



## The Fr Hugh Ross SJ Memorial Scholarship

Gratia International on behalf of the Old Georgians Class of 1971 is delighted to announce the launch of the Fr Hugh Ross SJ Memorial Scholarship. On the occasion of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of St George's College. The scholarship is to be established to allow St George's scholars to study at any recognised university in the world. The scholarship will provide \$US10,000 *per annum* allowing the candidate to complete a three-year degree and possibly an additional one-year honours/masters or the fourth year of a four-year Bachelor's degree. The scholarship will be increased to \$US15,000 *per annum* if the candidate is admitted to the University of Oxford, Fr Ross' *alma mater*.

The first scholarship is expected to be awarded to a qualified candidate in the Class of 2021.

The Scholarship will be awarded by Gratia International a UK registered charity which supports tertiary education at African Universities. St George's College will administer the application process and Gratia International will finance the scholarship which will be paid directly to the relevant University.

All donations should be made to:

Gratia International Limited (The Charity Commission registration number 1122300)

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UK taxpayers may complete the Gift Aid Declaration form below and return it to

[info@gratiainternational.org](mailto:info@gratiainternational.org)

US donors should transmit funds to:

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**Please reference your donation as for the benefit of The Fr Hugh Ross SJ Memorial Scholarship**



## Remembering

Fr. Hugh Ross SJ



## The Polymath

Fr Hugh Kavanagh Ross SJ was born in England in 1920, he was educated at the Jesuit Beaumont College near Windsor. Fr Ross was admitted to the Society of Jesus directly from school in 1937 where he served for 79 years until his death in 2016. He studied Mathematics, Philosophy and Theology at Oxford and graduated MA in 1946. At Oxford, his college was Campion Hall, which was established by the Jesuits in 1896, the same year that St George's was founded. He studied philosophy under Frederick Copleston SJ, who debated Bertrand Russell on the existence of God in a now famous BBC broadcast. Mathematics was to be the subject in which he distinguished himself intellectually and as an inspiring teacher.

He was ordained in 1954 as a member of the Jesuit's English Province which included Rhodesia at that time. Soon after his ordination he was transferred to St George's College, Harare, Zimbabwe (then Salisbury, Rhodesia) where he arrived in 1955.

His contribution to the development of the school was substantial and he provided the intellectual backbone to science teaching at the college for several decades. During his 52 years at the College, he influenced several thousand scholars whom he taught how to think rather than what to think. In addition to Mathematics, he taught RE as a philosophy rather than as dogma. He served as the Prefect of Studies for more than a decade in the 1960's and 1970's.

Outside of the classroom Fr Ross had a formidable impact on sports. As the swimming coach at St George's, he was a legend. He imported the leading techniques from the US in the early sixties which developed many OGs to national prominence. His approach had a profound impact on the sport in the country as whole. Rhodesia won the SA Provincial swimming championships for many years, thanks in no small part to Father Ross' introduction of a new way of coaching. He applied this approach to coaching middle-distance running as well. He relied on accurate measurement of performance and disciplined data analysis. He had a keen interest in rugby. As a hobby he became a leading authority on the indigenous botany of Zimbabwe. He returned to England in 2007 where he died in 2016. He was an authentic polymath, a compassionate man and above all a true Jesuit - a man for others.

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