

29 October

## Fr CHARLES DAIGNAULT 22 December 1872 – 29 October 1956



As a young man growing up in Quebec, Charles Daignault ‘admired the happiness of the religious state’ and, inspired by St Peter Claver, wanted to be a religious. He followed his uncle, Fr Alphonse Daignault, third superior of the Zambezi Mission, into the Jesuits in 1894, did his

regency in Cairo and was ordained in 1907. By 1910 he was in St Aidan’s and three years later moved to Chishawasha where he remained for eleven years. It was from there that he founded Musami Mission in 1923 and he stayed there from 1924 for four years before going to Mhondoro where he remained for twelve years. He then went to Kutama, Chishawasha again, Mutare, Chivhu and Marymount before retiring to Musami where he died.

Fr Simon Tsuru spoke at his grave. ‘We all know Fr Daignault, traveling, traveling, here and there and everywhere for us...’ He went by donkey cart, mule cart, motor bike and finally a Model T Ford. Always he was attentive to people. ‘What he wanted,’ his obituarist tells us, ‘he would move heaven and earth to get; a new school, a church site... He was as persistent as a tooth ache. He would instruct someone with advanced leprosy, suck poison from a snake bite, wade across rivers crocodiles or none. He once dug a well so deep ‘the water gave up the unequal struggle’ and revealed itself after 138 feet. He lived his life in detail for others.’