

No Guns No Knives

It's a beautiful thing



Uganda Martyrs Catholic Community

UK AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

29 NOVEMBER 2009

IN FAITH WE GROW

UMCC Dates to Note

Sunday 29 Nov 2009	Sunday 30 May 2010
Sunday 31 Jan 2010	Sunday 27 Jun 2010
Married Couples' Day	Uganda Martyrs' Day
Sunday 28 Feb 2010	Sunday 25 Jul 2010
Sunday 28 Mar 2010	Sunday 29 Aug 2010
Sunday 25 Apr 2010	Sunday 26 Sep 2010

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

HOLD YOUR HEADS HIGH!

Dear Brethren in the Lord,

"There is a time for everything...", says Qoheleth in the Bible! The Ordinary Time of the Church's cycle Year B has now ended as we begin the holy season of **Advent** which ushers in cycle C; and soon it will be Christmas! Time waits for no man!

During Advent (from Latin "**advenire**", i.e. to come close) we celebrate two "comings" of Christ. It begins with his coming at the end of time to judge the world, then turns to the events and people who prepared the way of his human birth. The season recalls how the people of God longed for the Saviour, and concludes with the celebration of Christmas: the **Incarnation**, God becoming a person just like us!

Advent season lasts about 4 weeks and each week recalls an Advent theme:

Week 1: God's promise

Week 2: Prophets

Week 3: John the Baptist

Week 4: Mary

As we celebrate Advent, usually with the **wreath and Jesse Tree**, we learn that Advent is a **time of waiting and preparation**. Week by week a candle is lit on the Advent wreath; week by week the story of the Jesse Tree is added to. Week by week we wait and prepare; week by week we become an Advent people.

The gospel readings we hear in Advent call us to repent, desire forgiveness and be ready to receive the Lord anew this Christmas time and whenever Jesus comes again in glory. **Remember**: His coming is as certain as the dawn! Let us therefore lift up our souls to Christ who comes to deliver us from fear. Are you ready to receive the Lord with your head held high? Our prayer then is: **"O come, Wisdom of the Most High, ordering all things with strength and gentleness, come and teach us the way of truth."**

May you all have a blessed Advent-Christmastide.

Fr. Gerard M. Balinnya

UMCC Chaplain.

FOR ALL CONTACT:

ugandamartyrs@ugandamartyrs.org
07944584954



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I welcome and greet you all in the name of Jesus Christ.

For this month I wish to refer you all to Fr. Joe Ssebunnya's reflections on the most recent African Synod in Rome. It is addressed to all Africans including those that love that continent, where ever we all are. The message of the Synod is one of continuing brotherhood and sisterhood in the true spirit of the Pentecost. Together we can overcome all those challenges that seem to come our way, for which it is fair to say that Africa has a fair share of.

Also, as November is customary known, I would also like to remind you to remember in our prayers all those beloved dear ones that have gone before us marked with a sign of faith.

Last but not least, please remember to pray for Bishop Ddungu who at the time of writing is still in Nsambya Hospital, but it is hoped that he will soon be transferred out to undergo physiotherapy. Further details of this will be communicated, and also you will be advised on how you can help in his treatment programme.

God bless you all.

Robert Mukiibi

Chairman - UMCC 2009/2010

This is a reminder for all our community that you can Pay your 2009/10 MEMBERSHIP - (£20 only) to ensure your membership.



Ugandan living in the UK, George Kibuuka, is reported to have murdered his wife Margaret Nakamatte Kibuuka. Kibuuka was admitted in Southampton General Hospital due to knife injuries and the pesticide chemicals he swallowed in what appears to have been an attempted suicide. Margaret Nakamatte, 40, a mother of four was studying a Bachelors degree in Accountancy and Finance at Southampton-based Solent University. The late Margaret was in the process of divorcing her husband.



17/12/1976 - 20/10/2009

In loving memory of our mother Mrs Donna Lwanga, who God called on 20/11/2009. Mum we will always remember you for the love and support you gave us. Your loving children Jane Tamale, ry Nsubuga, Pross Kawooya, John Lwanga, Margaret Lwanga, and Sebastian Lwanga.

Jane Tamale

Their four children who were asleep in the house during the incident were taken by Southampton city council's children service with the consent of the Uganda High Commission in London.

Our prayers are with the family of the deceased and the dear children who lost a wonderful mother.

Please remember the following

More prayers for our Very good friend Bishop A.K. Ddungu

JC Kiwanuka who had a trareacotomy and is battling with poor health.

EMMANUEL KAYONGO 5th Nov! R.I. P. and brother of Mr. Roy Nsereko.

Dear friends,

One more month and 2009 is no more. How fast time goes-by! Catholic tradition provides us with an opportunity to reflect on Where We Are by looking at both our Past in view of our Future. There's no better way to do that than bringing to our attention our obligation to the departed - Both the Church Triumphant - ALL-SAINTS DAY (November 1st) and the Church under Purification (Purgatory) - ALL-SOULS DAY (Nov 2nd). All the Ideologies and Philosophies trying to deny the existence of a Life After here have not been enough to quench Man's hope for a better lasting life. None of the Earthly Paradises (Mansions, Resorts, Hotels,...) facilitated by modern technology have been able to quench man's inner yearning for something better and greater. No Safe-House (Saddam's didn't), Extraordinary Treatment have been able to assure man an eternity here. Thanks to our faith, we have elsewhere to look for Lasting Peace and Joy. It is up there where our Brothers and Sisters have preceded us. Some already carrying Palms of Victory - we call them Saints down here. Others are still on the way Up-there, we call it Purgatory.

Whatever the case, we are still in communion with them - we the PILGRIM CHURCH here below. Our faith here confirms what we all know by experience. None of us can erase the memory of a dear one from their minds. Even people who did us harm. We keep a record of the moments we shared with them just as they do, until this bond is restored fully Up-there. Of the 3 groups (TRIUMPHANT CHURCH, PILGRIM CHURCH, SUFFERING CHURCH), I bet those of us in the PILGRIM CHURCH are more advantaged. We have the good example and intercession of the Saints and the Warning of those in Purgatory (The Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) --), plus the opportunity to choose right. In a way, the Church tells us; it may be NOVEMBER, but IT IS NEVER TOO LATE! Each extra-day on earth is a chance for conversion. But we also have something to offer in this communion of the CHURCH-FAMILY. We offer glory to God for the Saints who enabled them partake of his Beatific Vision after winning the battle below. We offer Supplication and Prayer for our brethren in Purgatory so that by God's Divine Mercy won for us at Calvary, they too can finally make it. Hence our Prayer for the dead.

We have done it once before and if you don't mind, I'd like that we do it often. Let each one of us remember to go to the graveyard of a deceased one or if far, to any Cemetery, during November for a prayerful commemoration. The Traditional Prayers are OUR FATHER; HAIL MARY; GLORY BE TO THE FATHER plus ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE ON THEM. MAY THE SOULS OF OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE, AMEN!

This is in addition to requesting at least one mass intention to be said for these souls, at your nearest Parish. If our human connection with these dear souls makes us weep in sorrow, let our faith and hope for a living bond of communion with them in this month of prayer raise our spirits as we prepare to meet them one day. R. I. P. "every tear having been washed away".

With love and prayers, Fr. Joe Ssebunnya Kakande, Rome.

AFRICAN SYNOD REFLECTIONS BY FR. JOE SSEBUNNYA

Greetings from Rome! From 4th to 25th October, 2009 the Eternal City was decorated with a unique presence of over 300 Synod Fathers from the Continent of Africa and her Islands (Madagascar). They came to participate in the II ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS FOR AFRICA (An ecclesial gathering where bishops as collaborators of the Universal Head of the Catholic Church, in a given region come to exchange views, discuss issues affecting the Church and the people in their countries and find ways of promoting the work of Evangelisation, dialogue and social development in their Local Churches. It is a special occasion where the Universality of the Catholic Church is expressed in the collegiality of the individual Local Churches represented by their hierarchy/bishops.) Tourists and locals were treated to a rare spectacle of Black Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Religious and Laity, processing daily to-and-fro the Vatican across St. Peter's Square (The Central spot of Catholic Rome). Some even made gallas on who would be blessed by the most bishops the same day, high-jacking the unsuspecting but willing prelates as they rushed to begin their sessions in the presence of the Holy Father. This is one of the memories about "Africanness" that these sons of Africa left over here in Europe. In this society where everyone is a stranger and minds their own business, these Fathers did what they do best in Africa, stop to bless, greet or pose for a photo even with total strangers. It is something that many in Europe will live to remember about the "African humane and welcoming spirit" that Pope Benedict XVI savored in Africa and praises in every meeting ever since.

The other group that I personally pitied were the Swiss-Guards (kind of the Bambowa/PPU in the Pontifical Palace). They had to make 350 (x4) salutes, every day whenever each delegate crossed the door; Two Ugandans tried to spare them of one extra salute by walking in together and were spotted by the paparazzi for that.

Someone wanted to know what it felt like spending whole long days (and at times nights) within the Vatican Synod Hall with the Synod Fathers surrounding the Holy Father. Well, it felt much like having a 21-Day-Holy-Week in October! For beside the fact that the Holy Father opened the sessions with a prayer and ended it with his blessing, the echoes from the Synod Hall from the various corners of Africa reflected a continent not only in suffering, but also emerging as at Pentecost from behind-doors to take its place in the world. "A Real Synod of Pentecost it has been code-named." (The 1st one by Pope J.P.II -1994- was called the Synod of the Resurrection). We had one Bishop OBAMA whose name evoked chuckles - a reminder of what African sons and daughters can be, given the opportunity. What was even more thrilling was the fact that the fears from the Synod Hall were confirmed before its end. It was all about the brilliant theologian and young Cardinal Turkson from Ghana. He had been chosen to manage the entire Synod and present the results to His Holiness in due course. With a rare sense of humour, intelligence and hard work, he fired up the discussion with a key-note address of Hope for Africa, got the job done so well that no body was surprised when he was retained by the Pope to be the Cardinal Prefect for Justice and Peace in the Vatican Administration. He now succeeds the now retired Cardinal Arinze (Nigerian) as the highest African in the Catholic Hierarchy (and some blogs already baptised him - "the next candidate to the Papacy from Africa". Too early to say, but not for a journalist!). He was assured of prayers from all Africans, I hope you do remember him too!

The other challenge was getting people's names and countries right. Since not many African countries are known for good things (save for Ghana's flourishing Democracy), most were remembered for the atrocities committed there: Zimbabwe, Liberia, Sudan, Somalia, Rwanda, South Africa, Kenya,... Then came Uganda's mixed litany: Land of the 1st Black Martyrs; Land of Amin; Pearl of Africa; Land of AIDS; Land of the Nile; Land of Kony; And it was not a moment of nationalism; it was a moment of truth as the bishops addressed the challenges to reconciliation, justice and peace in great detail and pastoral concern for the plight of their flock. We only pray that the results of these deliberations will be heeded to by all in Africa and beyond. Other less known countries had their story too. One was Madagascar (you remember that Island state off E. Africa? In P.7 I always had trouble spelling their Capital city - ANTANANARIVO- thinking it was the longest name ever, until I had to read their bishops' 20+-letter-names)! But it was still easier than the Egyptian-Arabic/Ethiopian ones. And since they too had trouble reading my "Double-S, Double-N" syllables, we considered it a draw and celebrated what a great feeling to be both African and Catholic - Many Languages, One Family of God, under One Head!

All is well that ends well. At the concluding Mass, the Pope reminded us all that the Synod sessions had closed but the Synod event not ended. The challenges identified and the solutions proposed by the Synod Fathers to be proclaimed soon, give all of us enough home-work to do as far as bearing witness to Reconciliation, Justice and Peace is concerned. The model is simple but practical. Africa - "We appeal to you like it was God himself speaking through us, Be reconciled to God" (2 Cor 7:17-20). Then seek reconciliation with your family, workmate, neighbour, clans/tribes, nations and continents! This up-ward movement is deemed to bear quicker and more enduring results than any round-table discussions. And what a task!! It needs more prayers than seminars and rallies.

So on our knees we go in Thanksgiving for this ecclesial event on Africa, for Africa and by Africans; asking for grace to realise its fruits in our homes and communities under the Spirit's guidance at this New Pentecost!

With Love and Prayers.

Fr. Joe Ssebunnya from Rome



MC Returns a Married Man

Our Master of Ceremony finally fulfilled his dream and married his beloved Alice Nadine at a colourful wedding on the 29th October 2009 at Our Lady and St Jude Church, with a reception at Hotel Africana. Robert Ssebagala who was recently elected to the MC office and has officiated on one function, flew off with Alice and wedded with parents of the couple witnessing a very proud moment of their children's lives.

Details of their honey moon have not been disclosed, (ie where they went and for how long), but we are meant to understand the honeymoon was also another step in the right direction, because the couple looked as radiant as they had done on their wedding day.

The couple extend their heartfelt gratitude to the UMCC community for the assistance they provided, the companionship they showed and the support they gave. They will be sharing their moments with members. My God bless the wonderful couple.

This is proof that the community's married couples are symbol of hope and inspiration to those not yet married but contemplating to walk down the aisle, and to also encourage those who are single to look for ways of joining the Married Couples club. UMCC will be celebrating Married Couples day once again in January 2010.

UMCC Youth have written about the trips they went on this summer and do they deserve congratulating for wishing to share their stories. Congratulations and you both earn £5.00 from the UMCC Newsletter. Make sure you collect this before going home tonight.

My Guides Trip (9.11.2009)

I went on a Guides trip on the 9th of November which was in Cudham, Kent and where I spent 3 days. I did many activities including as 'throw the rope' and talent shows. I really enjoyed the experience of tumbles and falls but also being away from my parents. I really felt independent!!! I would encourage all young people to do a trip like this. By Leah Mugwanya

My fantastic Cubs trip: (9.11.2009 to Windmill Hill, East Sussex)

I stayed there for two nights and did all sorts of activities. I did water wafting, zip-wire, trapeze, using BMX bikes and using a giant swing. We always had to walk to a hall for our meals. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were very tasty which I enjoyed very much. By - Liam Mugwanya

Wedding Anniversaries

Sylvia and Emmanuel Sseguya

Caroline and Clement Magoba

Upcoming Events

Richard Ntege and Rose Nnambogga of Catford will get married in Uganda on 19th December 2009. Best wishes of our wonderful couple and may their wedding day be filled with blessings from Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Birthdays

Jane Tamale 30th November

Ecumenical News

Ambrose Kibuuka, as UMCC Ecumenical, represented the community at a very important gathering in London, Barbican, where thousands of guests were addressed by the Mayor of London on issues regarding minimum wages for immigrants and much more. Other issues addressed were increased financial literacy, responsible lending, investing in immigrant communities and capping abusive lending and interest rates. Please contact him for more.