

# Obituary

## The late Rev. Dr. Dermott McCrea

The death took place, in Dublin, on Friday May 21st, of the Rev. Dr. Dermott McCrea O.F.M. A native of Athlone, the late Dr. McCrea was the youngest son of the late Aileen and William McCrea, 8 St. Brigid's Tce.



The Late Rev. Dr. Dermott McCrea.

He received his early education at the Marist Brothers National and Secondary Schools. After his Leaving Certificate he entered the Franciscan Order and having completed his Noviciate, attended Galway University, where he obtained an Honours Degree in Mathematical Physics.

Following his ordination in Rome, in 1961, he began his study of the "Relativity Theory" in Louvain, with the renowned Belgian Cosmologist, Abbe Georges Lemaitre, and wrote his Ph.D thesis under the direction of Professor J. L. Synge.

Dr. McCrea joined the staff of the Mathematical Physics Department in University College, Dublin, 25 years ago. His field of special interest, in which he was an internationally recognised expert, was Einstein's Theory of Relativity.

He was much sought after and lectured extensively, worldwide, in this field. He was a brilliant scholar and teacher who introduced modern relativity theory into University College, Dublin. His clear systematic presentation of complex ideas was remarkable and is a treasured memory of all his past students. He was an exceptionally modest man but his example both to students and colleagues was powerful. Evidence of his careful scholarship can be found in his many published papers in international scientific journals and will remain a source of encouragement to young, able and idealistic Irish

students for generations. His example to his colleagues of patience, care and the value of constant quiet study has been appreciated and will remain for them a wonderfully warm memory of Dr. McCrea.

His remains were removed from St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin, to Merchant's Quay Church on Saturday evening, May 22nd. Among the many colleagues and friends awaiting to pay their tribute was the Most Rev. Dr. D. O'Connell, Archbishop of Dublin.

The interment took place in the Franciscan plot in Shanganagh Cemetery on Monday, May 24th.

Chief mourners were: sister, Mrs. Mary Leech, Athlone, brothers, Vincent (Lincolnshire), Liam (Kent), Finian (Dublin), brother-in-law, Col. George Leech, (retired), sisters-in-law, Rita and Ursula, nieces, nephews, and members of the Franciscan Community to whom the deepest sympathy is extended.