



Burundi

Burundi is a tiny landlocked country in the Great Rift Valley in central Africa, at the junction of the African Great Lakes, bordering Rwanda to the north, Tanzania to the east and the Dem. Rep of Congo to the west.

Burundi is twice the size of Northern Ireland and has a population of around 14 million people. (NI population is around 1.9 million). The capital city is Gitega, but the largest city is Bujumbura.

Burundi lacks natural resources and has been scarred by a civil war lasting from 1993 to 2005, whose aftermath is still a contributing factor to its ranking of the second-poorest country in the world. (South Sudan being classed as the poorest).

With about 80% of Burundi's citizens, relying on subsistence agriculture, food insecurity is almost twice as high as the average for sub-Saharan African countries.

Furthermore, access to water and sanitation remains very low and less than 5% of the population has electricity. This alongside inadequate education and literacy compounds the needs further.

The Diocese of Gitega (Burundi)



Gitega Diocese is led by Bishop Aimé Joseph Kimararungu (pictured above) with his wife Madame Bénigne.

Support from CMSI to Gitega in recent years has focused on the areas of education, church building and leadership training, including: The Mothers' Union Literacy Project (via Bishops Appeal), Bicycles for pastors studying at Gitega Bible School and the Purchase of roofing materials for rural church plants.

Rev Arsène Mafurebe (Diocesan Development Coordinator) recently visited Armagh Diocese and spoke about the amazing growth in the local church in Burundi, as well as the severe challenges posed by historic ethnic conflict and levels of extreme poverty.

Armagh Diocesan Link

At the Diocesan Synod in October 2024, the Archbishop launched a Mission Partnership link with the Diocese of Gitega in the Anglican Province of Burundi, through CMSI.

Even though Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world in monetary terms, it is very rich in faith, and we are praying that we may find ways to support each other in the work of God.

Although the link is a Diocesan one, there may be a few parishes who will also make a link to support and pray for Gitega Diocese, as they will do for us.



The relationship with Gitega will be managed by a small group led by the Archbishop and Archdeacon Elizabeth Cairns. The Diocese of Armagh MU has already a connection with the Anglican Church in Burundi and Mrs. Debbie Davison, the Diocesan MU President is also a member of the group along with Rev. Derek Kerr.

Diocesan Visit to Burundi

At the invitation of the Bishop of Gitega this small group hope to travel to Burundi between **18th-30th September 2025** to find out more about the Diocese and to see where we might be able to help.

Please pray for Bishop Aimé Joseph, Madame Bénigne and Rev Arsène and all our Partners in Gitega and for the team who will travel there in September.