

28 July

Fr JOHN WILSON

13 May 1865 – 28 July 1930



John Wilson came from a Catholic family in Lancashire almost in the grounds of Stonyhurst College. His father was an overseer of a mill and young John remembered the unrest among the workers when the mill was mechanised. He was the fourth of eleven children and eleven of his class in Mount St Mary's College entered the Jesuit novitiate in 1883. He did his regency in Malta, was ordained in 1898 and taught at Glasgow and his old school, the Mount.

He went to St Aidan's in 1903 but was judged to be 'highly overstrung' and this may account for his short stay at the college. (This portrait of him was taken in 1904). He did some preaching in

Port Elizabeth before being diverted to British Guyana and Barbados where he spent ten years. There, it is reported without elaboration, 'his nervous disposition made him an effective preacher'!

In 1914, he was back in the UK. In Glasgow, Richmond and Leeds. He became socius to the Master of Novices but his growing disability forced him to gradually let go of his different tasks.