

2 September

Fr PATRICK WOLFE 10 August 1860 – 2 September 1941



How Patrick Wolfe, born in Finuge near Listowel in the SW of Ireland, came to go to school at Mount St Mary's is not explained. He then entered the Society in 1881 and returned to the Mount for his regency in 1888. He was ordained in 1895 and spent some time at Beaumont before returning to the Mount as rector for eight years in 1904. He was tall and erect 'with a fleeting smile and a twinkle in his eye'.

He was in his element and the Mount flourished under 'his vigorous rule'. Known as Bo, he had a love for the boys – the house 'was like a coffin', he said, when they were not there. There were epidemics, partly caused by over-crowding, and he would write to each parent affected twice a week to give a report on their son. He inspired them to great academic results.

'He had strong opinions and all the obstinacy of his race. If people differed from him, he cared nothing of it.' He wrote to Pope Pius IX to ask permission for frequent Holy Communion and received a personal reply granting it which was later framed and is displayed to this day in the Lady gallery.

He encouraged cordial relations between the staff and the boys and encouraged the teachers to take their classes for walks.

To combat the over-crowding, he greatly extended the building and his successor followed this up with further expansion.

Then comes the brief mention of his time in Africa. He was at St Aidan's in 1913 but by 1914 he was a chaplain in the army (See photo).

In 1919 on being demobbed, he went as parish priest to Wardour and then Boscombe before spending his last eleven years at St Beuno's, a semi-invalid.