

12 September

**Br PATRICK CAULFIELD** 20 November 1867 – 12 September 1934



Br Caulfield came from Bockagh, a village near the town of Ballaghaderreen in the NW of Ireland. He joined the Jesuits in 1895 and after vows, he spent some time at Claremont, where an attempt was made to start a mission in CapeTown but it failed. He moved to Dunbrody where he remained until his death 37 years later. Fr Lallemand wrote of him; ‘to spend 37 years in the same kitchen when the temperature often reaches close to 40 degrees is to live in the vestibule of Purgatory.’

The kitchen was near the horses’ stable which attracted ‘half a million flies’. Water was scarce and there was a community of ten to feed. Yet he was always bubbling over with cheerfulness. He was painstaking in his cooking and was a baker too. He also cured the bacon and came to make good quality wine and even brandy.

Caulfield wrote a diary of his boat journey out with Fr Alphonse Vogt and a scholastic. He describes the struggle to get permission to celebrate Mass in the ‘Senior Smoking Room’ on the ship each morning. Before they crossed the equator it was stifling hot in the cabin and he used to sleep in the open on deck. He found it a monotonous weary voyage. There was not another ship in sight day after day.

He describes his first months at Dunbrody and the isolation of it. ‘Nothing to see for miles around except bushes and thorns.’ When he wanted a tooth extracted he had to journey 43 miles to see a dentist