

June 7

## Br MICHAEL O'TOOLE

17 January 1899 – 7 June 1963



Born in Swords, north of Dublin, Michael worked in the bleaching business before joining the Society in 1922. He came to Africa in 1924, to Driefontein, and worked as a farmer and sacristan and

general supervisor. After ten years, he had to return to England with medical problems but he returned to Driefontein in 1935. Later on he had short spells at Gokomere, Monte Cassino, Driefontein (again) and Nyanga where he helped the Carmelites settle in. Finally he was at the Seminary from 1949 to '54.

He became proficient in farming and regularly read periodicals on the subject and sought help from others. He spoke the language fluently and outside of his main work he was keen on promoting the Legion of Mary.

He liked to follow the sports results on the wireless. He was a lively community man. He had an operation in 1953 in Salisbury and it was judged best he return to the UK for further treatment. He did light work at the novitiate at Manresa when this writer was there but he was a bit in the shadows. He always hoped to return to Africa but it was to Harlaxton he went for his final journey when the novitiate moved there.