

Two chapels, a chestnut tree and a procession in honour of Saint Bartholomew

The road out of Erbaut village in the direction of Jurbise is marked by an old chapel, dedicated to Saint Bartholomew, the parish's patron saint. It is built from limestone with an elaborate alcove. The date on the building is 1766. It was commissioned by Guillaume Pélerin and Marguerite Baudour.

A second Saint Bartholomew chapel was built in 1948, opposite the first one, by Gaston Lhoir and his wife Madeleine Decrucq. In doing so, they were fulfilling the wishes of their neighbours Gédéon and Vincent Carlier.

Until the beginning of the 20th century, the old chapel was flanked by two chestnut trees. Now, only one remains, and it is included on the Wallonia Region's list of remarkable trees.

A procession in honour of Saint Bartholomew is a long-standing tradition in Erbaut. From 1730 onwards, the parish priest has included it in the official engagement book.

However, the people of Erbaut consider that the current procession was founded in 1855. Between WWI and WWII, Saint Bartholomew's Day became the occasion for a procession of workhorses, coinciding with the end of the harvest. According to local legend, no horse was allowed to work, otherwise it would die within a year.

By 1968, the procession had become obsolete due to a lack of workhorses, so the decision was made to modernise the procession by accepting tractors.



*Horse blessing in the square, between the wars.
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