



Father Thomas FLAHERTY

(1924 - 1984)

*Died 14 October 1984, in St Helens (England)
aged 60, with 40 years of Religious Profession.*

Thomas Aloysius Flaherty was born in Bootle, Liverpool, on 12 September 1924. He entered the junior seminary, Montfort College, Romsey, in Sept, 1936 and after completing his secondary education there in 1943, he started his novitiate at St Joseph's Totton on 8 Sept 1943, making his first profession a year later in 1944. His scholasticate was spent at Leagram Hall, Chipping, near Preston, from 1944-47, being completed at St Mary's, Church Stretton, (1947-1950). He was ordained priest by Bishop Murphy of Shrewsbury on 4 March 1950.

Almost immediately his great desire to be a missionary was realised, for his first appointment was to Malawi where he was to remain for the next 18 years. He worked successively at Mwanza (1951), Nankhunda (1951), Nsipe (1952-58), Magomero (1958-1964), Balaka (1964-1966), Namitembo (1966-1969). He returned to England in 1969 and worked successively as an assistant priest in Liverpool and St Helens (Merseyside) (1979-1984) where he remained till his sudden death on Sunday evening, 14 October 1984.

Fr Flaherty ('Fla' to his confreres and friends) leaves us with the memory of a kind-hearted, practical, if occasionally a somewhat unpredictable confrere. He was always a good confrere with a sense of fun and full of life. All those who lived with him will remember him with affection - his natural assumption being that everyone would do his best for him; exasperating but lovable, with a real concern that others were happy. No doubt he is chuckling as he looks down on reading these lines.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE