

= Romanus (bishop of Rochester) =

Romanus (died before 627) was the second bishop of Rochester and presumably was a member of the Gregorian mission sent to Kent to Christianize the Anglo @-@ Saxons from their native Anglo @-@ Saxon paganism . Romanus was consecrated bishop around 624 and died before 627 by drowning . Little is known of his life beyond these facts .

= = Career = =

Presumably Romanus came to England with Augustine of Canterbury 's mission to Kent , He would have arrived either in 597 with the first group of missionaries , or in 601 with the second group . He was consecrated as bishop by his predecessor Justus in 624 , after Justus became Archbishop of Canterbury . He was the second bishop at Rochester .

Romanus died before 627 , probably about 625 . He drowned in the Mediterranean Sea off Italy while on a mission to Rome for Justus . Presumably this happened before Justus ' death in 627 . He was certainly dead by 633 , when Paulinus of York became bishop at Rochester after fleeing Northumbria .

Nothing else is known of Romanus ' life beyond these facts . The medieval writer Bede is the main source of information , as Romanus is mentioned twice in the *Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum* ; the first time in connection with his consecration , where Bede says that Justus " consecrated Romanus as Bishop of Rochester in his place " . The second mention concerns Romanus ' death after Paulinus had left Northumbria . Bede says that " [a] t this time , the church of Rochester was in great need of a pastor , since Romanus its bishop who had been sent by Archbishop Justus to Pope Honorius I as his representative , had been drowned at sea off Italy . " Romanus is further mentioned in both the Winchester Manuscript (Version A) and the Peterborough Manuscript (Version E) of the Anglo @-@ Saxon Chronicle , but the reference is not likely to be contemporary and probably draws on Bede for its information .