

17 November

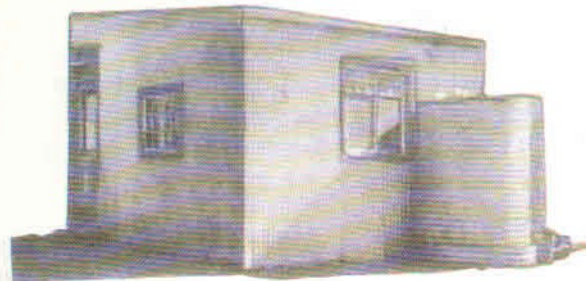
## Fr MARC BARTHELEMY 16 January 1857 – 17 November 1913



Born in Rouen, the capital of Normandy, where his father was an architect and where the Place de Barthelemy honours him, Marc entered the Society in 1874 and studied at the universities of Paris and Caen. He taught in Jesuit colleges in France and Ireland before coming to South Africa in 1886. He was ordained the following year and then taught for seven years at St Aidan's. In 1892 the superior of the mission, Fr Henry Shomberg Kerr, asked him to accompany him to Salisbury. He was not there long before he was sent to Fort Victoria (Masvingo) to care for the settlers and the Dominican sisters who

had started a hospital there. He then became ill and returned to St Aidan's to recover.

By December 1895 he was back, this time in Bulawayo, and he opened a school, St George's, in a corrugated iron building, for six boys who were charged £1 for January and 9s 3d for books and stationary. But the Ndebele Rising occurred in March and Barthelemy left the school in the hands of Fr Nicot while he became a military chaplain accompanying the troops on their patrols.



The *Bulawayo Chronicle* for November 18-19, 1913, just after his death, describes Barthelemy as a man who 'in the days of the rebellion (sic) established intimate personal relationships with the pioneers (white settlers). ... He was more than a priest in that he attended to the wounded. St George's marked the beginning of education in the colony.'

He went onto become a chaplain in the Boer war where 'he was cheerful and kind and gave consolation to many' (the *Chronicle*). Rhodes called him a 'devoted Catholic priest'. Eighty vehicles followed his coffin from the church to the burial place, 'a procession that took 27 minutes to pass a given point.'

Fr Sykes, the prefect, called him 'the most respected man in Rhodesia'.