



Father John MOLLOY

(1911 - 1978)

*Died 10 December 1978, in Rome (Italy)
aged 67, with 47 years of Religious Profession.*

On the morning of 10 December, Father John Molloy was not at the gate when the Sisters of the Redemption, whose chaplain he was, came to collect him for Mass. A few moments later, Father Jacques Limpens found him dead in his bed. He had suffered a stroke.

John Molloy was born in Liverpool, England, on 12 February 1911. His father was a seaman and he retained a strong affection for the dockland areas of Liverpool where he was born and experienced his childhood. From 1914 until 1924, he attended the parish school of St Alban's. He was 13 when he went to Romsey where the apostolic school of Pontchâteau had found a place of refuge. It was there that he acquired that perfect knowledge of French which was to be so useful for the Congregation in the offices he was to hold in later years.

He made his first profession in Celles-sur-Belle in 1931, and pursued his theological studies in Montfort-sur-Meu. He was ordained priest in Rennes on 12 March 1938. He stayed in France for the first two years of his priestly ministry, in Pontchâteau, where he was a preacher and a teacher. Just escaping the German invasion in 1940, he was professor of philosophy in England for a year, and then went to do further studies. After three years at the University of London, he obtained a degree in French language and literature, "*summa cum laude*" (First-class Honours).

Then he left for Malawi. He was to be Director of Catholic Education there from 1945 to 1966, and a missionary. A brief interlude took him to the United States for three years, where he taught literature. Then he returned to Malawi and served as a missionary in various posts (among others, parish priest of Zomba cathedral) from 1969 to 1974.

From that date onwards he was at the General House in Rome, where he rendered precious service as a translator. He agreed to work for a year in the Pontifical Commission "Cor Unum" at the Vatican. But his failing health prevented him from continuing. The Lord came to take him home rather suddenly during Advent. May he receive him in peace.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE