

Salesian College,
Battersea.
SW11.

Dear Confreres,

The good Lord has visited this house again and unexpectedly called to himself

FR. STEPHEN FITZPATRICK. SDB. (Aged 38)

This good confrere was born in Airdrie, Scotland of Owen and Joan Fitzpatrick on August 16th 1900. His mother died when he was 12 and his father when he was 18. Stephen felt a desire to enter religious life and he went to Battersea in 1920. He completed his studies prior to entering the novitiate and then began his novitiate year in 1922. He was professed in 1923 and, at the end of his philosophical studies he was sent to the house of Claremont in South Africa and later, after one year, transferred to the house in Cape Town. In both houses he gave proof of great activity and zeal. He was recalled to England in 1926 and he worked and studied at Battersea and then Farnborough where, in 1930 he was ordained priest.

After his ordination he worked increasingly and with enthusiasm and the boys responded to his efforts. Unfortunately his health began to deteriorate and he had to undergo a fairly serious stomach operation. When his condition improved somewhat he was asked to take on the office of Bursar at Cowley and also look after the new Oratory there. In 1933 he moved to Battersea to work as curate in the Parish and leader of the Youth club. He was very solicitous in visiting the parishioners and took a special interest in the children of the families. He carried on this good work for two years but his health again began to deteriorate. He spent some time in a Convalescent home and later at Blaisdon before returning to his work amongst the youth of the parish at Battersea. On Thursday, December 2nd he said Mass and had breakfast but soon afterwards he felt quite unwell. He was persuaded to go to bed and the doctor was sent for but it was obvious that he was very seriously ill and the doctor did not give any hope for his recovery. He was anointed and confreres said prayers for the dying as he died about 1.30. p. m.

A Solemn Requiem Mass was sung in the Sacred Heart Church, Battersea, on Monday the 6th December attended by several of the local clergy, by boys of the Salesian College, Battersea, and by representatives of the other Salesian Houses. A large number of parishioners of the West Battersea parish were also present, and some of the teachers and children of the Parish Schools, and of the Boys' Club in which the deceased Father took a very active interest.

May he rest in peace.

Your affectionate confrere,

Father F. Couche. SDB.