I darken these two white pages with all grateful memories of my parents, all my teachers, friends and students.

Special acknowledgements to Prof. Sakthivelan, (Retd.) of Thiagarajar College, Madurai, who first introduced me to *Brighton Rock* and the Kierkegaardian 'leap' in it. Next, (late) Rev. Fr. Lawrence Sundaram, S. J., former Principal of Loyola College, Chennai and Retd. H. O. D. of English, St. Joseph's College, Trichy tempted me to review *The Power and the Glory* as an existential gospel. These two made it easy for me to seize on *The Heart of the Matter* and *Monsignor Quixote* on my own.

I particularly record my indebtedness to the libraries of The British Council in Chennai and Thiruvananthapuram, of St. Joseph's College and Seethalakshmi Ramasami College, Trichy. I cannot leave out Prof. Eugene D'Vaz, a bibliomaniac like me, who introduced me to other Catholic novelists demanding comparison with Greene.

I remember the encouragement I received from the All India English Teachers Association and the Trichy Book Club, under (late) Dr. Balagopal.

Last to be mentioned here but the greatest contributor to this thesis, Dr. S. Kalyani, my respected Guide—unlimited in her patience, readiness, tolerance and Christian scholarship—for the continuous encouragement she gave me with her books and ideas. She has gone through this thesis, which, is, after her weeding, every line of it, ... at my convenience!
No one can miss to notice in this thesis the inspiration by One Person who has dominated my entire being from my childhood—Our Lord Jesus Christ, whose dynamic personality and fiery words are the cause of any thing great or good in it.

All the dross is mine, and only mine, in truth, written by me.

Its physical existence, it owes to Dr. M. Kalidoss, Reader in Physics, St. Joseph’s College, Trichy, my colleague, friend and comrade in Association of University Teachers—typing it using \LaTeX on his own PC, printing it, correcting it and getting it bound—all, his work. Merely thanking him is belittling his contribution. The contents are mine, containers ... his. He is the shaping spirit. Without him this thesis would have remained formless and invisible! I have to thank Mrs. Kalidoss for sparing his services and time.

Finally, a great thanks to all the innumerable beings who have reflected my waves in their ether.