

Fr Christian Malin, S.J.
(1877-1942. In Zambia 1920- 1921)

20 February 1942

Christian Malin was born on 6 March 1877 at Satteins in the Voralberg Province, in the extreme west of Austria that touches both Switzerland and Germany, surrounded by the great Alpine range. He was educated at the Jesuit College of Feldkirch. He entered the Society at the age of twenty and was ordained in 1910 at Valkenburg, Holland, where he had done his theology. He had always wanted to go to the African Mission and, shortly after his ordination, he volunteered for the Zambesi Mission. He sailed for Africa in 1913 and was stationed for a short time at Chishawasha where he learned Shona. Then in 1914 he was sent to Driefontein near Kwe Kwe, in today's Gweru Diocese, and began his life's work. He labored there and in its associated stations, Hama's and Holy Cross, till even his robust health gave way under the strain of continual journeys throughout the Chilimanzi Reserve in his visitations of the numerous out-schools of which he had charge. He had a short stay in Chikuni in 1920-1921 when Fr Casset was ill and afterwards he returned to Dreifontein.

After short spells at Monte Cassino and Makumbi, he retired to St John's colored school, a very sick man. There he passed his remaining days until his end on 20 February 1942.

As a Tyrolese he greatly missed the high lands of the Voralberg, but once he had given himself to the mission there was no turning back. His cheery good nature made him beloved by his brethren and his local Christians, and during his twenty-nine years of missionary life he did a splendid work for the spread of the faith.

20 February

Fr CHRISTIAN MALIN

6 March 1877 – 20 February 1942



Christian Malin has already been written about in the
Zambian collection of little lives but he was only briefly in
Zambia. The information is scant about him. He entered
the Society in 1897 and spent time in Chishawasha,
Driefontein, Makumbe, Hama, and - when his health gave
way in 1933 - St John's in Avondale, Harare. He died in
Nazareth House.