



## **Obituary for Father George Webster ssc**

**25<sup>th</sup> August 1932- 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

George Webster was born on the 25th August 1932 in Lewisham, South London, England. Educated at The Salesian College, Battersea from 1943 to 1951 and at the English College, Valladolid, Spain from 1951 to 1957, he was ordained for the Diocese of Southwark on 9th June 1957 by Bishop Cowderoy at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Lee.

George did Parish ministry in Brighton and Kingston-on-Thames between 1957 and 1962. It was while at Kingston that he met and worked alongside his fellow curate, Father John Lavery. They became great friends and in later years, George was to become Father John's regular summer supply.

During this time he volunteered with the Columbans and travelled to Peru in November 1962 where he remained until 1968.

George decided to join the Society of St. Columban and after a probation year in Dalgan in 1968, returned to Peru in October 1968. He had various parish appointments in Lima between 1968 and 1989 and during this time, was Pastoral Vicar for 3 years for the Northern Zone of Lima Archdiocese.

George was appointed to Britain in April 1989 for mission promotion and was part of the mission promotion team until December 1997, which was extended to June 2001. He then took up university chaplaincy at South London University for 2 years until September 2003. He continued his chaplaincy work part time, combined with supplies in a number of parishes in the Archdiocese where he had begun his priestly ministry in 1962.

In June 2006, a need arose in the parish of St. Patrick, Chislehurst and George was appointed 'priest in charge' there until his retirement in 2014 when he took up residence in the retirement wing at St. Columbans in Solihull.

He is remembered at St Patrick's for his pastoral outreach and concern for those in need. He had his own unique style of ministry but above all, he was keen to preach and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all those he met. He was a popular member of the Deanery Clergy and was present at most Diocesan gatherings of clergy. He also did much to promote and support the ministry of newly ordained priests and deacons inviting them to his parish to celebrate mass and preach. For a number of years he allowed his church to be used for practical training for those men in formation for the Permanent Diaconate.

Following his retirement Father George moved away from the diocese and returned to his religious community. He was a popular member of the Solihull community with a dry wit and plenty of jokes. He was always willing to do weekend supply in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. He assisted in opening the daily post in the Solihull office until shortly before his death.

A former chaplain who worked with Father George at the South London University Chaplaincy wrote the following in tribute to him "One of George's catchphrases was "Lo mejor por el Señor!" (the best for the Lord), something he used to repeat often to the students in encouraging them to give themselves totally to God. One of George's great gifts. He was always completely himself, with no airs and graces, and this made it possible for others to be themselves around him. After working so many years in Peru, poverty was something George took seriously, though he lived this quietly and with no fuss."

Father George Webster who died on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020 in his 87<sup>th</sup> year and in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Year of his priesthood. Remembered for his kindness, his heart and his total commitment to service.

May He Rest in Peace and rise in glory.

*Parts of this Obituary have been provided by the Columban Fathers*

