

# VOICE OF HOPE

The Official Quaterly Diocesan Newsletter Christmas Dec-2024 Issue



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## MESSAGE OF HOPE AND BLESSING

Bishop's Reflections and Vision



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned." (Isaiah 9:2)

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, we rejoice in the light of Christ that fills our hearts and communities with hope and peace. This Christmas, we give thanks to God for His faithfulness throughout 2024, a year of great milestones and blessings.

We have seen the growth of His Kingdom through new church plants, vibrant mission and evangelism efforts, and the ordination of new clergy. Our education and development initiatives have made meaningful progress, and events like the Imarika Youth Conference have empowered the next generation of leaders in faith.

We are deeply grateful to our faith and development partners for your prayers, resources, and unwavering support. Your dedication has been instrumental in achieving these milestones. While challenges have tested us, they have also strengthened our resolve to serve God and His people. As we step into 2025, may we embrace the opportunities ahead with faith and determination, shining Christ's light in every corner of our Diocese.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year filled with God's grace.

Your brother in Christ,  
Bishop Qampicha







## **IMARIKA2024 CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS** **ROOTED IN FAITH: ROOTED IN FAITH: EQUIPPING THE NEXT GENERATION** **THEME: "CONTEND FOR THE TRUE FAITH" (JUDE 1:3)**

**By Rev. Jomo Elijah**

The 2024 iMarika Youth Conference held at St Andrews Boys High school in Badassa Parish was a transformative gathering of over 400 young people from across the Diocese of Marsabit, representing its diverse communities. Under the theme "Contend for the True Faith" (Jude 1:3), we explored how youth can stand firm in their faith amidst spiritual and societal pressures.

### **Conference Highlights**

- **Bible Expositions:** Focused studies unpacked the book of Jude, equipping youth to hold fast to biblical truths.
- **Life Skills Workshops:** Sessions on CV writing, personal branding, and financial literacy prepared youth for future opportunities.
- **Leadership Development:** Practical training empowered participants to lead in schools, churches, and communities with integrity.
- **Cultural Celebrations:** Vibrant exchanges showcased Marsabit's rich ethnic diversity, fostering unity.
- **4. Fellowship and Community Building**
- Group activities, Q&A sessions, and discussions fostered bonds among youth from diverse parishes.
- Participants shared testimonies of spiritual renewal and personal growth.

The iMarika Youth Conference is more than an event; it is a call to action. As we contend for the true faith, we equip our young people to rise above challenges, lead with integrity, and stand firm in their convictions. This is how we shape a future rooted in God's Word and filled with hope. – **Rev. Jomo Elijah**



# IMARIKA 2024 IN PICTURES







## HIGHLIGHTS: IMARIKA YOUTH CONFERENCE 2024

### Achievements

- Record Turnout: Over 400 youth participated, representing various parishes within the Diocese.
- Transformative Impact: Youth left equipped with essential skills, strengthened faith, and a renewed commitment to Christ.
- Future Leaders Identified: Emerging leaders were noted for ongoing mentorship and development.

### Looking Ahead

The conference was a resounding success, but it also highlighted areas for growth, such as improving logistics and reaching even more youth in the future.

As the Diocesan Youth Department, we urge the youth to carry the lessons learned forward, contending for true faith and becoming ambassadors of Christ in their communities.

"Let us now rise to contend for the true faith—equipped, united, and ready to be a light in our communities and beyond."  
— Rev. Jomo Elijah

**Rev. Jomo N. Elijah is the;**

### Special Thanks

- We extend our heartfelt gratitude to:
- God, for His presence throughout the conference.
- Our planning team and facilitators for their hard work and dedication.
- Parents and guardians for supporting their children's participation.
- The Diocese leadership for their unwavering support of youth programs.

### Stay Connected

Let's continue the journey together! Parish-level youth programs and future diocesan events will build on the foundation laid at IMARIKA 2024. "Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called" (1 Timothy 6:12).

Director of Mission & Evangelism,  
Youth & Teens Ministries and Curate-in-Charge ACK Holy Trinity Church,  
Hula Hula, Diocese of Marsabit



# FAITH IN ACTION: TRANSFORMATIVE INITIATIVES AT ACK ST. MATTHEW'S LAISAMIS

CAPT SILAS ACHOLA VICAR-IN-CHARGE

## Tree Planting Initiative

As stewards of God's creation, we organized a tree-planting day where our youth and church leadership worked together to beautify the church grounds and promote environmental sustainability. This initiative not only improves local weather conditions but also fosters a sense of community and responsibility for future generations.



## Vacation Bible School (VBS)

We recently concluded a remarkable Vacation Bible School centered on the theme, "Sound Teaching Leads to Godliness" from the book of Titus. This event was a time of immense spiritual renewal, where participants embraced Scripture and reflected on God's holiness and grace. We praise God for the 36 individuals who accepted Christ as their Savior and for the eternal impact made through this transformative gathering.



## House Building Project

In the spirit of giving and compassion, the church has undertaken the construction of a semi-permanent home for one of our caregivers, whose house was tragically destroyed by fire. After a thorough assessment, we resolved to provide this vital support to help restore stability and security for them. This initiative reflects our commitment to demonstrating God's love through action.

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## Youth Camp

Our vibrant youth ministry recently participated in the Marsabit Youth Camp at Badasa, where over 400 youths gathered to celebrate faith and culture. Representatives from Laisamis and Merrile joined us, and our team excelled during the cultural night, winning the 2024 Miss Kayo title and the traditional dance competition. The energy and talent of our young people remind us to embrace and nurture the gifts God has entrusted to us as we build a strong foundation for the future of the Church.





# FAITH IN ACTION: TRANSFORMATIVE INITIATIVES AT ACK ST. MATTHEW'S-LAISAMIS

CAPT SILAS ACHOLA VICAR-IN-CHARGE

## Borehole Drilling Initiative: Bringing Hope to the Community

At ACK St. Matthew's Church, we are committed to meeting not only the spiritual needs of our congregation but also addressing the physical and social challenges faced by our community. In partnership with local leaders, engineers, and development organizations, we recently embarked on a borehole drilling project to provide clean and sustainable water to the area.



This initiative, pictured above, brings together church members, community representatives, and technical experts, working hand-in-hand to ensure access to this essential resource. For a region often plagued by water scarcity, the borehole will serve as a beacon of hope, improving livelihoods and fostering resilience. We are grateful for the collaboration and support of all stakeholders involved. As we reflect on this progress, we invite individuals and organizations to join us in future projects that uplift and transform lives. Together, we can continue making a lasting impact in 2025 and beyond.

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## Looking Ahead to Christmas and 2025

As the year draws to a close, we are thankful for all that God has accomplished through us in 2024. The Christmas season invites us to celebrate His faithfulness and renew our commitment to His work. Looking ahead to 2025, we eagerly anticipate new opportunities to serve, grow, and impact lives positively. We also take this moment to extend an invitation to individuals, organizations, and well-wishers to partner with us. Your prayers, resources, and expertise are invaluable as we embark on new projects and continue existing initiatives. Together, we can achieve even greater things for God's glory.

We pray that this Christmas season fills your hearts and homes with peace, love, and joy. May God bless you abundantly in the year to come.

Blessings,

**Rev. Capt. Silas Achola**  
**Vicar, ACK St. Matthew's Church**



Galatians 6:9

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."





*"But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." – Joshua 24:15*

From December 3rd to 7th, an exciting opportunity for our Mothers' Union and KAMA members as they gathered for training and fellowship in separate conferences. These events marked an important moment for our Diocese, as leaders and members are equipped with the tools and insights needed to serve with renewed commitment in the mission fields of the North.

The Mothers' Union representatives, drawn from Isiolo, Marsabit, and Sololo, headed to the Jumua Beach and Conference Resort in Kilifi. Under the capable leadership of our Diocesan Women's Ministry Coordinator, Rev. Elema John, they delved into topics that strengthened their ministry at home and in the church.

Meanwhile, our KAMA members traveled to Chemelil in Western Kenya for their end-of-year provincial conference. Led by the Ag. KAMA Coordinator, Ven. Diid Boru, the men will focus on leadership, discipleship, and ways to become even more effective in their service to the church and community.

These gatherings are more than just conferences—they are moments of growth, learning, and deep spiritual renewal. As they come together, we are reminded of our call to build strong Christian households, as Joshua declared: "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).



***Let us pray for safe travels, fruitful discussions, and divine inspiration for all who attend. May their time together be marked by unity, wisdom, and encouragement. As they return, we look forward to seeing the fruits of their labor as they apply their newfound knowledge and insights in their respective ministries.***

*Together, let's support and celebrate these efforts, knowing that God is at work through the faithful service of His people.*



# ACK ST. JOHN'S CHURCH CELEBRATES THE OPENING OF THEIR RENOVATED SANCTUARY

Sunday 22-12-24 marks a momentous occasion for ACK St. John's Church, as the congregation celebrates the official opening of their newly renovated and expanded sanctuary. With the church community steadily growing, the need for a larger and more accommodating space had become essential. Under the leadership of Rev. Petero Halakhe, this vision has now become a reality, providing a welcoming space for worship and fellowship.



The new sanctuary, which was thoughtfully designed to reflect the needs of the congregation, is a testament to the faith and dedication of the church members. The expansion includes additional seating, enhanced facilities, and a beautifully refurbished interior, ensuring that the growing community has a space to come together in worship, prayer, and service.



Praise the Lord!

We thank God for the successful building and consecration of St. John ACK Church Sololo. We are deeply grateful to all who contributed their skills, expertise, time, and resources toward this church-building project.

May the Lord bless you abundantly and increase your resources in Jesus' holy name. We also thank God for the successful Thanksgiving Conference and Christmas celebrations in 2024.

-Rev Petero Halakhe; Vicar

**"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain."**

**- Psalm 127:1**

## ACK Aria Church

This vibrant and growing congregation represents the continued commitment to spreading the Gospel and serving the spiritual needs of the community. ACK Aria Church stands as a testament to faith and dedication, providing a space for worship, fellowship, and outreach to all who seek God's presence in their lives.





# JOYFUL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AT ACK KITURUNI AND ACK ST PETERS SUNDAY SCHOOL

ACK Kituruni was filled with joy and thanksgiving as a large congregation of faithful gathered to celebrate the birth of our Savior during the Christmas service. Led by their dedicated evangelist, John Lengalwesi, the church came alive with praise and worship, reflecting the true spirit of the season.



The youth choir led the celebrations with vibrant songs of joy, lifting the hearts of all in attendance. The mothers' fellowship also shared their gratitude through heartfelt prayers and hymns, adding to the beauty of the occasion.



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## SPREADING CHRISTMAS JOY

ACK St peters Cathedral leadership Led by VC Joseph Humbe spread Christmas joy by donating gifts to Sunday School children, during the visit with a PCC member, and the Diocesan Chancellor John Behailu, and his family. This thoughtful act of love and fellowship serves as a reminder of the importance of giving and sharing Christ's love during the holiday season, especially with the youngest among us. As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us continue to extend kindness and generosity to those in need.





## ISIOLO ARCHDEACONRY TESTIMONIALS from the Mission Field



***“Like John the Baptist, we are called to prepare the way for the Lord—even when the path is rough, unpredictable, and full of surprises.”***

Sunday 17-12-2024 was a day like no other—both a great triumph and a heart-stopping adventure. Together with our Archdeacon, Ven. Diid Boru, we had traveled to Ngare Sirkon, the farthest daughter church in Leparua, for a mini harambee to support church construction. The journey was tough, the rough terrain making it accessible only by motorbikes. Yet, we pressed on with determination, motivated by the task at hand.

By God’s grace, the harambee was a success. As we rode back, we were in a celebratory mood, reflecting on lessons from Luke 3, where John the Baptist boldly prepared the way for the Lord. The sky was dramatic—dark clouds loomed behind us, while a rainbow shimmered just ahead, creating an unforgettable scene.

*Then, out of nowhere, the unexpected happened.*



### **THE CHARGE**

A sudden, deafening trumpet-like sound tore through the stillness. Before we could comprehend it, a massive, dark brown bull elephant emerged, charging straight at us with terrifying force.

Panic set in as the motorbike wobbled. I was seated at the back, Ven Diid was sandwiched between me and the rider. In that split second, survival instincts took over—and I discovered something extraordinary about the Archdeacon.

### **THE KIPCHOGE WITHIN**

Ven. Diid leapt off the bike with an agility I would never have imagined. Somehow, he managed to jump past me, despite being sandwiched in the middle! Before I could even blink, he was already 15 meters away, sprinting at a speed that would put professional athletes to shame. Shoeless and determined, he ran as if his very life depended on it.

Meanwhile, the bike toppled over, throwing the rest of us to the ground. Adrenaline coursed through my veins as we scrambled to safety, narrowly avoiding the furious elephant.





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#### **REFLECTIONS ON FAITH AND MINISTRY**

As I write this, safe and grateful for God's protection, I marvel at the lessons this experience has taught me. Ministry in places like Ngare Sirkon is not for the faint of heart. The roads are tough, the dangers are real, and yet the call to serve remains undeniable.

Our encounter with the charging elephant felt like a vivid reminder of the courage and faith we need in ministry. Just as John the Baptist prepared the way for Christ with boldness, we too must continue our mission—no matter how challenging or unpredictable the path may be. To my fellow servants in Christ, let this be an encouragement. Whether you are outrunning an elephant or navigating other “giants” in ministry, take heart. As Psalm 23 reminds us, “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me.”

For me and Ven. Diid, today was proof that God's hand is always with us—even on the roughest roads.







### **A MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE DIOCESAN COMMUNICATIONS TEAM!**

To all our cherished readers of Friends of Marsabit, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and readership throughout 2024. Your prayers, encouragement, and generosity have fueled our mission to share the stories of God's work in the vast and diverse ACK Diocese of Marsabit, Kenya's largest diocese by land area and home to over 14 unique ethnic communities.

This year, we celebrate God's faithfulness:

- **Spiritual Growth:** Successful missions during the Diocesan Mission Month, bringing hope and salvation to many.
- **Empowered Ministries:** Training and conferences that strengthened our Mothers' Union, KAMA, and youth fellowship teams.
- **Community Impact:** Projects like the borehole drilling initiative, housing for vulnerable families, and VBS programs that touched countless lives.

As we close this year of blessing and growth, we look forward to 2025 with hope and renewed energy. We anticipate more fruitful partnerships, deeper spiritual growth, and impactful community transformation.

### **PRAYER FOCUS FOR 2025: LIFTING THE DIOCESE IN FAITH**

- Pray for abundant resources to support ministry and development projects across the Diocese.
- Seek God's intervention for lasting peace and security in our region and beyond.
- Ask for political stability in Kenya and the resolution of conflicts in countries like Sudan, Ukraine, and the Middle East.
- Pray for growth and expansion of God's Kingdom through effective evangelism efforts.
- Lift up the Church for renewed revival, unity, and spiritual awakening in all congregations.

**May this Christmas season fill your hearts with joy and hope as we continue to serve together in God's mission field.**

**With love and blessings,  
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