

7 July

Fr EDMUND DELPLACE 6 May 1841 – 20 July 1927

Born in Bruges, Belgium, Edmund Delplace followed his fellow Belgian, Henri Depelchin, to India where he was ordained in 1873. He worked for a time there in the Ganges delta but became ill and had to be sent home where Depelchin's successor as superior of the Zambezi Mission, Alfred Weld, found him and invited him to come to Southern Africa.

He was rector of St Aidan's for a year and spent much energy in polemics with local people hostile to the Catholic faith. His articles – 'blazers' - for the local paper made for good sales. In 1885 he moved to Vleischfontein where he was frustrated by the slow progress of the mission. Bad health intervened and in 1890 he returned finally to Belgium where he became a renowned preacher, confessor and retreat giver for the next 37 years, mainly in his home city of Bruges where he died.

From Wikipedia.

Vleischfontein, also known as **Sesobe**, is a town in [Moses Kotane Local Municipality](#) in the [North West](#) province of [South Africa](#).

It was founded in 1884 as a Jesuit mission station, built on land bought from a local farmer, on the farm Vleischfontein. It was intended that the mission station would serve as a stopover point for missionaries bound for the [Zambesi Mission](#). The mission was successful, and the local **baPhalane** slowly converted to Christianity; the missionaries also managed to grow wheat, citrus fruits, figs and vines.

When the Zambezi missions was closed, the Vleischfontein mission was handed over to the [Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate](#). In 1948, the introduction of apartheid saw the designation of the district as a whites-only area, and the Oblates were forced to sell the mission and leave, relocating to the nearby [Silkaatskop](#). Vleischfontein was then purchased by an Afrikaner farmer. The mission was temporarily reopened in 1976, but when the area became part of the [Madikwe Game Reserve](#) in the 1980s it was shut down permanently.