provincial informed us of his death in the hospital in Lunzu. Fraternally we pray for the repose of his soul.

**MAY HE REST IN PEACE**