



*Very Rev. Patrick Toner, S.J. (Headmaster)*

**In Memoriam – Fr Patrick Toner, S.J.  
(September 7, 1910-January 21, 1983)  
Taught at Wah Yan College, Kowloon, 1948-1963  
Father Rector, Wah Yan College, Kowloon 1952-1957**



**Plaque in Wah Yan College, Kowloon – List of Principals**

## A. Photographs, 1952-1963

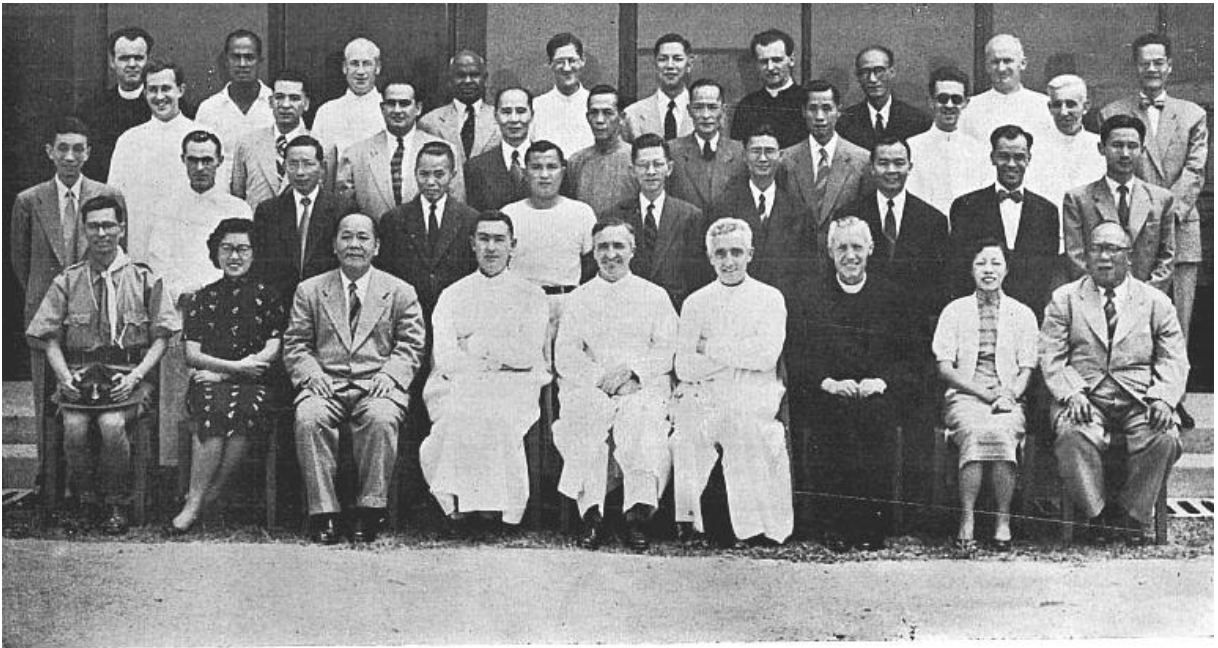


**LOWER SIXTH ARTS**

		3	31		27	8	1		12	
	11	22	20		19	16	13		2	
26	15	10	6		14	9	32	29	21	17
28	7	23	18		30			24		

Form-Master: Fr. Toner S.J.

## F6A, 1961-1962



THE STAFF (1952-1953)

1952-1953, Staff – bottom row – 5<sup>th</sup> left



**TEACHERS OF ENGLISH**

**1961-1962, Staff – top row – 3<sup>rd</sup> right**



**1962-1963, Staff – 2<sup>nd</sup> row from top – 3<sup>rd</sup> right**



Guests  
on the  
Verandah.

**1952-1953, with guests**



"The opening of the  
School Year"

**1953-1954, opening of the School Year**



Easter Baptisms

1953-1954, Easter Baptisms

THE SCOUTS



1953-1954, with scouts





**Father Rector at the Bazaar.**

**1954-1955, at the School Bazaar**



## 影留田沙行旅員教體全校本

1957-1958, staff picnic

**B. From “Jesuits in HK, S. China & Beyond” by Fr Morrissey, S.J. – p 361**

**Fr. Toner and Wah Yan Kowloon**

Patrick Toner, rector of Wah Yan Kowloon, informed the Irish provincial, Michael O’Grady, on 19 July 1954: “The standard of teaching remains quite good if it is to be judged by examination results, but compared with some other schools we are weak in subjects such as biology, mathematics, art and singing.” Referring to Fr. Kevin O’Dwyer, he remarked: – “When Fr. K. O’Dwyer was sent to Malaya it was on the understanding that it was only for three or four months. He is, I am told, not at all happy to find that the change is permanent”.<sup>(35)</sup>

On 1 January 1955, Toner was able to report “there are now 900 students in the school of whom 360 are Catholics”. “The past students have been organised by Fr. (John) Collins in Hong Kong, and those who have gone to Formosa have been kindly looked after by Fr. O’Hara (Albert O’Hara who had worked in Hong Kong with Ladany), who is taking good care of them. The school premises were used during the year very often for retreats for students and laymen.”<sup>(36)</sup>

On 7 July 1955, Toner in his usual six monthly report to the provincial, Fr. O’Grady, singled out for praise, the minister, Fr. John Foley, who “by his unobtrusive care for religious discipline, his attention to detail and charity to the community, as well as by his hospitality to visitors, contributed to the spiritual and material welfare of all”. Toner also gave credit to Fr. Morahan “for his work in building up the sodality ... and other Catholic activities in the school for the past eight years”. “I also felt that it was a pity”, he asserted, “that the work he began in the Catholic Teachers’ Association has not been allowed to develop.”<sup>(37)</sup>



C. From The Shield 31 (1983)

## Death of Father P. Toner, S.J.

*from The Sunday Examiner*



*Father Patrick Toner, S.J.*

Father Patrick Toner, S.J., former Rector of Wah Yan College, Kowloon, died in Ireland on 21 January, aged 72.

Father Toner was born in Belfast on 3 September, 1910. His family was driven out of Belfast by the 'pogroms' of the early 1920s and settled in Dublin, but in many ways he himself remained a Belfast-man, tenacious of any opinion of course of action that he had taken up.

In 1930 he interrupted his university studies to enter the Irish Jesuit noviciate, and he adhered firmly throughout his life to the lessons he learned as a novice. His closest friends used say that he arrived in the noviciate with a slight Belfast accent, but as the years passed this accent became stronger and stronger — more tenacity!

He arrived in Hong Kong as a Jesuit scholastic in 1937. In addition to regulation language study and teaching, he did a considerable amount of work for the refugees who poured into Hong Kong after the fall of Canton to the Japanese in later 1938, even spending a short period in much-troubled Canton.

In 1940 he went to start his theological studies in Australia, and was ordained there in 1943. Having finished his theological studies, he returned to Ireland to do his last year of Jesuit training, and to visit his family, to whom he was deeply devoted.

He returned to Hong Kong in 1946 and took up

teaching in the Wah Yan Branch College under the headmastership of Mr. Lim Hoy Lam in Nelson Street, Kowloon.

In 1947, Mr. Lim retired from the administration of the school and Father Toner became headmaster. In 1951 the school moved to its new premises in Waterloo Road, dropping 'Branch' from its title and becoming Wah Yan College, Kowloon. Father Toner as Rector and headmaster directed the move, and the great expansion of the school and the formation of its new traditions.

In 1964, having completed his period of rectorship, he transferred to Wah Yan College, Hong Kong, and taught there until 1976, taking charge also for some time of the Night School and of the Poor Boys Club.

This career of education, administration and pastoral work taught him much about meeting the problems that life presents, but it did not change his character. He arrived in the Jesuit noviciate 51 years ago as a cheerful, uncomplicated, deeply devoted young man. He died last month as a cheerful, uncomplicated, deeply devoted old man. May there be many like him!

As might have been expected, Father Toner did not take kindly to the changes that multiplied in the Church during and after Vatican Council II. This never caused any breach between him and those who eagerly followed new ways; it did lend a special flavour to his confabulation with those who thought like himself. He and his dear friend Father Carmel Orlando, P.I.M.E., came closer than ever together as they pondered in company the wisdom of *The Wanderer* and sighed energetically over the antics of extremists.

In 1976 Father Toner left for Ireland. Soon after his arrival his health began to decline. He retained his mental powers and his cheerful spirit unimpaired, but his bodily strength faded gradually, but inexorably under the strain of arteriosclerosis.

He suffered a stroke on January 20 and died early the following morning.

Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated this evening, 4 February, at 6 o'clock in the chapel of Wah Yan College, Kowloon.