

27 July

## Fr JOSEPH ERHART

30 July 1863 – 27 July 1940



Joseph Erhart was born in Issenheim, Alsace, then in France, and remembered the pain felt in the family when the province was annexed by Germany after the Franco-Prussian war. The imposition of a foreign language and culture affected him for life and he could explode when people said something that touched this wound in him. He was *impayable*, incalculable, in the sense that no one could guess how he was going to react. This proved a useful quality in keeping order in the classroom!

He joined the Society in 1883 for the Zambezi Mission and so did his novitiate in England. He was in Dunbrody in 1886 for his philosophy and at St Aidan's in 1891. He was ordained in 1897 and returned to St Aidan's after tertianship. In 1906 he was in Empandeni and the following year he moved to Bulawayo and Gwelo and back to Bulawayo. In 1924 he returned to Dunbrody and in 1931 moved to Musami. Finally, in 1934, he moved to Borrowdale where the Dominican sisters had their House of Adoration at the time. The record gives little other detail except the comment that he was the sort of person who preferred to mend a tennis net rather than hit a ball over it.