

Memories of Fr. Patrick Fury C.Ss.R

by Fr. Beverley Ahearn C.Ss.R

Fr. Patrick Fury who died in Perth in 1987.

Pat Fury suffered as far as I can make out for most of his life from depression. I think it's called bi-polar nowadays it used to be called manic, I've forgotten the term. Pat Fury was working in several communities, and when he was feeling well in his more manic phase, he would be able to help in different ways in the Parish, saying Mass particularly, hearing Confessions, but when he reached his other stage and he was feeling vaguely depressed, then he more or less kept to his room just reading novels or something like that.

He had a gift for languages, when he was in Wales he met a number of Italian prisoners of war, who had stayed on working on the farms near Machynlleth, where we had our community, and he learnt fluent Italian from them, he also learnt quite fluent Welsh for the few years he was there in Machynlleth.

When he was in Bishop Eton in the '70s, he went through a very good phase and he was helping out a lot in the Parish saying Public Mass every day, but the drawback was he could not cope at all with the post Vatican 2 church. He was entirely committed to the Tridentine Church, and he would take every opportunity when he was saying a public Mass of preaching against the modern church which he used to call communist, and he used to condemn it.

One day he got up and he said, before he began Mass, the Rector has forbidden me to preach at these midday Masses, but he hasn't forbidden me to give an introduction so if you sit down I will now give you the introduction to today's Mass.

He spent his last few years in Perth where he very much kept to himself and led a very quiet unnoticed life virtually in his own room, and when he died there he was buried in the Monastery cemetery.