

NABULAGALA

Some historical facts and events

Nabulagala enjoys a monopoly of two titles vis-à-vis the history of the Catholic Faith and Church in Uganda: “The Cradle” and “Ancestral Land”. It is the *Cradle* because the evangelising mission in Uganda started here and the first baptisms were also celebrated at this place. It is the *Ancestral Land* because it is here that the ‘fathers of the Catholic faith and Church’ in this country are laid to rest. Here are some of the key historical dates and events of this place which since 2007 is an autonomous parish run by missionaries of the same Society as the pioneer missionaries.

- **February-March 1879:** Kabaka Muteesa I gave land (*kibanja*) to Mapeera and Amans at Luby-Nabulagala and built a house for them on it. Before coming here, they were staying at Kitebi, in the family of Amir Ssekikubo, who was in charge of Kabaka’s roads.
- **7th March 1879:** Fr. Lourdel and Bro. Amans settled in their first house at Luby-Nabulagala. This date marked the opening of the first Catholic mission in Uganda which lasted from 1879 to 1882.
- **May 1879:** The missionaries started redeeming some slaves from Arab traders. In the three years they stayed at Nabulagala, they ransomed twenty eight slave children who were kept in the mission being cared for, taught how to read and write, catechism and some vocation works like carpentry and gardening. Looking after these children was one of the duties of Brother Amans.
- **24th – 25th June 1879:** Arrival of the three missionaries, Girault Ludovic, Leon Barbot and Leon Livinhac, who had remained at Kageye in Tanganyika.
- **25th June 1879:** Celebration of the 1st Eucharist in Uganda. The main celebrant was the superior of the group, Fr. Leon Livinhac, who was the last to arrive on the 25th June. On this day, they began the Novena to Mary Immaculate.
- **2nd July 1879:** End of Novena and dedication of their lives, missionary work and Uganda to Mary Immaculate.
- **19th October 1879:** Bro. Amans made his perpetual missionary oath. This made him the first Missionary of Africa to make his oath in Africa south of the Sahara. NB: Kabaka Muteesa I, who welcomed Amans in this country was buried on the same date and month in 1884. He died on 9th October 1884.
- **27th March 1880, Easter Vigil:** First baptisms celebrated by Fr. Livinhac. These were: Paul Nalubandwa, Peter Kyonooneka Ddamulira, Joseph Lwanga and Leo Kaddu.
- **28th March 1880, Easter Sunday:** First Holy Communion and Confirmation of those baptised during the Pascal Vigil.
- **30th April 1882:** Joseph Mukasa Balikuddembe and Andrew Kaggwa were baptised by Fr. Lourdel. These were his first baptisms in Uganda.
- **28th May 1882:** Mathias Mulumba and Luka Baanabakintu were baptised by Fr. Girault Ludovic.
- **7th November 1882:** The Missionaries left Buganda for Tanganyika and when they came back in June 1885, Kabaka Mwanga gave them land at Nalukolongo. In the development of the Church, Nabulagala later on became an outstation of Lubaga Parish up to 1974 when it became a sub-parish of a new parish of Nakulabye.
- **November 1882:** After the departure of the missionaries, the few baptised Catholics and catechumens, under the guidance of Joseph Balikuddembe and Andrea Kaggwa met at Nabulagala mission to plan for the future of the Catholic community during the absence of the missionaries. Thanks to this ‘synod’,

during which Balikuddembe was elected to be the leader of the Catholic community, strategic plans were made which enabled the Catholics not only to remain firm in their faith but also to recruit new members.

- **25th June 1939:** 60th anniversary of the Catholic Church in Uganda. Laying and blessing of the foundation stone of the Memorial Chapel in remembrance of first missionaries and the Uganda Martyrs who followed their catechism classes at Nabulagala some of whom were also baptised here. This was done by Mgr. Edward Michaud, bishop of Lubaga (1933-1945). Present at this occasion was Mgr. Joseph Kiwanuka who had just been elected bishop of Masaka, being the first African bishop in modern times. It was also in this year that Kabaka Muteesa II succeeded his father, Kabaka Daudi Chwa (November 1939).
- **25th June 1978:** Pilgrimage to Nabulagala, led by Emmanuel Cardinal K. Nsubuga, with the remains of the pioneer missionaries. This date also marked the 99th anniversary of the First Eucharist in Uganda celebrated at Nabulagala.
- **1994:** Christ the King Deanery started celebrating its annual feast day by making a pilgrimage to Nabulagala.
- **14th February 2006:** Emmanuel Cardinal Wamala commissioned the Missionaries of Africa to start preparing Nabulagala (Kijjukizo) sub-parish together with that of Masanafu to become an autonomous parish cut off from Nakulabye.
- **24th June 2007:** Nabulagala became a Parish, under the name of Mapeera-Nabulagala with St. John the Baptist as its Patron Saint. The main celebrant was His Grace, Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga, the Archbishop of Kampala. The Guest of honour was Kabaka Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II.
- **28th June 2009:** Pilgrimage to Nabulagala to mark the 130th Anniversary since the beginning of the Catholic Church in Uganda. The remains of the pioneer missionaries were brought from Lubaga for the occasion. The main celebrant was Emmanuel Cardinal Wamala and the guest of honour who represented the Kabaka was Hon. Charles Peter Mayiga, Minister of Information and spokesperson of the *Lukiiko* of Buganda Kingdom. On this occasion, the Grotto of Our Lady was blessed and also the country was re-dedicated to Mary using the "*Prayer to Mother Mary of Nabulagala*".
- **6th March 2011:** Burial in the memorial chapel, of the remains of the four of the five pioneer missionaries, i.e., Livinhac, Barbot, Lourdel and Amans. The remains of Fr. Girault could not be brought to Uganda because they had been buried in a common grave with those of other missionaries in Algeria. Instead, some photocopies of the letters he wrote in his own hand were put in his urn. The main celebrant was Emmanuel Cardinal Wamala and the guest of honour, the Katikkiro of Buganda, Hon. J. B. Walusimbi.
- **25th June: Annual Pilgrimage.** Since 2015, the Archbishop of Kampala, Dr. Cyprian K. Lwanga, decided that the annual pilgrimage to Nabulagala will take place on this date, whether it is Sunday or a weekday. Although the focus of this annual pilgrimage is the commemoration of the First Eucharist in Uganda, the other Sacraments celebrated for the first time in Uganda at this place should not be forgotten: Baptism, Penance, Confirmation, Holy Communion and finally the dedication of this country to Mother Mary. Pilgrimage to Nabulagala, therefore, should inspire all pilgrims "**to re-think and meditate about our faith**", as Cardinal Wamala wrote in his message at the occasion of the inauguration of Mapeera-Nabulagala parish in 2007.

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Ebimu ku byafaayo by'ekifo kino

Mu byafaayo by'Eklezia Katolika mu Uganda, ekifo ky'e Nabulagala kirinamu ebitiibwa bibiri ebitayinza kuweebwa kifo kirala kyonna era nga bye bino: **Nakazadde n'Obutaka bw'Obukatoliki** mu Uganda. **Nakazadde w'Obukatoliki** olw'okubanga wano omulimu gw'okulangirira Obukristu mu Uganda we gwatandikira era nga ne Batismu embereberye we yafunirwa. **Obutaka bw'Obukatoliki** kubanga wano we wagalamidde Bajjajjaffe mu kukkiriza. Bino wammanga by'ebimu ku byafaayo ebikulu ku kifo kino ate nga kati kigo (parish) eky'etongodde okuva mu 2007 era nga kiddukanyizibwa abaminsane ab'Ekibiina omwava Abaminsane abasaale.

- **February-March 1879:** Kabaka Muteesa I yawa Mapeera ne Amans ekibanja e Luby-Nabulagala era n'okubazimbirako ennyumba. Nga tebanajja wano, baali Kitebi mu maka g'omwami Amir Ssekikubo eyalabiriranga enguundo za Kabaka.
- **7 March 1879:** Fr. Lourdel ne Bro. Amansi baayingira ennyumba yabwe eyasooka e Luby-Nabulagala. Olunaku luno ekigo ekyasooka lwe kyaggulwawo. Ekigo kino kyawangaala okumala emyaka essatu, okuva mu 1879 okutuusa mu 1882.
- **May 1879:** Abaminsani baatandika okununula abaddu okuva ku basuubuzi Abawarabu. Mu myaka esatu gye bamala e Nabulagala, baanunula abaana abaddu amakumi abiri mu munaana (28) ne babasigaza mu kigo nga babalabirira n'okubayigiriza okusoma n'okuwandiika awamu ne katikismu n'emirimu egy'emikono ng'okubajja n'okulima. Frera Amansi okusinga ye yali ku mulimu gw'okulabirira abaana bano.
- **24 – 25 June 1879:** Abaminsane abasatu, Girault Ludovic, Leon Barbot and Leon Livinhac, abaali basigadde e Kageye mu Tanganyika baatuuka e Nabulagala.
- **25 June 1879:** Missa embereberye mu Uganda yasomwa mu kifo kino ng'omutambizi omukulu yali mukulu waabwe Fr. Leon Livinhac era ng'ono ye yasembayo okutuuka mu kifo kino kw'olwo lwennyini nga 25 June. Ku lunaku lwe lumu baatandika Novena ya Bikira Maria Ataliko-Bbala (*Mary Immaculate*).
- **2 July 1879:** Novena yafundikirwa nga beekwasa, obulamu bwabwe n'omulimu gwabwe ogw'okuyigiriza eddiini, Bikira Maria Ataliko-Bbala.
- **19 October 1879:** Frera Amansi yakuba ebiragaano bye eby'olubeerera mu buminsani era nga kino kyamufuula munaddiini w'Ekibiina ky'Abaminsani ab'Afrika omubereberye okukuba ebiragaano bye nga ali mu kitundu kino ekya Afrika wansi we Ddungu Iya Sahara. NB: Ku lunaku lw'omwezi luno mu 1884, Ssekabaka Muteesa I ng'ono yeyanniriza Amansi mu nsi eno lwe yaziikibwa e Kasubi. Muteesa yakisa omukono nga 9 October 1884.
- **27 March 1880, mu kiro kya Paska: Batismu embereberye mu Uganda.** Pere Livinyake yabatiza bannayuganda ababereberye era nga bano baali: Paulo Nalubandwa, Petero Kyonooneka Ddamulira, Yozefu Lwanga ne Leo Kaddu.
- **28 March 1880, Paska:** Ababatizibwa mu kiro kya Paska baafuna Kommunio Esooka awamu n'essakramentu lya Kofirmansio.
- **30 April 1882:** Fr. Lourdel yabatiza Yozefu Mukasa Balikuddembe ne Andrea Kaggwa. Bano bombi be bannayuganda be yasooka okubatiza.
- **28 May 1882:** Fr. Girault Ludovic yabatiza Mathias Mulumba ne Luka Baanabakintu.

- **7 November 1882:** Abaminsani baava mu Buganda okulaga e Tanganyika era bwe baakomawo mu June 1885, Kabaka Mwangi n'abawa ekibanja e Nalukolongo. Nabulagala oluvannyuma kyafuuka ekisomesa ky'Ekigo ky'e Lubaga ate mu 1974 ne kida mu Kigo ekippya eky'e Nakulabye.
- **November 1882:** Ng'abaminsane bagenze e Tanganyika, abakristu awamu n'abalonde, nga bakubirizibwa Yozefu Mukasa Balikuddembe ne Andrea Kagga, baatuula e Nabulagala okusala amagezi ag'okuddukanya ekibiina kyabwe mu kiseera ng'abaminsani tebaliiwo. Mu lukungaana luno omwalonderwa Balikuddembe okukola nga Ssabakristu, enteekateeka zakolebwa okulaba nti Abakatoliki tebava mu ddiini yabwe awamu n'okuyingiza abakristu abaggya.
- **25 June 1939:** Ekijaguzo eky'emyaka 60 bukya Eklezia Katolika etandikibwawo mu Uganda. E Nabulagala waaliwo omukolo ogw'okusimba ejinja ly'ekijjukizo ky'abaminsane abasaale awamu n'abajulizi abasomera wano katekismu n'okubirizibwawo. Omusumba w'essaza ly'e Lubaga (1933-1945), Mgr Edward Michaud ye yakola omukolo guno. Ku mukolo guno kwaliko ne Mgr Joseph Kiwanuka eyali yakolondebwa okuba omusumba wa Masaka era nga ye yali Omusumba Omufrika omubereberye mu biseera by'emirembe emiggya (*modern times*). Era mu mwaka guno Kabaka Daudi Chwa mwe yakisiza omukono mu mwezi gwa November, n'asikirwa mutabani we Muteesa II.
- **25 June 1978:** Waaliwo okulamaga e Nabulagala nga kukulembeddawo Emmanuel Cardinal K. Nsubuga. Mu kulamaga kuno baagenda n'ebisigala by'abaminsane abasaale era ku lunaku luno lwe gyawera emyaka 99 bukya Missa embereberye esomwa mu Uganda mu kifo kino.
- **1994:** Abakristu ba Christ the King Dinale baatandika okukuzanga olunaku lwabwe nga balamaga wano e Nabulagala.
- **14 February 2006:** Emmanuel Cardinal Wamala yawa obuvunaanyizibwa ab'Abaminsane b'Afrika okutandika okuteekateeka ekisomesa ky'e Nabulagala (Kijjukizo) awamu n'eky'e Masanamu okufuuka ekigo eky'etongode okuva ku Nakulabye.
- **24 June 2007:** Nabulagala kyafuuka ekigo era ne kiwebwa erinnya erya Mapeera-Nabulagala ng'omuwolereza wakyo ye Omut. Yowanna Battista. Omutambizi omukulu yali Ssabasumba wa Kampala, Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga, ate ng'omugenyi omukulu yali Kabaka Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II.
- **28 June 2009:** Waaliwo okulamaga mu kifo kino okujjukira emyak 130 bukya Eklezia Katolika etuuka mu Uganda era ebisigala by'Abaminsane abasaale byaleetebwa okuva e Lubaga. Omutambizi omukulu yali Emmanuel Cardinal Wamala ate omugenyi omukulu eyakikirira Kabaka yali Owekit. Charles Peter Mayiga, Minista w'Ebyamawulire era Omwozezi w'Olukiko lwa Buganda. Ku lunaku luno *Grotto* ya Bikira Maria yaweebwa omukisa era n'abakristu ne baddamu okusingira Uganda eri B. Maria nga beyambisa Essaala eya Bikira Maria ow'e Nabulagala.
- **6 March 2011:** Ebisigala by'Abaminsane abasaale, kwe kugamba: Livinhac, Barbot, Lourdel ne Amansi, byaleetebwa e Nabulagala ne biziikibwa mu klezia ey'ekijjukizo. Ebisigala bya Pere Girault tebyafunika olw'okuba nti byali biziikiddwa wamu n'ebya'abaminsane abalala mu Algeria gye yafiira. Mu kasunduku ke mwatekebawo kopi (copies) z'ezimu ku bbaluwa ze yawandiika mu mukono gwe ggwenyini. Eyakulembwa omukolo guno yali Emmanuel Cardinal Wamala ate omugenyi omukulu yali Katikkiro wa Buganda, Owekit. J. B. Walusimbi.
- **25 June: Okulamaga kwa buli mwaka.** Okuva mu mwaka gwa 2015, Ssabasumba wa Kampala, Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga, yasalawo nti okulamaga e Nabulagala okwa buli mwaka kujjanga kubaawo ku lunaku luno lwennyini, lube lwa Sunday oba olunaku olulala lwonna mu wiiki. Newandibadde ng'olunaku luno lutujjukiza Ukaristia Embereberye mu Uganda, naye tetusaanye kwera bira Amasakramentu amalala agaakulizibwa mu kifo kino omulundi ogusooka mu Uganda, kwe kugamba: Batismu, Penetensia, Kofirmansio okwo nga kw'otadde n'okusingira ensi eno eri B. Maria. N'olwekyo buli mulamazi alamaga e Nabulagala yandeyambisiza omukisa ogwo '**okwefumintiriza obuggya n'okwebulirira ku kukkiriza kwaffe**' nga Cardinal Wamala bwe yawaandiika mu bubaka bwe mu kuggulawo ekigo kino mu 2007.