

## Festivals and Saints' Days (w/c 14<sup>th</sup> June)

16<sup>th</sup> June

### Saint Richard of Chichester - *bishop*

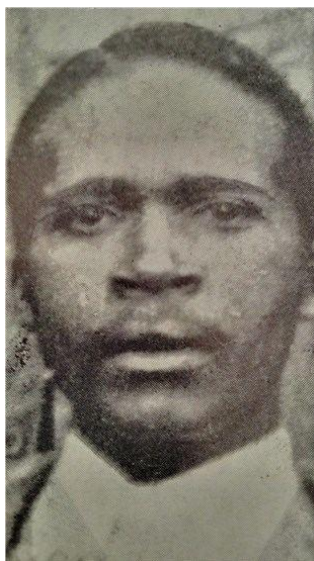
Richard was born in Burford (Worcestershire) in 1197. His family fell on hard times and for a period, Richard worked on the estate's farm. He rejected the offers of inheriting a somewhat restored estate in favour of a life in Holy Orders. After Oxford, Richard went to Paris and Bologna and became a well-respected canon lawyer. Returning to England in 1235, he was elected Chancellor of Oxford University. Sharing the views of the then Archbishop of Canterbury on the rights of the Church against the King and the need for clerical reform, he was appointed Chancellor of the Diocese of Canterbury. Around 1240, he was ordained priest after



studying for two years with the Dominicans in Orleans. Returning to England, after a short period as a parish priest (and Chancellor of the Diocese again), he was elected to the See of Chichester in 1244. His election was opposed by the King and it was some while before he was able to take full possession of his see and only after an appeal to the Pope. Personally rigidly ascetic, once in full possession of the diocese, Richard set about reforming the conduct of his clergy (especially addressing the problems of married clerics), through a set of statutes. He died on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1253. He was quickly revered as a saint and his shrine in Chichester Cathedral attracted large numbers of pilgrims. It was suppressed at the Reformation and the relics spirited away. Nobody is sure where they are now: though they might lie in the parish church of SS Peter & Paul, West Wittering.

18<sup>th</sup> June

### Bernard Mizeki - *martyr*



Bernard Mizeki was born around 1861 in Mozambique. Some time after his tenth birthday, he moved to Cape Town where he worked as a labourer and house servant. He led a disciplined life, studying at night at a school run by the Society of St John the Evangelist (the *Cowley Fathers*). He was academically able and mastered a number of languages. Under the influence of the Cowley Fathers, he became a Christian and was baptized on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1886. He subsequently trained as a lay catechist and accompanied the new missionary Bishop of Mashonaland to southern Zimbabwe as a lay catechist and medical worker. He established a community of families, whose children he educated and shared his time between his work with them and translation work. In 1896 he married Mutwa. In 1896, amidst violent rebellion against British rule, Mizeki, who had refused to flee from danger, was murdered - probably by a member of his wife's extended family. In 1930, a chapel was raised over the site of his martyrdom.