

10 September 1893

## **ROLAND THOMAS**

31 August 1864 – 10 September 1893



Scholastic Roland Thomas was born in Penmanmaur in Wales. His father died when he was three and his mother had not only Roland but two other children to raise. She became a Catholic and on hearing the news, young Roland's teacher launched into a diatribe against Catholics. This made Roland interested in Catholicism and he followed his

mother into the Church in 1877. He was then sent away by his mother to be educated in Catholic schools in France. He joined the Jesuits in 1883 and, while at St Mary's Hall for philosophy, he displayed 'the fullness of a loving character.'

Later he taught at Beaumont for two years but in 1892, showed signs of consumption – 'a wasting disease, especially pulmonary tuberculosis' – and was sent to St Aidan's as 'a last resort' – but he died there. The picture shows Penmanmaur, up the estuary from where the British province have a holiday house visited by generations of Jesuits and where Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote a poem.