

## FR BASIL POSTLETHWAITE 1950-2017



Fr Basil Postlethwaite will be remembered by many as Br Basil, who came from our Parish of St Alban's in Warrington to join the Monastery in 1968, until 1981 when, under the guidance of Fr Mark Butlin (O49) he left to work in the Parish of St Ninian's under the Parish Priest Fr Jock Dalrymple (O46, died 1985) and to prepare for his ordination in 1983 to the priesthood when he was incardinated in the Archdiocese of Edinburgh.

He had an adventurous life and it was not unfitting that it was with some parishioners on the *Camino* on pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, which he had done several times, that he died suddenly.

Besides teaching economics, having read History and Economics at St Benet's, he helped with the Scouts and led many to a lasting love of canoeing and mountaineering. Some remember endless games of bridge with him in a tent waiting for the rain to stop or in the back of the Land-Rover on the way to Scotland or the Lakes.

Following ten years working with base communities in Salvador, he transferred from Edinburgh to Clifton Diocese where he served as Chaplain, first at St Mary's, Shaftesbury and then St Edward's, Cheltenham. In 2013 he did the *Camino*. He planned to start on the Feast of the Assumption and left Le Puy en Velay on 15th August. He reached Santiago in early December. Subsequently he returned to the *Camino* on many occasions, often taking parties from his parish. Following this, he was appointed as Parish Priest of English Martyrs at Chard in Somerset. Many in the parish spoke of the positive change in their spirituality that he brought about by his example and his preaching, though he remarked once; "actually, I'm really preaching to myself."

It was with some of these parishioners that he was walking from Barcelos in Portugal to Santiago de Compostela and, on the fourth day, 16th September 2017, collapsed and died one evening in his hotel room. One Old Amplefordian wrote of him: "he was undoubtedly the coolest monk I ever met" and another wrote of his distinctive and infectious laugh, as he said "Listen, you'll love this" which will continue to resonate for years to come.