

# GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE AND CYPRESS TREES



## GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE WAS BUILT as an area to quietly contemplate, reflect and give thanks for those who have passed away while they were members of the St Paul's community. Each year the school holds a special memorial service in the garden, and invites family and friends of those remembered on the wall to attend.

## CYPRESS TREES

THE THREE CYPRESS TREES near the Garden of Remembrance are descended from cones found in the Garden of Gethsemane in Jerusalem, a place significant to Christianity as it is where Jesus prayed the night before his crucifixion:

**36** Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, *"Sit here while I go over there and pray."* **37** He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. **38** Then he said to them, *"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."*

**39** Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, *"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."* **MATTHEW 26. 36-39**



**1956** – While on a trip to Jerusalem in 1956, Cambridge resident Mr Basil Hewitt visited the Garden of Gethsemane. There Mr Hewitt picked up a handful of cones from under one of the ancient cypress trees. Upon his return to New Zealand, he gave them to some nurserymen friends who successfully propagated them and identified them as Cupressus Sempervirens, or Mediterranean Cypress. ▶



**1959** – Mr Hewitt presented two of his newly propagated trees to St Andrew's Church in Cambridge and one to St Paul's. The small tree was planted outside the original staff room during a service of dedication on 3 March.



▶ **1963** – The first name on the Garden of Remembrance wall is Kerry Burgess (School 1960-63). He was a talented rugby player who died tragically following a head injury he received playing the game he loved. Kerry was the school's first loss.

**1982** – When the grounds for the new administration block were cleared an eager group of groundsmen cut the cypress down, despite plans to uplift and replant it. Remembering that two identical trees had been planted at St Andrews Church, Board Secretary Mr E Cordery approached the Vicar who allowed St Paul's to grow new trees from cones produced by those on his grounds. ▶



**1992** – Ten years following the original tree's untimely demise, and with a failed propagation slowing the process, three successors were finally made available to the school. The trees were planted by Mr Cordery, Head of School Guy Coleman, and Board Chairman Mr J J Rickman. ▶



**2003** – The Garden of Remembrance was opened and blessed by Bishop David Moxon, Bishop of Waikato. Family and friends of those whose names who appear on the wall attended and poignantly marked the occasion by laying a red rose at the wall by their loved one's plaque. ▼

