

**A TIME OF BLESSING AT MATANA**

This season has been a wonderful time of blessing, most especially marked by the ordination of Canons and visits.

The first visit occurred on 19<sup>th</sup> of July when 11 guests from Ireland attended the ordination of 20 canons (12 pastors and 8 lay people) as stated in EAB Press, July news edition.

The second important visit took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> of August when we welcomed the assistant Bishop of Winchester (Bishop of Southampton area), Rt. Revd Paul and Rosemary Butler. They visited the dioceses of Matana, Makamba and Bujumbura. At Matana we enjoyed their presence with us and saw in him a man of wisdom through our talks and sharing.

Bishop Paul's deep concern is the ministry of every believer to be 'a whole life disciple', that is, not merely attend church services on Sunday but to live as a Christian seven days a week in all aspects of life. In addition to this, Bishop Paul said that we have to engage the wider community, meaning that church ministry must not only move 'outside-in' (waiting for church goers) but also 'inside-out', reaching out to the community, sharing the Good News, for the good of the church and the nation.

He concluded that our cultural settings differ but the Gospel we preach to bring people back to God and heal them is the same. So, a pastor called by God, be it in the UK or in Burundi, has the same pastoral ministry, the difference being our cultural context.

Bishop Paul Butler is soon leaving Southampton to shepherd the diocese of Nottingham.

**THE NEW CATHEDRAL**

The dream of building a Cathedral for Matana diocese is slowly becoming a reality. The congregation of Matana parish decided to mould and burn five hundred thousand bricks this year. This helps to raise awareness all over the diocese.

The plan is to build a Cathedral that enables five thousand people to be seated comfortably. A multi-functional Cathedral will also be a focus for community development and a sign of hope reminding us of God's presence with His people.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SOCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The diocese of Matana is working hard to meet the needs of the community. Thus Matana Hospital has benefited from the construction of an administrative block. An HIV/AIDS Voluntary Testing and Counselling centre, a project initiated by the Mothers' Union office, simply needs the finishing work before it can start functioning. We are grateful for the funding that has enabled such a tremendous achievement.

As far as social assistance is concerned, three needy people around Matana benefited from improved housing with diocesan help, for example, one whose house had been accidentally destroyed by fire.

**THE LAUNCHING OF GASUMO PRIMARY SCHOOL**

In the process of taking part in the national programme of primary education as one of the Millennium Development Goals, Matana Diocese benefited from Fields of Life, an Irish organisation that helped to build a Primary School at GASUMO, Mwaro Provincial headquarters.

The launching ceremonies took place on 21<sup>st</sup> of September, with an enthusiastic crowd who came to attend and enjoy the inauguration. A representative from Fields of Life handed over the school saying that



he hoped children educated in the school would become future leaders of families and of the country, basing their wisdom and knowledge on the word of God that transforms lives.

## **A NEW ARCHDEACON FOR RUTANA**

Gifunzo archdeaconry headquarters has been shifted to Rutana town centre, so as to alleviate the archdeacon's walk when it comes to meeting with the provincial administration and other partners: it is now Rutana archdeaconry. Revd Pontien RIBAKARE has been appointed as its new archdeacon, stepping in the shoes of the Revd Canon Yakobo Nyakana who is retiring. The inaugural ceremonies took place on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> of September in the presence of Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi and Rutana provincial Governor. It was also a confirmation service for 148 believers. The preacher of the day, Revd Canon HABIMANA Fidele, dean of Matana Cathedral, emphasised the values of the Kingdom of God and eternal life in his sermon.



## **PRAISES & PRAYERS**

### **PRAISE God with us:**

- ✓ for the visits and widened partnerships
- ✓ for the believers' eagerness to build the cathedral
- ✓ for the increasing impact of the church as salt and light of the community
- ✓ for the improvement of security and development in the country

### **PRAY with us:**

- for the 20 new canons and church growth
- for the confirmation season
- for Revd Pontien RIBAKARE in his role as the new Archdeacon of Rutana
- for the preparations of the forthcoming EAB (Anglican Church of Burundi) jubilee
- for the forthcoming presidential elections in the country
- for the bereaved families of our late military forces of the AMISOM, who were killed in a terrorist car-bombing attack in Mogadishu, Somalia