

5 October

Fr GEORG MUSCHALEK

24 April 1911 – 5 October 1999



Born in Hultschin, Upper Silesia, Georg's family lost everything twice. First after the first world war they lost property to the Checks and after the second to the Poles. His education was interrupted and when he applied to the Society, he first did two years at Osterley, the college in England for 'late' (he was 21!) vocations, before entering the novitiate in 1932. Trapped in Rhodesia by the Second World War, he did a seven years regency at Triashill, the Seminary and Chishawasha. He worked closely with Fr Otto

and there was talk of a German area based at Triashill which included St Benedicts and Hwedza but he war intervened. In Triashill he taught 'practically all subjects' to Standard III – including gardening, forestry (a great interest of his), agriculture and woodwork. When he moved to the Seminary 'it was much easier' and he taught subjects he was more familiar with; Latin, Maths, Geography.

But it only lasted a year before he moved to Chishawasha. There he had big responsibilities as headmaster, sorting out timetables and working with the teachers – all with 18 periods of teaching a week himself. Again he fostered tree-planting and noted the reaction of his students, 'Why plant tress when you can't benefit from them?' He commented, 'people rarely think of the next generation'. He also promoted scouting and Fr Daighnault commented the 'spirit and behaviour of the scouts was really good'. Georg also noted, 'I left everything to the boys and teachers. The school captains had full authority. They made a real go of taking responsibility – an art in education that seems lost among many Europeans.' He used to have discussions and debates – even about whether there should be a free day for this or that, or go on an outing. 'I tried to do what they wanted.' It sounds like a very democratic regime!

His regency over, Georg had to go back to being a student himself and he was ordained in 1948. He then served in St Benedict's, Chishawasha again, Mhondoro and Marymount which became his great love and there was a Canadian mission helper who used to drive twice a week to Salisbury for building supplies. He would set out on Monday, buy on Tuesday and return on Wednesday. He then repeated the process on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. In 1967 he went to St Albert's as superior where he developed the girls' side of the school. His area also included Mount Darwin. In 1972 he was back in Marymount again and five years later he was in St Boniface, moving on to Banket and Chishawasha for a third time. In 1982 he returned to Germany for health reasons. He did everything in 'a cheerful, competent way and was held with much respect and affection wherever he was.'

