

It's a beautiful thing



NOTICE BOARD

NEWSROUND

Baptism of the Child

"Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, 'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God'" (Luke 18:15-16).

Catholic Nuns chase armed gunman

A man robbed a house then ran near an Independence Sisters of St. Francis in the US, where he ended up being chased from the building by one of the nuns. The man with a shotgun acting suspiciously was seen by sisters Connie and Catarina as he walked in a bean field behind the convent. They approached him and saw he was armed with a shotgun. When they began to question him he ran into a nearby wooded area. Sister Catarina gave chase until police arrived and arrested the 17-year-old. "Knowing Sister Catarina, I thought she might have caught him and tackled him," Sister Connie said. "I reacted because that was on our property," Sister Catarina said.



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Uganda Martyrs Catholic Community

UK AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

In Faith We Grow

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

Dear Brethren in the Lord,

Grace and peace to you all. We have had a very hectic time since June when we celebrated our patronal feast of the Uganda Martyrs led by Bishop Adrian K. Ddungu, Emeritus of Masaka. Thanks to all of you for your contribution, support and active participation. Please, keep it up.

In July we held our annual general meeting and new members of the executive board were elected. We appreciate all the invaluable work and commitment shown by the former executive members and welcome the new ones while wishing them the best of luck and, of course, pledging our unwavering support to them.

August was yet another busy month as some of us were up and about on holiday, travelling, working or engaged in various family activities and commitments. I hope you are all now back into action here on the ground with fresh minds, new energy and ideas.

However, September has not been the best of months for all of us especially as we heard and followed the developments of the crisis back home in Uganda. This is a very sad evidence of the degree of disharmony, deep-seated grievances among our people, lack of respect for life and poor managerial capacity of the law enforcers. The nation is now divided. The poor youth are disenchanted because they are unemployed and are on the look-out for any opportunity to release their tensions and anger. There is a serious need to address the many issues facing our nation at this critical time!

St. James, in the first reading, sounds a serious warning to all those who are amassing wealth at the expense of the poor: *"Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting ..., and the same corrosion will be your own sentence ... On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent*

POPE BENEDICT XVI ALBUM!

For all music lovers, this Christmas' Music Charts may be topped by Pope Benedict's album. The pontiff will sing and recite prayers to the Virgin Mary. He will be accompanied by the Choir of the Philharmonic Academy of Rome, as recorded in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. Proceeds from the as-yet-untitled album will help fund music education for underprivileged children around the world. It's due for release 30th November 2009. At a time when the Catholic faith is under siege from all corners, the Album will help soothe our Catholic souls through the festive season.



Let us reflect on "the Holy Father's words: In so many areas of life the most fundamental principles of our Christian life are not only questioned, but ridiculed and threatened with sanction."

Let us now remember Wednesday, 24 June 2009 in Saint Peter's Square, Pope Benedict XVI's **Year of the Priest's** message, a Day traditionally dedicated to prayer for the sanctification of priests... Why a Year for Priests? St John Mary Vianney used to like to repeat: "if we had faith, we would see God hidden in the priest ...". The purpose of this Year for Priests is to encourage every priest in this striving for spiritual perfection.... Today we are celebrating the Feast of the birth of St John the Baptist, sent by God to bear witness to the light and to



prepare a people well disposed to the Lord. I hope that you, dear young people, may find in friendship with Jesus the necessary strength always to be equal to the responsibilities that await you. I urge you, dear sick people, to consider your suffering and daily trials as an opportunity that God offers you to cooperate in the salvation of souls. And I ask you, dear newlyweds, to express the Lord's love in reciprocal faithfulness and in generous openness to life.



Uganda Martyrs Day 2009



In true UMCC fashion, once again, Uganda Martyrs Day 2009 was well attended, and this year, the community was blessed with an entourage of visitors from the Kingdom of Buganda and also, the main Celebrant was Bishop Adrian Kivumbi Ddungu, Bishop Emeritus of Masaka. As is always the case on Martyrs day, the Church was filled to capacity with Church goers.

Celebrations of Uganda Martyrs day were held in many locations around the world, notably in Uganda. The UMCC website received emails from Catholics around the world wanting to pay pilgrimage to Uganda for the celebrations.



On 28th June 2009, UMCC hosted the Katikiro of Buganda, (Prime Minister, Chief Executive and Chairman of the Buganda Cabinet) Engineer J. B. Walusimbi, 1st Deputy Prime Minister, Head of Administration and Minister for Buganda Affairs Abroad, Amb. Emmanuel L. Ssendaula, former Katikiro, Joseph Mulwanyamuli Ssemwogerere, minister of state for youth in Buganda Kingdom, Mathias Mpuuga Nsamba and Minister for Special Buganda Projects, Mr. Edward Katimbo Mugwanya

After celebrating Holy Mass, the guests were treated to traditional dinner in the UMCC Hall. The Katikiro of Buganda and the Bishop Emeritus of Masaka addressed the community, thanking the Executive for such a wonderful and well organised ceremony.

Pay your 2009/10 MEMBERSHIP - (£20 only)

The 2009 "O" and "A" Level Results are out

Once again, it is that time of year when we congratulate all those children of ours who took their final year exams this year. As parents, some of us will jubilate with the grades our children have got, while with other parents, we may have to counsel our children. However, let us also remember, pray and support those parents, whose children have opted to follow the wrong path, dropped out of school, are unemployed and probably engaged in criminal activity.



Uganda a Safe Heaven in World War II

Among the first large group of refugees to be settled in Uganda were Polish refugees following the 2nd World War. Uganda established the Kiryandongo refugee settlement in 1944. The Polish refugees were placed in Masindi and Koya on Lake Victoria.



Around Christmas 1942, the International Refugees Organization made preparations to transport Polish refugees to Uganda. Three ships, carrying approximately 5,000 people set sail and after crossing the equator, they arrived in Kenya's Port of Mombasa and the Poles reached out in Africa travelling with their cattle to find good pastureland for their livestock. In 1950 the International Refugees Organization began assisting people reunite their families by locating family members throughout the world.

As the 47th Ugandan Independence dawn is upon us, let us remember our country and hope and pray that peace, and happiness will prevail. Ugandans are a well known friendly people, ready to smile and please others. If we had the heart and mind to host people from strange lands so generously, may we also extend that courtesy to our own, ensuring love peace and harmony for our children and for generations to come.

A FAREWELL FOR A GREAT FRIEND

Fr. Kizito Kiyimba (S.J) who has been on Doctoral studies at London School of Economics is returning to Africa to start a new ministry. He has successfully completed his studies and we congratulate him upon this great achievement. We also thank him so deeply for having been readily available to assist us. He has conducted enriching sessions for us, preached challenging and interesting homilies, touched people's lives and supported many members of our community in various ways. Thank you Fr. Kizito and good luck in your new mission.

YET ANOTHER GIFT FOR UMCC

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Mugwanya have kindly donated a drum to UMCC. We highly appreciate their gift which will boost our liturgical and social celebrations.



R.I.P

We shall all remember "the day Michael died", as many of us remember Philly Bongole Lutaaya



A LEGEND PASSES AWAY

Michael Joseph Jackson was born in Gary, Indiana, on 29th August 1958, and entertained all generations all his life. His singing and dancing talents were seen in all countries on the globe. He was a prolific singer, songwriter, record producer, dancer, choreographer, actor and shrewd businessman. His 1982 album Thriller remains the best-selling album of all time.

He created amazing dance moves like the robot and the

moonwalk. He also stormed onto television with his amazing music videos like "Billie Jean", "Beat It" and "Thriller".

Michael passed away on June 25, 2009 suddenly at the age of 50 of cardiac arrest in Los Angeles, California. He will be missed by many, and his songs will be listened to for generations to come.

The world has been robbed of a great entertainer, just as Ugandans were robbed of

Philly Bongole Lutaaya. Philly (19 October 1951 – 15 December 1989) who had settled in Stockholm, Sweden, recorded many popular albums like Born in Africa. October 17 is the Philly Bongoley Lutaaya Day in Uganda. Philly's songs that are remembered with nostalgia include 'Nkooye Okwegomba', 'Tulo tulo', 'Nandikwagadde' and 'Philly Empisa zo'.

May their souls rest in peace.



THE NEW MC ANNOUNCES A FUND-RAISING DRIVE FOR THE HOLLOWAY CHURCH REPAIRS

NEW ALBUMS HAVE BEEN UPLOADED ON THE UMCC WEBSITE

THE NEW EXECUTIVE STARTS WORK RIGHT AWAY

The 12th July AGM held at St. Gabriel's Community Centre re-elected most of the executives. The new executive is tasked with addressing issues that were contentious.

Non-Catholics who are married to members of UMCC members, but are not Baptised Catholics cannot vote or be voted for. While er-

rors were made in the past and appeared to be overlooked, this was corrected during the meeting with apologies. This is in line with the current constitution.

Another issue relates to members being appointed to vacant positions that cannot be filled in accordance with the guidelines that are in place. While this is a con-

cern to all who attended the AGM, it was understood and agreed that a work-around had to be put in place so that the office could be run.

It is imperative potential candidates make their intentions known at the AGM.

The executive is exploring using text-messaging under the UMCC brand.

USE YOUR EMAIL OR MOBILE TO STAY CONNECTED WITH UMCC

AUGUST HOMILY

UMCC celebrated Holy Mass on the 23 of August 2009. This was to accommodate the Bika by'Abaganda slated to take place on 30th August 2009.

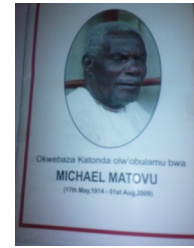
In his homily, Father Kizito reminded the congregation of three important aspects in life. We all had choices between Baptism and evil, the Eucharist and earthly gods, Matrimony and adultery.

The congregation was gripped with laughter when he told a story of happenings

today in Kiwaatule, Uganda, where it is alleged a man with such powers, if he points at you, you will drop dead is causing mass hysteria. He went on to say, people move around quickly and furtively nga bwe bamagama, to avoid this evil man.

While this story is unlikely, the Father reminded us that the greatest miracle we all experience is the simple fact that we can wake up in the morning every day, alive, healthy and good to go.

In reference to the Second Reading, the Father reminded the congregation that in marriage, wives should wholly, submit to their husbands, much as the husbands should love and protect their wives with their lives. He went on to say that though this sounded one sided, subordination was both ways, such that the lower the husband went, the lower the wife should go, and this should be based on mutual respect and love.



It is with great sorrow that the beloved father of Mr. Kizito Bukenya. Mr. Michael Matovu passed away on the 1st of August 2009. Omukama amuwe e k i w u m m u l o eky'emirembe, ekitan-gaala ekyolubelera, kim-wakire, atebenkere, emirembe n'emirembe. Amiina.

ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS

Wedding anniversaries

Mr. & Mrs. Hategeka	Mr. & Mrs. Kiwanuka 2000
Mr. & Mrs. Zzinga	Mr. & Mrs. Muwoonge 1994
Mr. & Mrs. Lubega	Mr. & Mrs. Muwoonge 1985
Mr. & Mrs. Kojo	Mr. & Mrs. Musajjakawa 1982
Mr. & Mrs. Bukenya	Mr. & Mrs. Kibuuka
Mr. & Mrs. Male	
Mr. & Mrs. Fletcher	
Mr. & Mrs. Ssonko	
Mr. & Mrs. Ddungu 2004	

Birthdays

Mrs. Rose Mukiibi
Ms. Thereza Mukiibi
Ms. Maria Ddungu
Mr. David Musoke Mugwanya

BEREAVEMENT

In Memory

Michael Kapalaga Ssentogo
John Baptist Mugwanya
Norah Mulwany

All September 2009 Uganda riots victims.

While it seemed Uganda had turned against its own citizens in the recent riots, let us continue to pray that peace prevails and life is valued in these very trying times.

CAFOD MASS FOR AFRICA is set for **31st October, 2009 at 2 pm.**

Venue: Sacred Heart Church, Camberwell New Rd, London SE5 9QS

Nearest tube: Oval (15 min walk); Bus routes: 36, 185, 436. Nearest train: Loughborough Junction or Denmark Hill, plenty of free on-street parking. We most likely expect **Archbishop Cyprian K. Lwanga of Kampala, Uganda** to attend.

THE NEWLY ELECTED UMCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2009/2010

Chairperson; Mr. Robert Mukiibi

Vice Chairperson; Mrs. Edna Bukenya

Secretary: Mr. Christopher Ssimwogerere

Treasurer: Mr. David Musoke Mugwanya

Publicity Secretary: Mr. Edwin Senjobe Ssentogo

Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Robert Ssebagala

Liturgical co-coordinator: Ms. Mary Ddungu

Liturgical co-coordinator: Mrs. Rose Mukiibi

Accounts Review Officer: Mrs. Rose Ssewaali

Choir Chairperson: Choir to elect

Sabafumbo: Mr. Kizito Bukenya

Nabafumbo: Mrs. Juliet Mutyaaba

Nabavubuka: Mrs. Ruth Kitayimbwa

Sabavubuka: vacant

Ecumenical Coordinator: Mr. Ambrose Kibuuka

Committe Member 1: Ms. Juliet Ssozi

Committe Member 2: Mrs. Madge Musajjakawa

and killed them; they offered you no resistance” (Jas 5:1-6).

I am afraid this reading seems to hint directly at the events that have taken place in our country. History is repeating itself and we should now be more vigilant about instilling in ourselves and our people the core values that have always kept us together as a people of one nation, Uganda. Tolerance, respect for life, law and order are essential for unity and peace.

Last Sunday, St. James reminded us that *“wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done”* (3:16). So he exhorted us to become peacemakers, because *“peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow seeds which will bear fruit in holiness”*(3:18). He continued to ask: *“Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn’t it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven’t got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force”*(James 4:1-2).

Dear fellow countrymen and women, now is the time to re-think our values and uphold the innate goodness that characterises a Christian nation like ours. We need to learn to respect each other for the sake of peace and prosperity. It is a time to wake up and be more mature in our dealings. May the Uganda Martyrs continually plead our cause before the throne of God the Most High. God bless you all.

Fr. Gerard M. Balinnya

UMCC Chaplain.

UMCC Chair’ Message to September 2009 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our Community Day Celebrations for September 2009.

As most of you will be aware by now, the situation back in our motherland Uganda especially in Kampala and its neighbourhood, has of recent not been very good. Indeed some of our brethren have paid the ultimate price – their lives. I ask that you all join me in sending our prayers and heartfelt condolences to all those who have lost their loved ones.

The events of these past few weeks in Uganda also remind us, as a Ugandan Community in the Diaspora, about the fragility and threats that our communities still live under. Issues that may be perceived as being non-significant, may have catastrophic results in other areas. Although we are thousands of miles away, we are all affected by such events. This I can compare to plants, where what touches the roots, affects the branches and leaves. We may be far from the source, but are still key players in these events. You are therefore all called upon to actively engage in peaceful dialogue, in order to bring lasting peace to our country. This also calls for prayer and use of media to make our voices heard.

On another note, last Sunday 20 September 2009, UMCC was again present at the Annual Pan African Chaplaincy Mass held at St. George’s Catholic Church, 132 Shernhall Street Walthamstow London. This mass was presided over by Rt. Rev. Kieran Conry, Bishop of Arundel & Brighton and Episcopal Chairman of Catholic Association for Racial Justices - CARJ. UMCC received commendations for our input into organising the day’s events, including our choir’s participation in the liturgy.

Your help is also sought in helping our hosting Parish Priest - Fr. Kevin in his efforts to renovate our church. I am sure all of you have seen the beautiful transformation that this sanctuary [St. Gabriel’s Church] has undergone in the recent months. Like all good things, this also comes at a cost. Your contribution to this worthy cause will be greatly appreciated. Please watch the space for further developments on this.

Lastly, but by no means least, the Executive Committee is embarking on the task of setting plans in motion as to the direction the UMCC will take in the medium to long term. Your thoughts are sought in facilitating this process. Please approach any of the executive committee members or Trustees, and share your ideas on where and how you would like to see your community progress. A key challenge is the noticeable dip in our finances, and as most of you will know, this is a key facilitator of our activities and so worth focusing on.

Finally, I wish you all joy, peace and God’s blessings.

Robert Mukibi

Chairperson – 2009/10

UMCC Publicity Matters

In continuing to improve on communication, UMCC will be implementing it’s own Text Messaging service from October. To promote Martyrs Day 2010, UMCC members are sought to attend a live Talk Show **Bright Talk**, hosted by Trish Adudu on Ben Television. To record UMCC events through photography, the Publicity Secretary will be responsible for taking photographs and use them in this newsletter and also post them on the UMCC Website. For further details, please contact the UMCC Publicity Secretary.

BISHOP JOHN BAPTIST KAGGWA ON FAIRNESS

THE Catholic Bishop of Masaka, Bishop John Baptist Kaggwa has called upon the Government to shelve the regional tier system and the land amendment bill and return all Buganda's properties.

"Uganda wants peace. The regional tier system should be stayed so that all of us first scrutinise it to see how it will operate," he said at the 100-year anniversary celebrations of Kitovu Cathedral in Masaka, where the

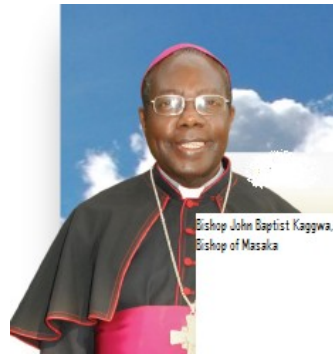
Kabaka was the chief guest.

"The land bill is another thing that can bring friction so it should be held until all matters are discussed. And all things promised to be returned to Buganda should be (returned)."

He also appealed to the Government to re-open the CBS radio-stations, arguing the Baganda were cut off in terms of communication.

"We beg that our channel is returned on air in accor-

dance with the law. We beg all Ugandans to remain peaceful on all these matters and Baganda in various positions of power to help us in this situation."



The new UMCC executive is now preparing for the 2010 UMCC day and ideas, comments and suggestions are welcome. We hope you will again join us, as we also hope to host more guests, have a guest Main Celebrant of the day and enjoy a relaxing day as

UGANDA: More Older Men Join Seminary to be Priests

A seminary for mature vocations in Kampala can now scarcely accommodate the many candidates who want to study for the priesthood, the rector has said.

The seminary is trying everything possible to turn away as few potential candidates as possible.

The oldest candidate was 56 years old when he entered the seminary. Many come from countries like Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Sudan.

Pan-African National Mass

The 12th Pan-African Annual Mass took place once again in Walthamstow, with a good presence from the Uganda Martyrs Catholic Community. The main Celebrant was Bishop Kieran Corny, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton and assisted among others by our own, Rev. Father Balinnya.

The message of the Homily was to be aware of the circumstances that have led to the current economic difficulties and the impact this has had on communities around the world.

The UMCC Choir sang during Holy Mass with other choirs Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Ghana and others. The singing was very uplifting and in cases where vernacular was used, the congregation accompanied them with rhythmic clapping.

UMCC provided most of the food and brought organisation to serving the guests. Mr. Joseph Kibuuka of UMCC provided musical entertainment for the day.

Mr. Ambrose Kibuuka of UMCC was on behalf of UMCC awarded with a medal for the contribution he has made to this community.



BUGANDA EXPORTING TRADITION AROUND THE WORLD!

From around Kampala

If you are not proud of your country, then here is your chance to see people who are proud to be in Uganda, dressed in the traditional Kiganda dress, and also commonly known as national dress, and traditionally called the Gomesi or Busuuti with bitambala to match and the Kanzu embroidered with Omudalizzo to set the men apart.

These fine looking ladies and gentlemen were heading for a traditional engagement party in Uganda known as Okwanjula. Naye ekikulu ssaliyo; kale simanyi bwe kwageenda, naye abakulu baanyuma nnyo. We look forward to the outcome of the kwanjula and the blessings of a fruitful marriage.

