

Memories of Fr. Frederick Lonergan C.Ss.R

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by Fr. Beverley Ahearn C.Ss.R

Fr. Frederick Lonergan he spent many years, most of his Redemptorist life in Sunderland, I don't know why, but he died there in 1968.

Round about 1960 Fr. Hughes as provincial, made an official visitation to Sunderland and in talking to Freddy, he said to Freddy, you say Mass too quickly in the morning. He said I want you when you are taking a public Mass to take at least 20 minutes over the Mass. Frederick said yes father.

The next morning he was on the early Mass the 7 o'clock and he said Mass in the usual way or his usual way rather, until he had said the last Gospel and in those days, remember, we read the introduction to John's Gospel at the end of Mass. And after the Gospel he turned to the people and said I can't give you the blessing yet I have to sit down for 5 minutes because Fr. Provincial has ordered me take 20 minutes over Mass, so if you don't mind waiting I'll sit down, and with that he sat down for five minutes got up gave the blessing and left the altar, and after that the Provincial never insisted on anything with regard to Freddy saying Mass.