



## FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

March is always a busy month in our Calendar and, this year, we were not disappointed.

Our Basketball teams achieved first place in the ATS National Tournaments at both Senior and U15 level, whilst our U16 and U14 teams placed third. Our Volleyball teams performed well, with our U14 girls team gaining second place in the National ATS Tournament.



Our Under 16 Basketball Team.

Our students won three Gold and one Silver medal at the Senior ATS Chess Tournament and our Senior Debating Team placed first out of 20 teams in a recent ATS Tournament.



The Senior Debating Team holding the first place trophy they won at the ATS Tournament.

Our Athletics Team won the PE Sprints Challenge and the Peterhouse Relays, and our own St George's Invitational Meeting with an incredible **130-point margin** – appropriately coinciding with the Celebration of our 130 Years of existence. The strength of Athletics at the College was reinforced by our "B" Team placing fourth – ahead of Prince Edward, Hellenic and Lomagundi.



Team photo of our 2026 Athletics Team.

Our sense of community was reinforced on the 14th March when we came together to enjoy our Inter-House Athletics. It was great to see all our students and their families spending a whole day together with keen competition between the Houses. Well done to Gardner House for winning the event but everyone was a winner on the day. Special mention to our Lower Six students with assistance of students



A great example of Men and Women for and with Others.

from other Forms, who worked hard all day to raise significant funds for their Service Projects. No work sub-contracted out, they did everything themselves.

Our Grade 7 Open Day on 13th March was a great success with over 165 families in attendance.



Prospective parents and students enjoying a tour of the College facilities at the Grade 7 Open Day.

Just when we thought it couldn't get any better, it did. The last weekend of term saw a flurry of activity with our Athletics Team winning the final meeting of the term at Lomagundi College. This made it a "clean sweep" of trophies for the season, something that has not been achieved before. Our Hockey "5's" Team did remarkably well by reaching the finals of the tournament and only losing on a penalty shoot-out.



Our Headboy Michael Mukori at the conclusion of the Hockey 5s Tournament.

Well done to all staff and students involved in this remarkably successful term. Thank you to all our parents who supported throughout.

Congratulations to all our Eisteddfod competitors with over 60 entrants achieving 15 Honours and 14 Distinctions. We look forward to this year's Loyola Eisteddfod Concert

**J. Farrelly**  
Headmaster

## SGC@ 130 years

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### HISTORY ARTICLE:

## Chapels at St George's College – an historical outline

Since its foundation 130 years ago, Chapels have been central to the life of the St. George's community, and, as we celebrate Easter, we thought it appropriate to look at their history in outline.

First of all, it is important to explain that there have always been two kinds of Chapel – small community chapels, where the resident Jesuit priests celebrate Mass daily, and the larger Chapel where the pupils attend Mass. Another point.....

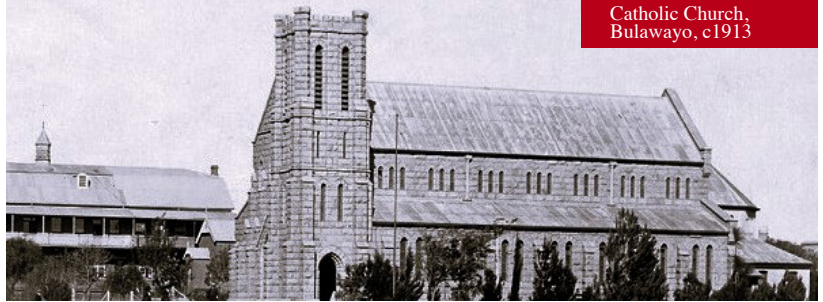
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History Article continued:

Chapels at St George's College – an historical outline

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First of all, it is important to explain that there have always been two kinds of Chapel – small community chapels, where the resident Jesuit priests celebrate Mass daily, and the larger Chapel where the pupils attend Mass. Another point to bear in mind is that from the early 1900s to around 1980, boarders were in the majority at the College and they went to Mass on a daily basis, with Benediction at least once a week as well, and there were times, particularly after the move to Hartmann Hill in 1927 and the school grew in size, when Chapel space was a problem. Since Independence, while the boarding numbers have declined, the seemingly ever-increasing size of the school has been such that, unfortunately, the College Chapel built in 1973 is no longer able to house the entirety of the school.



Catholic Church, Bulawayo, c1913

Turning specifically to the Bulawayo days, while the resident priests did have their own small community chapel, ironically in part of what had originally been built as a Congregational church on the same stand, the boys attended Mass at the main Catholic church which was located just over a block away. However, despite the proximity of that Church, there are indications that Fr. Marc Barthelemy, the school's founder, might have had hopes of adding a school chapel to the series of school buildings that were constructed to his design

between 1897 and 1912. Sadly, he died the following year, but we have on site here at St George's a beautiful pair of stained-glass windows which will be described in more detail below\*, and that we believe he ordered in anticipation of such a chapel being built. After all, his fondness for stained glass windows had already been shown by the fact that he had them installed in several of the doors in the 1912 building<sup>1</sup>, and his own father was the architect who designed the 83-metre-high spire of St. Maclou Church in Rouen, France, completed in 1870 – an elaborately decorated building that includes beautiful windows.

Moving on to the chapels on Hartmann Hill, there has been a Jesuit presence on the site ever since 1892 when the bulk of the land upon which St George's now stands was given to them. A year later, they built a cottage where the new Sports Hall is currently under construction, and it is known to have included a small community chapel. That chapel continued in use until 7 January 1927 when the members of the Jesuit community moved up into the new building, taking with them the Blessed Sacrament for installation in a new community chapel located apparently in a room on the ground floor of the Tower.

First students Chapel, Hartmann Hill – ground floor, left. c1930



The following day, Fr. Hartmann celebrated the first Mass in the new building in a room that had been set aside as the boys' Chapel, and which is now the staff room. The altar, which had been in the community chapel in Bulawayo, was made at Driefontein Mission in 1916 by a Br. Göll<sup>2</sup>. No photographs have been found of the interior of that first Chapel, but the adjacent photograph shows its location from the exterior. The sacristy was a small box-like structure at the western end, approximately where the bookstore is situated.

Nine years later, in anticipation of an influx of new students at the beginning of 1936, a single storey extension north of the original administration building was built during the preceding Christmas holidays. Given the 6-week time constraint, no attempt was made to excavate the mass of rocks under the site and, instead, a solid concrete slab was constructed over them to allow for a room measuring 18.3 metres by 9.1. This will explain why what is now the Form 6 Study Place is approached by a flight of 8 steps. The roof of this extension was a 13-centimetre-thick slab of reinforced concrete suspended on a series of concrete pillars. This whole upper slab was then covered by a temporary galvanized iron roof, pending the construction of a second storey several years later. An adjacent photograph shows the initial unplastered interior of this chapel, complete with the Göll altar: no clear exterior photos of this chapel have been found.

Moving on, the building wing that now comprises the Library, as well as the History department classrooms below, was built in 1941/42. However, because it was war time and more boarding space was needed, it was decided to

Student Chapel, circa 1963



Student Chapel, early 1936



<sup>1</sup>When the school relocated from Bulawayo in 1927, the six door windows were also moved and later installed in the Lady Chapel. They are now on display in the Museum.

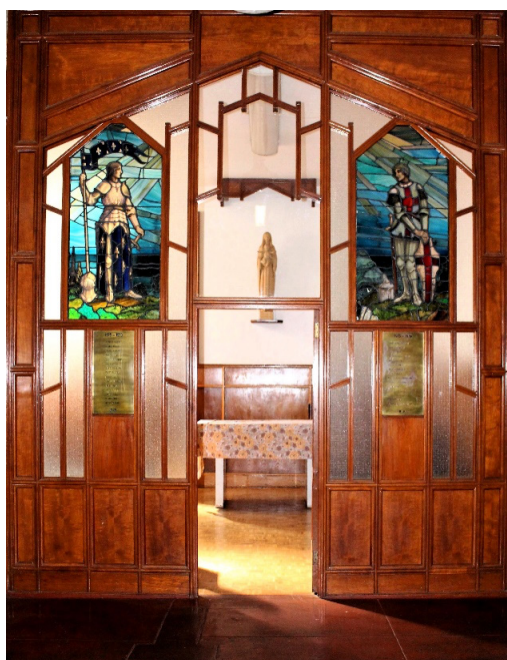
relocate the chapel to what had been intended as a Library, while converting the vacated space into a dormitory. The stairs that jut out at the northern end of the Library wing were added so as to facilitate direct entry into the sacristy which was behind the altar. In 1963, in order to make the Chapel bigger, they pushed the altar back to the windows at the northern end and created a sacristy in an adjacent classroom – now Room 13. This Chapel continued in use until November 1973, when the current Chapel was consecrated.

Meanwhile, following the opening of Hartmann House, the new purpose-built middle school in January 1957, a separate Chapel was built there for the boys on top of an old municipal water storage tank, and was consecrated in May 1958. Although more than adequate for the Hartmann population at the time, it is now too small, like the senior school Chapel.

Still on the subject of boys' chapels, a special one, known as the Lady Chapel, was built in the early 1960s, located where the Director of Jesuit Ethos now has his office. Consecrated in February 1963 it was intended both as a special place of prayer to Our Lady, and as a memorial to Br. John Conway, who died in 1960, having spent 35 years building much of the College, as well as manufacturing most of its furniture and wooden fittings. In the late 1970s memorial tablets, commemorating Old Georgians who had died in the wars, were installed there,



Hartmann House Chapel under construction, late 1957.



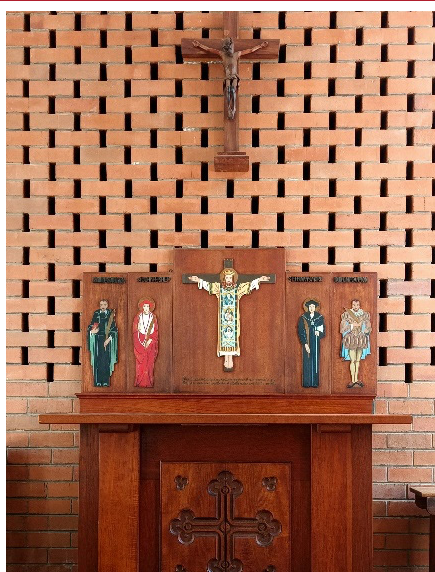
Lady Chapel, 2017

together with the two stained glass windows\* mentioned above, which are believed to have been ordered originally by Fr. Barthelemy. As may be seen, these windows depict the French Saint, Joan of Arc, and Saint George. Fr. Barthelemy was born in Rouen in France, and the church with which his father was associated, is located a short distance from where Joan of Arc was burnt at the stake in 1431 and later declared a Saint.

Sadly, with the boarding numbers having dwindled so substantially by the early years of this Century, the Lady Chapel fell into disuse, and the two stained-glass windows, together with the altar and a wooden statue of 'Our Lady of Hartmann Hill', specially commissioned from Italy, were relocated to a community chapel that was built in the Rector's Residence.



Rector's Residence Chapel



Small altar – ex community chapel in Hospital Wing

As a final comment regarding the smaller community chapels, in the 1950s and 60s there were around four or five of them spread around the College, and teams of boarders were detailed to serve the daily masses said by the priests who were then teaching at the school. These chapels no longer exist, but two of the small altars are housed on the west side of the College Chapel.

<sup>2</sup> *The Göll Altar, with its intricate hand carvings, remained in use until the opening of the current Chapel in 1973. It is now located in the side Chapel, adjacent to the Sacristy.*