

2 August

Fr ARTHUR GRAHAM

1 October 1881 – 2 August 1958



Born in Lincoln, ‘Pops’ Graham went school at the Mount where a fellow Jesuit, a senior in the school at the time, remembers him as having ‘insufficient respect for us, so we had to kick him a few times to keep him in his place and help his education.’ He entered the Society in 1902 and learnt German during philosophy. Ordained in 1915 he became a military chaplain the next year learning French and Italian in the process. See photo, preparing Mass.

In 1921, he sailed for South Africa and spent his first three years at St George’s Bulawayo, teaching modern languages and doing pastoral work at the week-end using a motor cycle, the first Jesuit in the country to do so. He later graduated to a car and was deemed by his companions one of the worst 12 drivers in the world. He was then appointed to the Cathedral in Salisbury and spent the next 33 years there. The cathedral was just being completed when he arrived, ‘too big’ for some observers in the beginning, it soon became ‘too small’. They had six Masses on a Sunday at the end of his time.



He had a great love for the cathedral and the organ he did so much to acquire – not that he could play. In his 33 years he seemed a solid institution while everything around him was changing. Campion House was more like a hotel than a religious house as the doorbell and the phone were ringing constantly.

The calls on his time were unending and sometimes he would bark – but never bite. The work with the schools and the hospital were increasing all the time. He was known as a genial person who took everything in his stride though he little patience for ‘the modern habit of unremitting questioning. He found it hard to understand why the church’s teaching was not as clear to everyone else as it was to him’!

When he did retire, he went to Silveira House, the novitiate, as minister. He was now, using his military language, ‘a full blown private’, but died soon after.