

Robert Frank Arthur Bracey

Isle of Wight County Press - 9th January 1954

PRIEST DIES AFTER FALL

FATHER R. F. BRACEY,

OF NEWPORT

Mr. J. G. Fardell (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the Royal I.W. County Hospital on Monday on the Rev. Robert Frank Arthur Bracey. O.P., aged 83. of Lower New Close, Watergate Road, Newport.

Dr. J. J. Dowdall said that during the last two years Father Bracey's health had deteriorated. He was called to the house on December 26th, and sent him to the County Hospital suffering from a fractured neck of the femur.

Miss Veronica May Everingham, housekeeper, said that between 11 and 11.30 a.m. on December 26th Father Bracey was in bed, and she went to fetch him some coffee. He had been more poorly than usual for several days. She had been gone from the room only two minutes when she heard a bump, and returned to find him on the floor. She thought he had got out of bed and had felt giddy. A neighbour assisted her to make him comfortable, and the doctor ordered his removal to hospital.

Dr. P. C. Vivian (house surgeon at the County Hospital) said that when admitted with a fractured femur on December 26th, Father Bracey's condition was very poor. It gradually deteriorated, and he died on January 1st. Death was due to Myocardial heart disease following the fracture.

The coroner recorded a verdict of death from natural causes.

ISLAND ASSOCIATIONS

Father Bracey's association with the Island dated from 1933, when he was appointed chaplain to St. Dominic's Priory, Carisbrooke, on retirement from active work. He continued in this office for some 18 years before going to reside at Lower New Close, Watergate, during the last war.

He belonged to an Edgbaston, Birmingham, family, which was closely associated with the medical profession, was received into the Roman Catholic Church in 1887, and entered the Dominican Order in 1891, being ordained in 1896. He had resided in various houses of the Order in London and elsewhere in this country, as well as in the West Indies, where he was engaged in missionary work.

Father Bracey was a first cousin of Admiral Sir John Edelsten, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth, who visited him at Watergate in September.

The funeral took place on Tuesday. The ceremonial being conducted by the Provincial of the Dominican Order, Father Hilary Carpenter, of London, in the presence of Island Roman Catholic priests. Requiem in the chapel of St. Dominic's Priory was followed by burial in the old Roman Catholic part of Carisbrooke Cemetery, in the same grave as a former friend and member of the Order, Father Lawrence Peach, who died in 1919.

Messrs. H and F. Damp, of Newport, made the arrangements.

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