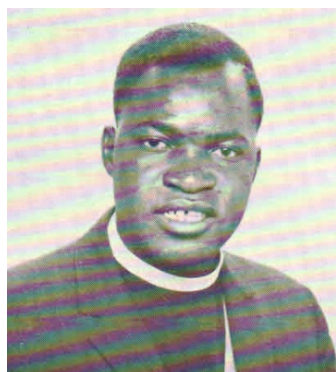


10 March

Br VICTOR DZIWENI

28 August 1942 – 10 March 1974



Victor Dziweni was born in or near Lilongwe, Malawi, and, like many of his countryfolk, came south in search of opportunities. Baptised in 1960, he worked as an untrained catechist with Fr Henry Swift from the Cathedral in Salisbury. In 1967, he entered the novitiate in Mazowe and Frank McKeown remembered how Victor helped him in his pastoral work. Many of the people on the citrus estates were from Malawi. They had bible discussion groups and Frank remembered one old lady, who was very reticent at first, speaking out later that we should imitate Job because he had far more faith than Abraham. The latter had only one son but Job had many, 'like us' and he lost them all. Frank found him 'easy to live with, open, mature, shrewd and sensible.'

Later, Victor taught catechism at Mount Pleasant for a while before going to the newly established Brothers' Juniorate at Acre House in Glasgow, Scotland. He did not approve of it so soon after the novitiate and indeed, one of the brothers soon left the Society. He was a keen observer of life in Britain and felt the constant strikes showed that 'democracy was open to abuse.'

In Glasgow he attacked the grounds of the house. 'All Malawians are farmers,' he said. But he also took an interest in the Christian Life Movement, gave talks around the city on the missions and reached out to the Malawians there. His work was noticed by the Malawian High Commissioner and when the Queen came to Glasgow, Victor was one of those presented to her.

Meanwhile he was studying for exams with the Chartered Institute of Secretaries and really struggled with Economic Theory, Organisation and 'the general Principles of Scottish Law'. But then headaches and unexplained stomach troubles began. The doctors did not believe he was seriously ill but he deteriorated rapidly and died in early 1974. An autopsy revealed he had amoebic cysts on the liver. Bishop Winning and 16 priests celebrated his



funeral Mass and he was buried there in Scotland. It was observed by Fr Desmond Ford who preached that many missionaries were buried in Africa and now Victor, the first Zimbabwean Jesuit to die was doing the reverse. The photo of Victor on horseback was taken at the time of the ordination of David Harold Barry.