

23 October

Fr EDMUND COLLINGRIDGE 14 June 1885 – 23 October 1934



Born in Northampton, Edmund Collingridge (seen here on the left. Fr Gilooly is on the right) went to Mount St Mary's and joined the Society in 1903. He taught for five years at Beaumont before theology and ordination in 1918. He was immediately drafted into the war as a chaplain and, though it ended that year, there were plans to send him to Egypt and even Russia but they were dropped and he was demobilised in 1920.

By 1923 he was in Kutama and in 1925 in Driefontein with responsibility for Mvuma and the outstations of Hama's and Holy Cross – both of which would become missions. He plunged into activity – his great friend Mr A Jowitt,

Director of 'Native' Education, described him as 'vibrating with energy' - and he reorganised Driefontein, shifting and renewing buildings and introducing electricity. He encouraged Br Göll in the planting of trees and developed the 'model village'. He encouraged women to be involved and some of these went on to be sisters. He had a clear mind and discerning love. Jowitt, who was to donate a sanctuary lamp to the mission chapel inscribed 'To the Master from A Jowitt', later wrote of him, quoting Kipling, 'he filled "the unforgiving minute with 60 seconds run"', and he added, 'the Jesuit Order has given men talented and devoted for the benefit of the Europeans and the Africans and with Fr Collingridge they gave of their best.'

But he was a sick man. He went to Mauritius once and later to England to try to recover his health. He died aged 49 in Sinoia hospital attended by his ever faithful companion we only know as Tommy.