

23 January

Fr JOSEPH VERDIN 13 April 1863 – 23 January 1956



Born in Bovigny, Luxembourg, Joseph Verdin joined the Jesuits in 1881. 1889 found him at St Aidan's where he hoped to get 'acclimatised' for the Zambezi Mission. But it was not to be. He spent his whole life as a priest, 1900-56, at St Aidan's, teaching Maths and Science – and cricket.

David Dryden tells us St Aidan's had superb cricket teams. 'I don't know if Verdin coached the 1st Eleven but the three Tancred brothers all played for South Africa and one of them became Captain,'

He was devoted to the students both at school and after they left and was secretary of the OA Union for many years. He had 'the knack of inculcating independent thought in the boys.'

He was fluent in English but with a French accent and became known as 'Quoits' as he never quite managed to say 'quite'.

His reputation lived on after him and Michael Lewis, who never knew him, often heard him referred to affectionately when he was at St Aidan's.