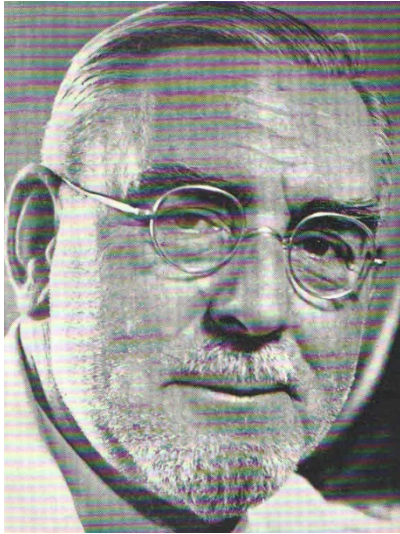


23 October

Fr CHARLES SHACKLES

20 December 1898 - 23 October 1958



Born in Scarborough on the Yorkshire coast and educated at Stonyhurst, Charles Shackles served in the war and was badly wounded. He joined the Society in 1921, taught at Stonyhurst and was ordained in 1932.

In 1935 he was in Gokomere and later at Kutama. He found this early period hard and unrewarding. He had travel large distances by bicycle and found people scattered. In 1937 he was in Hama and it was only when he arrived in Mutoko that he really flourished. He built up the community and built the

beautiful church (picture) that was much admired. He was loved by the people and this writer remembers how Fr Raymond Kapito used to speak of him with great warmth. His obituarist tells us he kept up his reading – Newman, Maritain, even Chesterton and the poet Francis Thompson. He even wrote some poetry of his own (see below).

He met some frustration when he moved to Marandellas (Marondera) in 1952. ‘They wouldn’t let me finish.’ He ‘made many enemies’ but this was only his efforts to get things moving and build a priest’s house and a church. Basically, people saw through his argumentative ways and loved the man. He used to rejoice in the success of other churches.

... He creeps
more intimately near.
Ah!
Sit close
Breathe softly.
His voice in a shutting gate.
Do you hear?
And in gravel crunched
In the distance ...



He developed arteriosclerosis (Burgher’s disease) involving poor blood circulation and he could not walk far. At night he would get what sleep he could in a chair. He ended up in hospital and died in his fifty ninth year.