



GITEGA UPDATES

Welcome to The
Anglican Diocese of
Gitega

JULY– OCTOBER 2025

1. Ordination of Priests and Deacons

21 September 2025 was a special day in the Diocese of Gitega.

In a colorful and joyful service, the Rt Rev Aimé Joseph Kimararungu, Bishop of the Diocese of Gitega, ordained six deacons and 10 priests at St Luke's Cathedral. This service was attended by more than 1,000 people among them the Archbishop of the Anglican Province of Burundi, 7 bishops, guests from Ireland and the UK, representatives of other



Church denominations. A number of government officials led by a presidential advisor who were also present congratulated the Diocese of Gitega on behalf of the President who sent his greetings.

At the same occasion, St Luke's Cathedral was rededicated after four years of extension work. In his remarks, Bishop Aimé Joseph highlighted that while we enjoy Church growth, improving worshiping conditions remains essential though it is much demanding. He gave thanks to God and to all who contributed to have this work done.

After the service, another important event was the solemn inauguration of the newly



constructed Diocesan Conference Center. The Archbishop Sixbert Macumi stated that he is encouraged to see the Church trying to achieve financial sustainability by initiating such kind of income generating project. The Bishop of the Diocese of Gitega expressed his heartfelt thanks to partners who made this possible. He mentioned that this facility created 231 jobs and will continue to benefit both the Church and the community.



2. Gitega and Armagh partnership

From September 19 to 29, 2025 a team of three from Armagh Diocese (Church of Ireland): Ven. Elizabeth Cains, Rev. Derek Kerr,

and Davina McAllister, along with Rev. Dr. Keith Scott from CMSI, was hosted by the Diocese.

During their stay, their schedule included attending and preaching at the ordination and confirmation services, sharing about ministry in their context in retreats with clergy and ordinands, meeting with Gitega Bible school students, visiting Mothers' union work and Diocesan projects, etc. The team members found joy in conversations (though translated), shared meals and



communal prayers. Wherever they visited, they were asked: *"muragaruka kuturamutsa kandi muze mugume mudusengera"* _ May you please come back again and keep us in your prayers.

The Armagh team visit deepened the understanding of the love of Christ and a much-needed desire to maintain unity in mission within the Anglican global family. We are glad Elizabeth, Derek, Davina and Keith made it to Burundi/Gitega, representing Armagh Diocese and bridging a praying partnership between 2 Dioceses, 2 cultures, 2 communities, yet one people in Christ sharing the same 'Missio Dei', seeking to make of the nations, disciples of Christ.

3. Mothers' Union ministry

Gitega Mothers' Union whose primarily mission is to care for Christian families is implementing a transformative literacy, financial education and parenting program since 2004. Thousands of participants have been impacted by this program which aims at promoting human rights, particularly those of women and children. The monitoring of these projects revealed that women and girls depend on subsistence *agriculture, which they practice in a way that degrades the* soil in many ways. Mothers' Union has launched an organic farming



program which complements the work already done within most vulnerable communities. This program targets the promotion of creation care and the increase of food production.

4. Faith in Action

NDUWARUGIRA Eric and **HAKIZIMANA Evelyne** have been married for 9 years. They live in Gasunu and worship from St Peters'. Early this year, they have given birth to triplets, two boys and a beautiful girl. In Burundian culture, giving birth echoes the climax of the manifestation of God's love and grace; celebrations normally follow. However, the arrival of the three beautiful children meant pressure and despair for Eric and Evelyne. As they were already struggling to provide for their 4 children, how would they manage to support three additional and more demanding



mouths was beyond their reach.

It was an uplifting moment and a powerful testimony to see St Peters' congregants joined by Mothers' Union members from Gitega Arch-deaconry unite to support this family with baby basics including powder milk, clothes, sugar, honey, pampers, etc. « A true Church cares for the needy. », mothers' Union Diocesan president Bénéigne BARENDEGERE, commented.

5. Children's rights protection

The Diocese of Gitega through its community Development Agency, DICD, is implementing a child protection initiative. It aims at raising community awareness on Children's rights, initiating and empowering Community based structures that defend children's rights. Some of the biggest challenges facing children in our context are physical violence, abuse, trafficking and failure to be registered at birth. Hence, DICD's



interventions in this area range from capacity building for stakeholders involved in protecting children's rights, to supporting out-of-school children of working age in vocational training, and to providing the necessary equipment to facilitate the registration of children at birth, among others.

6. Food Security and WASH projects

On one hand, the recorded harvest of beans for monitored farmers in Kabanga Community has increased considerably thanks to the use of modern agricultural techniques and improved seeds. It is expected that the upcoming harvest will be even bigger, as project participants have been empowered with small livestock, namely goats, to increase their accessibility to organic manure. This ascribes to the comprehensive, transformative mission of the Diocese of Gitega, which is dedicated to nurturing both the spiritual and physical aspects of communities.

On the other hand, between July and October 2025, clean water has been made available to 91 households in the Nyagisenyi community by four water sources that have been improved and protected. However, access to clean



water is still a serious issue. It affects a large number of vulnerable community members.

Prayer requests

1. Pray for a friendly climate as our area is facing heavy rain falls destroying crops and houses most in rural areas where houses are constructed in non-durable materials.
2. Please pray for the completion of the Bible school infrastructures to improve learning and living conditions of the participants
3. Pray for peace in the east African region especially the Eastern DRC as Burundi is hosting thousands of refugees from Congo affecting national economy and living costs.