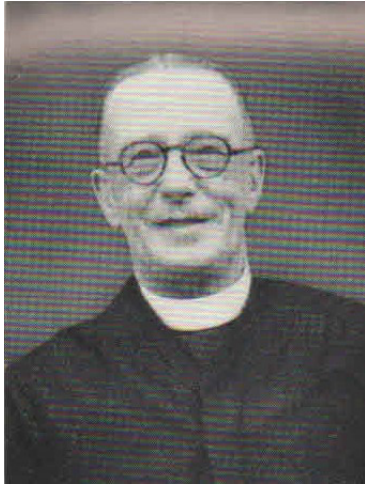


4 October

Fr GEORGE BARRETT 5 December 1879 – 4 October 1962



George Barrett spent just two of his 82 years in Africa and he was not happy here. Born in Newcastle-on-Tyne he became a Catholic at some point. He was educated in London where he did a science degree. He entered the Society in 1898 and was ordained in 1914. He taught at the Mount and Stonyhurst and it was noted he was good with clever boys but could not relate to the others. He became a military chaplain during the war.

On demobilisation he returned to the classroom teaching maths and physics at Stonyhurst before being posted to Bulawayo where he once gave two retreats simultaneously to two groups of sisters. On his return to England he gradually moved into the work he was happiest in, missions. He travelled the country with a companion preaching missions and visiting people - rapidly, 80 a day! - in their homes. His preaching was considered 'fluent and clear'.

He was considerate of his companion and took on the heavy work himself when necessary. The 1930s and '40s were the time when missions flourished in the UK and there were five or six Jesuits dedicated to this work. At one point they had their own house and community though they were never together in the house at any one time.

A great raconteur, his brother Jesuits got tired of his stories of Ypres and the Marne but his listeners at his retreats seemingly never tired of his ventures into all sorts of topics to draw people to his message. He would even instruct young men and boys in the art of boxing and the girls in make-up!