Fifty years have passed since the death of Ronald Knox, almost as many since the biography by his close friend Evelyn Waugh appeared. Terry Tastard sets out to utilise the added perspective which the further half century gives us, to set Knox’s life ‘in the context of his own times, and of ours’.

So here we have a readable, thoroughly researched book, from which much can be learned not only about its subject, but also about Eton College, Oxford University, and the Catholic church in England. This gives it a fascination for anyone with an interest in those times and places.

The author’s own story has its similarities to that of Ronald Knox (he was once a valued brother of SSF), but he succeeds in maintaining a historian’s objectivity. It is to be hoped that he will attract a wide readership both within and without the Catholic Church.

(Readers of franciscan may not be aware that Ronald Knox had a brother Wilfred - not a twin, but close to him in age - whose life followed a parallel course to Ronald’s in the Church of England as a priest of the Oratory of the Good Shepherd, and who lived in Cambridge for many years in their house in Lady Margaret Road which from 1939-1970 was St Francis House.)

Anselm SSF