

May 27

Fr ADOLPH BONTEMPS 23 September 1858 – 27 May 1894

Born in Fourmien, France, twelve years before his young brother, Peter, who also joined the Society, Adolph entered the novitiate in 1879 and was ordained twelve years later. He did half of his training in Europe and half in Africa, mainly at Dunbrody.

Though not there when it happened, Fr Aloysius Leboeuf later wrote to Peter to tell him about his brother's death. While at Vleischfontein, 'he cut his hand with a knife to which some of the blood of a diseased goat still adhered.' Blood poisoning soon set in and they tried to get him to a doctor at Gaborones 30 miles away.

But the doctor was not there when they arrived as he had been called to Mafeking, four days journey away. Meanwhile, Leboeuf had heard the news and set out for an all-night journey in a wagon to reach him but got lost. When he did arrive, he found Adolf had died in the afternoon of the day before.