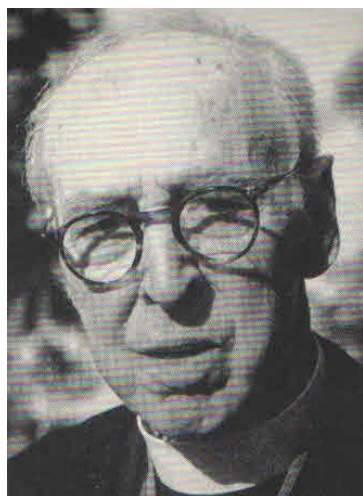


June 11

Fr HENRY QUIN

8 February 1875 – 11 June 1963



Every Jesuit story is different but Henry Quin's is unusually so. He was born in Toronto and, after the family moved to England, he entered the ministry in the Anglican Church wanting to be a missionary. He was duly ordained and came out in 1901 arriving in Beira where he was literally carried on to the soil of Africa by a huge strong local man. There was no wharf at Beira in those days.

Inspired by Livingstone – and Law – he walked everywhere, staying with the people and learning their language and customs. One time he walked 100 miles from Fort Victoria to visit Arthur Shirley Cripps, the celebrated Anglican missionary, at Maronda Mashanu Mission, near Enkeldoorn, (Chivhu). He worked among the mining people at Mazoe, Bindura, Concession and Arcturus and it was in the last place that he called at Chishawasha. At the outbreak of war in 1914 he joined up but was appalled by the crude life and language of the soldiers. It was a 'searing experience' and he seems to have got out fast because we soon hear of him at St Joseph's Hama where Fr Hornig received him into the Catholic Church.

He then joined the Society (1915) at Manresa in London. He was 40 years old and the studies were tough for him. But he was 'fast-tracked' to ordination in 1921. Back in the country, he seems to have spent time in a host of places - Driefontein (1923), Hama's (1925), Mutare (1928) (see photo), Driefontein again (1931), Chishawasha (1932), Gweru (1934), Mutare again (1935), Bikita (1937), St Benedict's (1938) and then he semi-retired to Emerald Hill in 1939. He was there for ten years before he suddenly went to Mutoko in 1949 for three years before finally settling at St Albert's, Avondale, with the Dominican sisters, in 1952. The record does not explain this constant movement.



As mentioned, he was fluent in Shona and was still hearing confessions in that language the day before he died, aged 88.