

# Memories of Fr. Peter Deary C.Ss.R

by Fr. Beverley Ahearn C.Ss.R

Fr. Peter Deary died in Bishop Eton in 1965.

He was one of our great missionaries. Preached missions, or was in great demand as a giver of missions. I think probably his greatest asset was the fact he was never fully satisfied with the sermons he was preaching. He was noted for being on the lookout for items in the daily press or items of news on the radio some things in periodicals, examples, incidents and making notes of them, copying down stories, making notes so that he could use them next time in his sermons.

Many missionaries used to talk in terms of I have a sermon on the Mass, I have a sermon on marriage in such a way that they had written a sermon that would do them for the rest of their missionary life. In that sense Fr. Deary never had a definitive sermon. He had sermons that had begun had been improved but that were always open to further improvement. Better examples, more up to date examples, and I think that was part of the reason for his popularity as a missionary. He always seemed to be up so very much up to date in his preaching

## Part 2

Another memory I have of Peter Deary in his later years was what a young missionary said about him. The young missionary had given some missions with Fr. Deary as the third man as a group of three, someone who left us later, and he said of Fr. Deary, how helpful he was, not only that could he help but he was anxious to help the young men to preach better, to become better missionaries. And he was pretty good himself this young man but he said of Fr. Deary that no matter how much he helped you none of us would ever become as good as he was, and that's a memory that has stayed with me for many years.