

11 October

26 February 1906 – 11 October 1977

Fr. José João GONÇALVES

Born in Ferro, Concelho da Covilhã, on 26 February 1906, he entered the Society of Jesus on 19 August 1924, in Oya, Galicia, where he also studied philosophy. He did his regency at Colégio da Nóbrega, in Recife, Brazil. In 1935, he started his theological studies at Entre-os-Rios, Penafiel. He was ordained priest on 11 October 1938, in Braga. He took his final vows on 02 February 1941, in Macieira de Cambra. He was part of the first group of Jesuits that restarted the Mission of Zambézia, Mozambique (1941). He had a lot of knowledge about the language and customs of the people of Angónia and Macanga, as well as he had great knowledge of their pathways as he was a tireless traveller and a zealous missionary. The expression “the baobab tree has fallen” defines his greatness and religiousness as he endured a lot of pain till the end of his life. He died on 11th October 1977, in Covilhã.

(Cf. APSI, Livro das entradas; Necrológio; JESUÍTAS..., n. 37 e 38 de 1977)