

Welcome message for family@church/kagera

This year St Edmundsbury and Ipswich celebrate 25 years of working together with the Diocese of Kagera. Through the link we:

- develop friendships and understanding of each other's lives and experiences
- pray for each other
- grow in faith as we learn from one another

Kagera is a poor and remote region in northwest Tanzania. 70% of the population are subsistence farmers, depending on their land to grow food to eat. Climate change has had a huge impact on the area, rains are unpredictable, and farming methods handed down for generations can no longer be relied on.

The Bishops' Lent appeal this year will support our brothers and sisters in Kagera with education in its many forms to help them to raise their people out of a cycle of poverty to achieve self sufficiency. The funds raised will support priests, subsistence farmers and young people, and empower them to build a more hopeful future.

The vision of Kagera Diocese is 'Life in its fullness' (John 10:10) and through the link we can help them achieve it.

A message from Bishop Mike

"Together we can make a huge and lasting impact on the quality of lives of some of our poorest brothers and sisters in Christ - let's take the opportunity and regard it as a privilege to do so."

To give us a little taste of Kagera some of the responses [and maybe some of the hymns] will be in Swahili, the national language of Tanzania. It's very easy to speak, because it's entirely phonetic. Just speak it as you see it – give it a go!

Bible Reading for family@church/kagera

Romans 12: 4 -11

⁴A body is made up of many parts, and each of them has its own use. ⁵That's how it is with us. There are many of us, but we each are part of the body of Christ, as well as part of one another.

⁶God has also given each of us different gifts to use. If we can prophesy, we should do it according to the amount of faith we have. ⁷If we can serve others, we should serve. If we can teach, we should teach. ⁸If we can encourage others, we should encourage them. If we can give, we should be generous. If we are leaders, we should do our best. If we are good to others, we should do it cheerfully.

⁹Be sincere in your love for others. Hate everything that is evil and hold tight to everything that is good. ¹⁰Love each other as brothers and sisters and honour others more than you do yourself. ¹¹Never give up. Eagerly follow the Holy Spirit and serve the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Intercessions for family@church/kagera

Father we pray for our link diocese of Kagera.
We thank you for the growth of your church there,
And we ask that we may learn from their example.
Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Father we thank you for the work of our ministry team.
We pray for those who minister in rural parishes in Kagera,
Often walking or cycling many miles to get to services
And struggling to make ends meet.
Give them strength and wisdom
Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Father we thank you for the work of KCTC in Murgwanza.
Bless the staff there we pray as they train new ministers.
Give them wisdom and determination
As they work in difficult conditions.
Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Father we thank you for our schools and teachers
And we pray for the schools and teachers in Kagera.
In particular we pray for NAPS
That they may soon complete their dormitory
Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Father, we pray that we may grow closer to our brothers and sisters in
Kagera. We ask for your Holy Spirit to guide and inspire us as we grow in
God together.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Hymns in English and Swahili for the family service.

Swahili is pronounced as it is written. Every vowel is pronounced separately.
The emphasis is on the second syllable.

Twae wangu uzima, Sadaka ya daima; Twae saa na siku Zikutukuze huku.	Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord, to Thee; Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Yesu kwetu ni Rafiki, Hwambiwa haja pia; Tukiomba kwa Babaye Maombi asikia; Lakini twajikosesha, Twajitweka vibaya; Kwamba tulimwomba Mungu Dua angesikia.	What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.