



## **Father John LYDIATE**

**(1909 - 1983)**

*Died 14 December 1983, in Liverpool (England)  
aged 74, with 50 years of Religious Profession.*

John Lydiate was born in Great Crosby, Lancashire, in Great Britain, on 11 May 1909. He was baptised a few days later in the parish church of Ss Peter and Paul. He began his secondary education at St. Mary's College, Crosby, and completed it at Montfort College, Romsey where he spent two years.

In 1932 he entered the novitiate: like all the English confreres in those days, he went to France, to the community of Celles-sur-Belle, where, a year later, he made his first vows. That was on 8 September 1933. He was to make his perpetual profession at Montfort where he studied philosophy and theology for 6 years. On 4 March 1939, he was ordained priest in Rennes Cathedral. At the end of that scholastic year, he returned to England.

The outbreak of war found him at Montfort College, where he was a teacher and bursar for 4 years. This was followed by a period of pastoral experience in a small parish for three years towards the end of the War. Then he was appointed as bursar to the scholasticate in Church Stretton, a post he held for two years. In 1948 he was appointed to the new house in Liverpool, which remained his residence until his death. He was made Vocations Director, and for twenty-six years he travelled about the country, visiting schools and houses, each year obtaining a large group of boys for the seminary at Romsey. And through his work he was a well-known Montfort Father to priests everywhere. For a number of years he was also superior of the community in Liverpool.

When he retired from vocations work at the age of sixty-six, he remained in Liverpool, at the mission house, and devoted himself to the people of the local parish, especially to the sick.

In recent years his health began to fail, but he continued his work in the parish until he suffered a stroke on 22nd November and was taken to hospital. He did not respond to treatment and died peacefully in less than a month, on the 14th December. He died close to the scenes of his childhood.

'Father Jack' was a devout and zealous priest, assiduous in prayer and remarkable for his devotion to the Blessed Virgin and to his daily Rosary, which he never missed. Without doubt, our Lady will be waiting to greet him, with her Son, to regard a life of fidelity in their service.

**MAY HE REST IN PEACE**