



Father John BAYLOR

(1914 - 1990)

*Died 3 July 1990, in Blantyre (Malawi)
aged 75, with 56 years of Religious Profession.*

Father John Baylor was born on 4 December 1914 in Fermoy in Ireland. He entered the apostolic school in Romsey in 1928 with the intention of becoming a priest. At the beginning of 1933, following a misunderstanding with one of his teachers, he decided to leave Romsey, but the superior of the day, Father Fradet, regretting the departure of a young man for whom he had a great regard, suggested to him that he should go to the novitiate of the Brothers in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre. So John became a Montfort Brother, making his profession of vows in Saint-Laurent on 19 March 1934.

He was barely 20 years old, and was immediately sent to the Shiré mission. After two years in the plantations at Nsipe, he went on to the agricultural school in Zomba. Later, in this same place, he worked on the construction of the secondary school. He was a genuine Montfort Missionary, but he had never lost his attraction to the priesthood, and after many long delays he was finally able to take the path towards this: a year studying Latin, a second novitiate with the clerical candidates, the study of philosophy and theology, occupied the years from 1947 to 1955.

Ordained a priest on 1 January 1955, he immediately went back to the mission in Malawi, to which he was to dedicate his whole life. Among the various posts where he worked - Nankhunda, Namitembo, Utale, Sitima, Putea - we should make special mention of Sitima, where he stayed from 1981 onwards. Despite concerns for his health in these latter years, he did not want to leave Malawi. The Lord accorded him the grace of dying in his beloved mission, and he died in Blantyre Hospital on 3 July. From 1934 to 1990, he had experienced a long page of Montfortian history in Malawi.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE