

2 December

## **Br THOMAS TRYERS**

13 May 1879 – 4 December 1951



Tom Tryers was one of a family of five who all joined the Jesuits. After school at St Francis Xavier, Liverpool, training as an accountant and leaning to shoot with the Liverpool Irish Volunteers, he entered the novitiate in 1898.

In 1904 he was at Dunbrody and moved to St George's, Bulawayo, as a cook in 1911. He worked '26 hours a day' for the school and was 'always in a hurry and always happy'. His cooking specialities earned him the name 'nougat' and he could be seen 'wrangling' with the boys, telling them stories, supporting their games – it was still a soccer school and he came from the soccer north of England. His stories were often just faintly possible, but mostly outrageous: how to capture a lion with a bag of pepper? Make them sneeze and then catch them by the tongue. He would also go camping with them in the Matopos and using his shooting skills to bring in some game.

Later, after a short while at Champion House, he moved to St Aidan's where he used his accountancy skills. He sang (bass) in the choir and never missed a debate.

In 1934 he returned to England and was part of the Heythrop community until his death seventeen years later. John (Toots) Davies remembered his talks on the missions where he 'held his audience spell-bound'.

One day he did not come to Mass and when the Brother Infirmarian went to his room he found him slumped over an open missal on his desk.