



Father Samuel ERSKINE

(1935 - 1992)

*Died 1 September 1992, in Liverpool (England)
aged 57, with 31 years of Religious Profession.*

Born in Belfast in Northern Ireland on 4 August 1935, Fr. "Sam" (as everyone knew him) had already left school and worked for a time before entering the Junior Seminary at Montfort College, Romsey in 1953 at the age of 18. Being so much older than the majority of his fellow-students was difficult, but this did not deter him, and he entered the novitiate at Ashurst in 1959, making his first profession on 8 September 1960. He studied philosophy and theology at the Scholasticate of the Province of Great Britain and Ireland at Church Stretton, and was ordained a priest on 5 March 1966 in Glasgow.

After his ordination, Fr. Sam exercised a wide variety of ministries, including teaching at Montfort College, Romsey, acting as chaplain to a large Catholic school in the Southampton area, Novice Master, and Vocations Director. It was during this latter phase that he was instrumental in developing the "Caring Church Weeks", a joint venture between many dioceses and religious congregations in Great Britain, aimed at fostering vocations among the youth to the priestly and religious life. He came to national prominence when he was requested by Archbishop Warlock of Liverpool, on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, to organise the first National Pastoral Congress in Liverpool in 1980. He was much in demand for retreats to religious.

Fr. Sam was elected Provincial in 1981, and served two terms, one of six years and the other of three. At the expiry of this second term, he volunteered to go to Uganda to help in the establishment of a Montfortian presence in that country. His stay in Uganda was not, however, to be a long one. Having fallen ill, he spent two weeks in hospital before being flown back to Britain. It was too late, however, to arrest complete renal failure, and he died at one o'clock in the morning on Tuesday, 1 September, at Park House Nursing Home and Clinic in Liverpool.

A Requiem Mass will be celebrated at Ss. Peter and Paul church, Gt. Crosby, Liverpool at 2.00 p.m. on Friday of this week (4th September), before Fr. Sam is buried in the Montfort Fathers' plot in his beloved Belfast.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE