

31 August

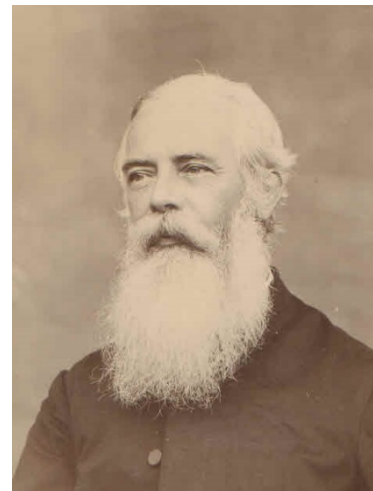
Fr HENRY GILLET

4 December 1842 – 31 August 1911



Born in Fleetwood, Lancashire, NW England, Henry was one of four brothers who entered the Society. He was educated at Stonyhurst and entered in 1861. He was ordained in 1875. In his varied life he taught at Dunbrody, Jamaica and in Honduras, where all four brothers were together for a time. It was while he was there that he was arrested and nearly executed. He strayed into Guatemala to see the deep blue Isobel Lagoon (which reminds one of the Chinhoyi caves). But Guatemala had banned Jesuits. He knew this but took it lightly. He was arrested and thrown into the common jail with all sorts of prisoners. In those days, as in some places to this day, judicial procedures were arbitrary and, as mentioned, he was almost killed. In fact a report was published saying he was dead. However the wheels of diplomacy turned just in time to save him.

He was superior at Keilands in 1895 and Dunbrody from 1896. In 1902 he was in Salisbury on the parish and as chaplain to the Dominican sisters. He returned to Dunbrody where he died of dropsy, ‘a term used to describe generalized swelling synonymous with heart failure. Its treatment options were scanty and were aimed to cause "emptying of the system" or to relieve fluid retention. These remedies were rudimentary, erratic in action, and associated with inconvenient side effects’ (Wikipedia).



The photos show him as a young man and later in life.