

24 August

## Fr CHARLES BOLGER

14 March 1886 – 24 August 1971



Charles Bolger was born in Liverpool and educated at St Francis Xavier College there. He entered the Society in 1903, did a seven-year regency at Mount St Mary's and was ordained in 1920. He came to Africa in 1923, starting at St Aidan's in 1923 and moving five years later to St George's. He returned to St Aidan's in 1934 until 1941 when he began to have the blackouts (sudden moments when one loses consciousness) that eventually led to his return to the UK in 1944. Although he lived for twenty-seven years more, he did increasingly lighter work.

He is said to have had an 'odd mixture of shrewdness and naivety'. He took an intense interest in the students he taught, followed the UDI saga closely and tried to get to know the few African people he met. At the same time he put paraffin in the drinking troughs of the animals in St Aidan's as a way of controlling mosquitoes.

He tried to keep his mind active as he got older and could be seen translating Plato's dialogues from the Greek simply for this purpose. He could be 'pernickety and fussy in his old age but he had a precise mind and had not enough to do.'