

Memories of Fr. Edward O'Brien C.Ss.R

 redemptorists.co.uk/in-memoriām/memories-of-past-confreres.html

Published: 26 May 2014

by **Fr. Beverley Ahearn C.Ss.R**

Fr. Edward O'Brien who died in 1980 in Clapham.

Fr. O'Brien known usually as Eddie was brought up or educated in a Jesuit school in London, but went to our novitiate when he had finished what was then called the Higher School Certificate. On completing his studies and being ordained, the then Provincial Fr. Peter Deary sent him to Cambridge against advice he had done no preparation at all for the University course, his exam had been taken about seven years previously, his Higher School Certificate, and he just was not ready especially for a university such as Cambridge. As a result he studied for three years but he did fail his finals and did not obtain a degree. However, he was sent to the juvenate, our junior seminary which was in Bishop Eton, and he taught there Maths & Latin. He became director of the juvenate in 1939 and he continued and I Beverley Ahearn was in the juvenate, during part of that and for the latter part of that time.

He had a way of teaching Latin which taught us a lot more I think about English. Every time we translated something from English into Latin, every single word had to be parsed. And he had his own abbreviation, so for instance if you used the word 'mensam' you would have to put a bracket after it and you had 'nsfa' noun, singular, feminine, accusative, and every word had to be parsed, in that way it helped us to understand exactly what we were doing, understand the English, how to put it into Latin. And I think quite a number of boys learnt more about English Grammar through that system of translating than they did in their study of Nesbitt's English grammar book

Eddie O'Brien was in Bishop Eton where he worked for a time on the Mission Staff. He was in Clapham helping out on the parish. He was in Chawton, as well, for a short time as Rector of the Publications House, though not involved actually in the Publications themselves. He returned to Clapham where he died in 1980.