

Fr Brendan Sullivan MHM

MILL Hill Father Brendan Sullivan, who once ran the parishes of St Helena, Falkland Islands, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha, died in England on September 22 at the age of 91.

Born in 1923 in Bradford, England, he entered the Mill Hill congregation in 1941 and was ordained a priest in July 1947.

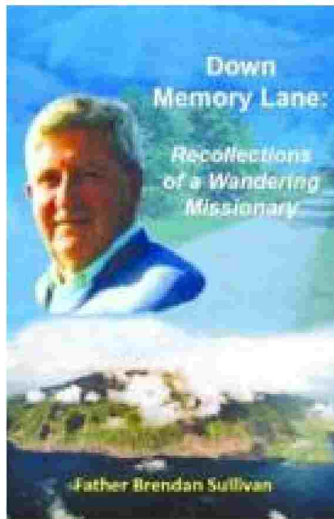
He was immediately appointed as formator in his order's seminaries.

In 1954 he was allowed to follow his missionary dream when he was sent to India, where he served for a decade in Nellore diocese.

In 1964 he was sent to the United States, where he took part in the famous Selma March at the height of the civil rights movement.

Six years later he was elected to the order's general council, with special responsibility for finances.

Eager to return to mission work, he accepted an appointment in 1989 to the prefecture of



Falkland, a posting which also included the remote islands of Ascension, St Helena and Tristan da Cunha in the South Atlantic.

Fr Sullivan served these remote

areas through Royal Air Force flights and hazardous sea voyages in small fishing boats.

In St Helena he gave regular religious epilogues over the radio for the islanders.

St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha were established as a *Mission Sui Iuris* (or independent mission) in 1986 from the archdiocese of Cape Town.

Fr Sullivan periodically visited Cape Town, usually as a guest of Mgr Clifford Stokes in Sea Point.

The late columnist Owen Williams wrote about Fr Sullivan in *The Southern Cross* in June 1992. In his article, reproduced in the anthology *Any Given Sunday*, Mr Williams quotes Fr Sullivan as describing his island-hopping ministry as "a holiday".

In 2009 Fr Sullivan published a memoir titled *Down Memory Lane: Recollections of a Wandering Missionary*.

Fr Sullivan returned to Britain for his retirement in 1996 at a Mill Hill house near Liverpool.