

Uganda Martyrs Catholic Community

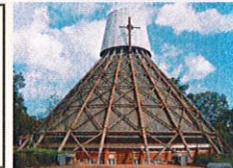
UK AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



**A TRIP TO ROME
AND A MEETING
WITH THE POPE**



**LONG-SERVING
CATHOLIC CATECHIST
LAID TO REST**



Christian marriage...the centre piece for a happy life

■ Dear Brethren,
On the occasion of this year's Married

■ Couples' Day, we greet you all and thank the Lord for the gift of life for each and every one of you.



Star couple celebrate Golden Jubilee

Letter from the editor



D R Mbogga

Dear readers, welcome to this year 2012. Every year seems to fly by faster than the last and this year will be no different.

I have myself, always viewed the New Year as an opportunity for re-invention. I love to continually re-invent myself; to re-invent the approach I take, to the way I see things; the way I relate to my family and friends and the outlook on life.

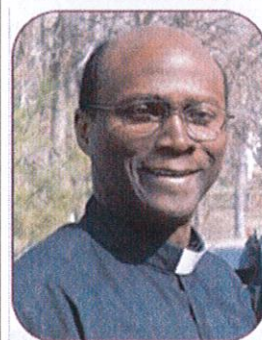
■ P8

We would like to welcome those who are attending this day for the first time, those who have recently embraced and made Marriage their noble choice of life particularly members of the UMCC.

It's right and fitting to use this opportunity once again to congratulate in a special way, Mr and Mrs Nsereko, key pillars of our community, for celebrating their 50th anniversary in marriage. You are such an inspiration to the young and old and a blessing to our community indeed. ■ P8

The Healing of Families – A synopsis

■ P4



Fr. Yozefu Balikuddembe

Chairman's message 2012

■ P2

Message from the Chaplain

UNDIVIDED ATTENTION!

Dear brethren in the Lord,

Welcome to our celebration at the start of the New Year as we join the married couples of our community to mark their big day in their lives. Only four weeks ago the whole Church celebrated the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph at Nazareth. They are a model family for all of us and we seek their intercession to help enhance the love, warmth and stability of the Christian families.

In today's second reading, St. Paul would like to see Christians truly free, not for selfish fulfilment, but for the sake of a more direct and constant union with God and for the service of others. We are all called to consecrate our life to God in our

■ P4

A TRIP TO ROME...

and the moon, the final judgement and many more.

It took Michelangelo about five years to complete these paintings between 1508- 1512 AD. Because of these paintings, the chapel attracts thousands of tourists daily. It is without doubt the jewel in the crown of Vatican attractions. Beneath the Basilica are the underground grottos where dead Popes are buried. We paid particular attention to the tomb of Pope Paul VI who canonised the Uganda Martyrs.

On 05/01/2012, we learned from Msgr Charles Namugera that, after he had "pulled" some strings, we had been



selected to take the offertory in the International Mass which was to be celebrated by the Pope (Benedict XVI) on 06/01/2011. We were selected to represent Africa. On the eve of the Mass, we were taken through a series of rehearsals with other participants who had been selected for different roles.

On the big day, our nerves started getting frayed the moment we sat in our allocated seats. However, Mrs Kitayimbwa became a star attraction in her beautiful Gomesi (busuuti) as it was a novelty to people in the congregation and many took pictures of her in amazement. A message to all Ugandan women: When you dress in a Gomesi, be very proud, walk like you're on air and show off. The Gomesi is a majestic attire which makes all women beautiful and respectable.

Finally the Pope arrived and the Mass commenced as planned. Soon it was the Credo, this was our cue to get ready to take the offertory. We were joined by another couple from Brazil. As the last lines of the Credo were sung we nervously picked up the offerings and made our way into the main aisle. The congregation sat down and then it was just us and the Brazilian couple standing, with the Pope watching us from the altar. We slowly made our way to the altar, each step taking us closer and closer to the Pope, with the Gomesi attracting more snaps on the way. We finally climbed the steps to the altar beneath which lies the tomb of St Peter the Apostle. The Pope stared at us intently as we approached him, again the Gomesi taking his gaze. We knelt before him and thought that he would just go through the motions of blessing the offerings and then we would be waved on. But he took particular interest in us, held Ruth's hand and asked where we come from. Ruth told him that we come from Uganda, land of the Uganda Catholic Martyrs. A few more exchange of words were made and we asked for specific blessings. He blessed us and the offerings and then we moved on behind the altar, where we handed over the offertory.

The Mass progressed to its final conclusion after which we were swamped by people asking how we managed to get the chance to meet face-to-face with the Pope. We had no satisfactory answer to give them. It was a very rear experience of a life time.

JANUARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Happy
Birthday

Denise Nansumba

10th January

Ivan Luwugge

15th January

Dorcas Nnakiwala

16th January

Gerard Ssekalembe

23rd January

Viola Hategeka

27th January

Madge Musajjakaawa

28th January

Aldridge Ssagala Ssemugenyi

Chairman's Message January 2012

Dear Friends in Christ, A very warm welcome to January 2012. Happy New Year to you all and I do hope that you all had a good festive period. Most of you might have joined us when we celebrated New Year's Day here at Archway.



The UMCC Executive through the Chair, wish to thank you for all for your continued support during the last year and pray that you continue with this spirit of support for the foreseeable future.

In January, we were blessed with the presence of Fr. Yozefu Balikuddembe Ssemakula. He delivered two seminars with the main theme of "Healing of Families". Those of us that attended were given insights into areas of our lives that we need to be conscious of, before presenting our petitions to God. Please check out this newsletter on a separate article relating to this concept.

We are now fully committed on the 2012 programme, the highlight of which will be the Uganda Martyrs Day Celebrations in June. This year it is very likely that we will have two such celebrations. We are hoping to have a Pan-Ugandan / International Martyrs Day Celebration, for all Catholics in the United Kingdom. This we hope will take place on 3rd June 2012 – the actual Feast Day of the Uganda Martyrs. The second celebration is most likely to take place on Sunday 24th June 2012. Details of both these preparations will be provided as we get closer to the day(s). Please watch this space for further updates.

As this is your Community, you are always encouraged to make suggestions on any aspect of our functions, be it the Liturgy or otherwise. Currently, you all note that there is a drop in numbers attending our community end of month mass. I therefore encourage you to try to be ambassadors of this community and to always encourage others to attend with you each time you come along.

As I mentioned last month, the Uganda Martyrs Catholic Community will continually pursue the agenda of improvement and development both from the individual member to the general community as a whole. This is deeply embedded in our Ten Point Plan. I therefore again request everyone able to share a skill with our brethren, to approach me or any other member of the UMCC Executive Team, to arrange some time for a presentation.

Last but not least, may I take this opportunity to congratulate all married couples on the celebration of this Married Couples Day 2012. Please allow me also on your behalf, to congratulate our very own Mr Roy and Mrs Margaret Nsereko on celebrating 50 years of marriage, and wishing them many more years in their marriage.

May God bless you all.

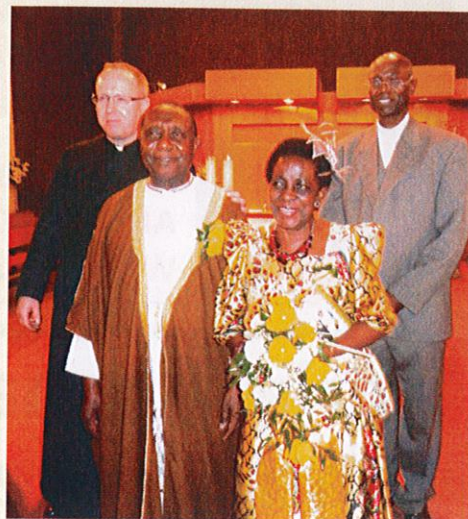
Robert Mukiibi
Chairman UMCC 2011-2012

A TRIP TO ROME AND A MEETING WITH THE POPE

At the beginning of the new year (03/01/2012), we took a trip to Rome for a short break and to check out the biggest church in Christendom, St Peter's Basilica, Vatican, the seat to the Roman catholic church. Our trip was facilitated by Msgr Charles Namugera, a Ugandan priest who is one

star couple celebrate Golden Jubilee

Mr. Roy Rusticus Busuulwa Nsereko went to school in Namiryango College where he excelled in maths. He was a member of the King's African Rifle and a boxer. He worked as a salesman with Shell Company in Kampala region. Later he joined the Coffee Marketing Board after training in Nairobi and U.K. as a sales manager.



He got married to Margaret Nnakatudde at Lubaga Cathedral on 2nd December, 1961.

Mrs Nsereko studied at Nabbingo College between 1949 and

1954 where she excelled in geometry, algebra, netball, tennis and Luganda. She won a scholarship and joined Notre Dame University, Indiana, USA in 1955. It took her 3 weeks to travel to USA via Juba and Khartoum. She was among the first four women from East Africa to study in Indiana. She superbly headed Nabbingo College from 1971 to 1987 and a lot of important people in Uganda passed through her able hands as an outstanding headteacher.

Both Mr. and Mrs Nsereko have been instrumental in the foundation and running of the Uganda Martyrs Catholic Community in various capacities. They are blessed with eight (8) children and fourteen (14) grandchildren. Now we look up to them for inspiration and guidance due to their priceless experience. We thank the good Lord who has given them the gift of life and faith. Their Golden Jubilee celebrated on 30th December, 2011 was another memorable occasion for them and their friends. We wish them many more happy years together.

of the officials working in the Vatican and a friend of UMCC.

The sheer size, beauty and majesty of the Basilica is almost indescribable. We do not have right words with which to describe it comprehensively. It is simply awesome, incredible, marvellous, beautiful and, a fitting work of art dedicated to St. Peter the Apostle, the rock on which Jesus promised to build his church. No wonder it attracts thousands of people every day from all corners of the world, Christians, non-Christians and non-believers.

The star attraction, a part from the Pope himself, is the Sistine chapel. This was commissioned by Pope Sixtus IV (after which it's named) in 1475 AD. This is where the conclave is held, i.e., where cardinals lock themselves up and elect a new Pope. It is therefore a sacred place. Apart from holding the conclave, the chapel is one of the world's greatest art gallery thanks to frescos painted on its ceiling by the great artist Michelangelo. The frescos depict different biblical stories like, the creation of Adam and Eve, the original sin, creation of the sun

■ P3

Long-serving Catholic catechist of Mityana Diocese, Peter Makombe, laid to rest

Long-serving Catholic catechist of Mityana Diocese, Peter Makombe, was laid to rest at the Kiyinda-Mityana parish graveyard on Sunday 22nd January 2012.

Makombe was last week knocked down dead by a speeding vehicle in Lusaze village along the Busega roundabout as he took a routine morning trot as part of his exercise program. He was 81.

The burial was attended by hundreds of mourners, some from Rwanda, the US and the UK where some of his children and other relatives live.

Makombe was the father of Mr. Paul Kiyingi and Kampala Youth Chaplain, Rev Fr. Joseph Luzindana. The fallen catechist

established more than eight sub-parishes in the diocese which include Misingi-Busujju, Namungo, Gomba-Butwanga, Mpiriggwa and others.

Bishop Joseph Anthony Zziwa of Kiyinda-Mityana hailed Makombe for his dedication and devotion towards serving the church. He said he had served the church since 1954, until he retired a few years ago.

The prelate called upon the youths to emulate the deceased and join the work of serving the church as catechist.

"Many catechists have died but have had no young people to succeed them in the service of the church," Zziwa remarked.

Msgr. Charles Kasibante, who represented the Archbishop of Kampala Archdiocese, Dr Cyprian Kizito-Lwanga also praised the late Makombe for his dedicated service he rendered towards the church. He thanked God for endowing the late with the will and courage to serve the people of God.

"Makombe has lived an exemplary life in the service of God, so parents should encourage their children, as part of their responsibility, to join in the service of the church," Msgr Kasibante said.



**Just as we went to press,
we received the very sad
news for the death of the
wife of Mr John Birozo
Kibuuka**



Grace Natoolo

D.O.B: 26th May 1952

Deceased: 23rd Jan 2012

Funeral: 2nd Feb 2012

at Our Lady of Good
Counsel, StokeNewington,
24 Bouverie Road, N16
0AJ,

at 2 pm.

**May their souls and the souls
of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of
God, rest in eternal
peace. Amen.**

Congratulations

TO THOSE MARRIED IN 2011

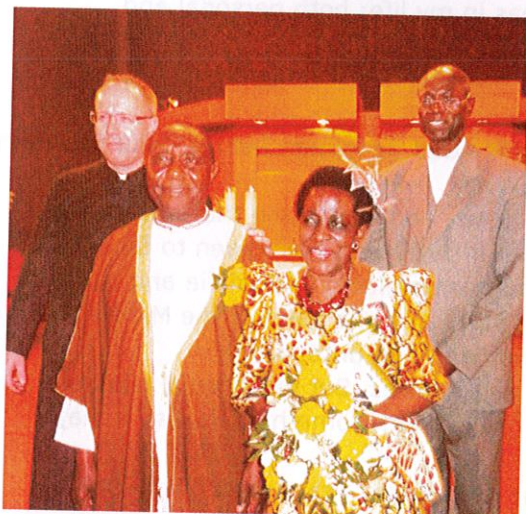


Mr Paul &
Mrs Agatha
Ssempijja
14.8.2011



Mr Richard &
Mrs Eva
Mbogga
20.8.2011

Star couple celebrate Golden Jubilee



Christian marriage... the centre piece for a happy life

The Sacrament of the Holy Matrimony is one of the key Pillars that hold the Church firm manifested by two individuals making a commitment to each other for the rest of their lives in Marriage. However, this does not come cheap but at a price. We all agree that these are challenging times that we are going through. These challenges have hit us hard not only financially but also faith wise in as far as family is concerned. In lots of families, life has been taken over by work/shifts, so that praying as a family has become a thing of the past or a luxury they cannot afford !

Marriage if embraced to its fullness can act as a central pillar of the community. As married couples, we need each other more than ever before praying and walking through the bad and embracing the good together. Remember any marriage can survive the present winds if there is trust in God to help you persevere and

and community count on us. Therefore let's persevere to make God the third person in our relationship in order to make our union succeed. Brethren, God should be invited daily into every area of our lives. Marriage is a choice which we have chosen freely to serve as a platform to enable us grow together spiritually as a couple and as a family.

Although our marriage path may take us through thorny valleys than the paradise we all dream of, God needs to remain pivotal in our lives such that when we come to the end of this roller coaster, we can bravely look into each other's eyes and say, it's been worth it.

We wish you happy celebrations.

UMCC MARRIAGE OFFICE DESK

Pascal Frederick M Kyazze
(Ssaabafumbo)

Ruth Kitayimbwa
(Nnaabafumbo)

■ From P1Letter from the editor

Sometimes I don't change much - if it's all good and is working well, I tend to leave it as is but more often than not, I find ways to better and improve many areas in my life; both personal and professional.

I will be ending a day's work by the time I finish this article through which I may appear to be a preacher of "radicalism" in life, which clearly I AM NOT.

I have, as a result of speaking to many people, come to realise that as human beings, "Our Strength is our Weakness".

Human beings can tolerate just about anything ... extreme heat - not to mention the "Kasambula" African style for those that have been there, extreme cold - for those that have been to Siberia, hunger and thirst for those that watched the human catastrophe unfolding in Somalia and northern Kenya, poverty and extreme violence on human life, taking place in some parts of the Middle East, to a large number of African countries where crimes against humanity go unreported.

In many ways, this is why we have survived, even thrived as a species. But this special adaptive strength that we have is also our weakness. Our ability to 'put up with something' is also a major obstacle to growth and development.

'Oh - We are used to the situation around even though one goes on for years under dictatorial regimes and perpetual poverty.

Hey- 'I can put up with this man/woman I don't like' - 'I can put up with the abuse and the torture in the country... True; we may be able to put up (cope) with these things - but our ability to cope comes with a huge price-tag. It can prevent us from taking action and moving away from these 'oh so easily accepted' paradigms.

If we couldn't put up with these things, we would change - we would all move, grow, shift, and develop.

Our strength is also our weakness.

Perhaps we just resign ourselves to being squashed under side control - we can cope with it - we learn to adapt and more easily accept the situation - eventually the uncomfortable becomes comfortable. On the other hand - we can be a little less accepting of it and put more effort into developing our guard or our escapes ... our strength is our weakness - humans can adapt to almost anything; but should we?

We need to leave the world a better place than we found it, otherwise our existence as individual human beings will be more less pointless. *D R Mbogga (Editor)*