



ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF NAMIBIA



CENTENARY CELEBRATION PROGRAMME

17 – 24 AUGUST 2025,

ST. MARY'S ODIBO MISSION, OHANGWENA REGION, NAMIBIA

Centenary Theme:

*Commemorating achievements and visualising the future of
the Anglican Diocese of Namibia*

CENTENARY MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN BISHOP

Beloved in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

As we commemorate 100 years of faithful witness, service, and sacramental life in the Anglican Diocese of Namibia, I invite you to join me in thanksgiving for the grace of God that has sustained us from our humble beginnings at St. Mary's Mission, Odibo, in 1925 to this momentous Centenary in 2025. We honour the courage and vision of our forebears—missionaries, catechists, clergy, and lay faithful—who laid the foundation of a Church rooted in Christ, culturally grounded, and socially responsive.

The Anglican Diocese of Namibia today is a living testimony of God's enduring faithfulness. We are a Church that stands at the crossroads of memory and mission—a Church called not only to remember but also to reimagine and renew. The Centenary is not merely a celebration of the past, but a launching pad for the future. We are tasked with discerning where God is leading us in the next 10, 20, even 100 years.

Looking forward, I envision the Diocese of Namibia as:

1. **A *Missional Church*** – Deepening evangelism and discipleship rooted in the Gospel, while responding to the needs of our rural and urban communities through contextual, transformative mission.
2. **A *Just Church*** – Courageously engaging issues of poverty, inequality, gender-based violence, youth unemployment, and environmental degradation—becoming the prophetic voice and compassionate hands of Christ in society.
3. **A *Learning Church*** – Investing in theological education, leadership formation, and digital literacy, especially among our young people, clergy, and laity, to equip them for faithful and informed service in an ever-changing world.
4. **A *United and Inclusive Church*** – Embracing all people regardless of race, language,
5. gender, or social background, and ensuring that the Church is a safe and nurturing space for children, women, persons with disabilities, and the marginalized.
6. **A *Sustainable Church*** – Strengthening financial stewardship, parish infrastructure, and local income-generating initiatives to reduce dependence and ensure long-term stability and growth.

Our focus in the coming years must therefore concentrate on mission-driven development, youth empowerment, theological education, social justice, and church sustainability. These are not optional tasks—they are gospel imperatives. As Anglicans in Namibia, we have a sacred duty to be both faithful to our heritage and courageous in innovation. We must build on our legacy by becoming the Church that Namibia will need tomorrow—a Church that listens, learns, and leads with love and hope.

May this Centenary be the flame that kindles our passion, renews our commitment, and prepares us for the next 100 years of proclaiming Christ in Word and deed.

With every blessing in Christ,

+ Patrick Namibia

The Right Reverend Patrick Djuulume
Diocesan Bishop, Anglican Diocese of Namibia

INTRODUCTORY MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF NAMIBIA CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS PLANNING COMMITTEE

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

It is with deep joy, profound gratitude, and sacred reverence that I welcome you to the Centenary Celebrations of the Anglican Diocese of Namibia, taking place from the 21st to the 23rd of August 2025. Under the theme “*Commemorating Achievements and Visualising the Future of the Anglican Diocese of Namibia*,” we gather to honour a hundred years of unwavering service, spiritual devotion, and community transformation.

Marking a century of the Diocese’s existence is far more than a ceremonial milestone. Theologically, it is a *kairos* moment—a sacred pause to reflect on God’s steadfast love and grace that have carried this Church through seasons of trial and triumph. One hundred years symbolize not just longevity, but a legacy of faithfulness, sacrifice, and discipleship. We give thanks for the dedication of countless clergy, laity, women, youth, and elders whose collective witness has shaped this Diocese into a spiritual home for many and a beacon of hope for the Namibian nation.

Throughout these years, the Anglican Diocese of Namibia has stood as a pillar of moral guidance, social justice, and pastoral care. We have nurtured national and community leaders, educated generations, and championed the dignity of all God’s people. From rural parishes to urban parishes, we have proclaimed the Gospel in word and deed, offering healing, reconciliation, and development. Our Church has served not only as a spiritual refuge but also as a force for societal transformation, rooted in Anglican tradition yet deeply contextual in its witness.

As we look to the future, we are called to renew our commitment to serve with courage and compassion in a rapidly changing world. The next century beckons us to deepen our mission—to raise prophetic voices for justice, to care for creation, to innovate in theological formation, and to invest in the holistic development of every Namibian. The journey ahead demands unity, vision, and bold faith.

I am deeply grateful to the members of the Diocesan Centenary Celebrations Planning Committee, whose wisdom and dedication made this momentous occasion possible: Prof. Haaveshe Nielsen-Nekongo (Director at St. Mary’s Mission Odibo), Dr. Helena Miranda, Dr. Onesmus Hailombe, Revd. Canon Samuel H. Kaxuxuena, Revd. Canon Nangula Kathindi, Mrs. Vistorina Nakwatumbah, and Ms. Pius Ndahafa Kafute. Their selfless service embodies the very spirit we commemorate and the future we envision.

May these celebrations inspire us to honour our past, embrace our present, and courageously shape our future as the Anglican Diocese of Namibia continues to be the hands and feet of Christ in this land.

With every blessing,



Revd. Dr. Archford Musodza (LLM, PhD)

*Chairperson: Anglican Diocese of Namibia Centenary Celebrations Planning Committee
(ADNCCPC)*

WELCOME TO THE 100 YEARS ANNIVERSARY: A HISTORIC EVENT IN A LIFETIME

The day has dawned for the centenary celebrations of the arrival and establishment of the Anglican Church in Namibia over more than hundred years ago. In 1915 the Anglican Church arrived in Namibia with Revd Nelson Wellesely Fogarty as a chaplain of the Union Defense Forces in German South West Africa. Then the Church arrived in Windhoek in 1918 when Revd Fogarty was sent to establish a Mission, which was called the Mission of Damaraland. He was later appointed as Archdeacon and then Vicar-General of the Damaraland Mission.

Thereafter, the Church reached Ovamboland in 1924 when Revd George Tobias, who was also a Chaplain in the First World War came to this part of South West Africa. He discovered that the people there needed evangelism and negotiated for the approval of his Bishop in Cape Town to start ministering to them. On the 19th of August 1924 Revd Tobias arrived in Odibo Village and camped under Omwandi tree. This was also the day of the first site meeting with the local traditional authority. Present at the site meeting with Revd Tobias was his companion Revd R.L. White; their chauffeur; Mr Haufiku ya Kasheeta, the Headman of Onekwaya West Village; Mr Nicodemus Kaluvi, Headman of Onengali Village and also on his capacity as Chief Headman of the surrounding Villages. It was then during this site meeting that the Chief Headman Kaluvi handed the piece of land, Odibo, to Revd Tobias for the establishment of his ministry. When Revd Tobias, affectionately known as Lukenge, received the land his first concern was to find water, build a shelter for accommodation and a chapel. Tobias founded the Ovamboland Mission of the Anglican Church and developed the ministry with three components ecclesiastical, education and health which started from under the Omwandi tree, named Omwandi waLukenge at Odibo Village.

The St. Mary's Odibo Mission became the mother and headquarters of the Ovamboland Mission of the Anglican Church in Namibia and the hub for the Anglican Church mission extension work in the northern part of Namibia. The following are parish churches which grew directly from the Mother Church: Holy Cross Onamunama, 1928; St Cuthbert Onamutai, 1931; Christ the King Onekwaya, 1936; Holy Spirit Oshandi, 1936; St Luke Epinga; 1936; St Magdalene Omboloka, 1942; the Church of Transfiguration Ondangwa, 1959; the Church of the Good Shepherd Okathitu, 1965; and St Thomas Oshakati, 1967. The work of the church grew and everywhere a parish church was built, a school and clinic were also built. In addition, full-fledged hospitals were built at St Mary's Odibo and the Holy Spirit Oshandi. Later, the Ovamboland Mission of the Anglican Church and the Mission of Damaraland became the Diocese of Damaraland. Around 1970, years before the liberation of South West Africa from the apartheid regime of South Africa, and in anticipation of the independence of Namibia, the Diocese of Damaraland was renamed the Anglican Diocese of Namibia.

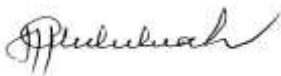
Based on this brief historical background the official Centenary Celebrations to mark the arrival of the Anglican Church in Namibia should have been either for 1915 or 1918. However, we find it very important and gratifying to combine the celebrations into a single centenary celebration of the Anglican Diocese of Namibia. The celebration will be mandated by the theme: *"Commemorating achievements and visualizing the future of the Anglican Diocese of Namibia."* Therefore, the main purpose of the centenary celebration is to:

- Commemorate the historic centenary milestone;
- Document the journey, achievements and challenges over the past century; and

- Treasure the legacy and inspire the vision of the Anglican Diocese of Namibia.

The main celebration event will be hosted by St Mary's Odibo Mission, being the Mother of the Anglican Church in Namibia, it is most appropriate for the Mission to be the venue for the main Centenary Celebration. The management team of the Mission, the residences and the entire community of Odibo Village are highly gratified to host this momentous and impactful event.

We, wholeheartedly, welcome the invited guests, friends, supporters, peace lovers and all Anglicans to come in great numbers and rejoice together with us and praise the Lord, for He is gracious.



Revd Canon Justina Popieni-Vali Hilukiluah
Chairperson, Anglican Diocese Centenary Northern Region Organising Committee
(ADCNROC)

WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S ODIBO MISSION: VENUE OF THE DIOCESAN CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

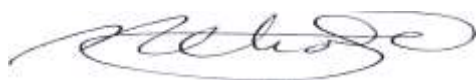
It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to this historic venue, St. Mary's Odibo Mission, the oldest centre of Anglican evangelism that has provided spiritual, educational and health services over the years. We are meeting at this venue for a significant historical event and we are happy to share the space with you as we celebrate hundred years in our Diocese. On behalf of St. Mary's Odibo Mission staff, I extend a warm welcome to all centenary delegates and participants. I especially would like to welcome Alumni members of St. Mary's Odibo School along with former employees of the St. Mary's Mission (Hospital, Mission School, and Parish) and wish all of us a pleasant reunion.

This historic centre, the only surviving "Mission" within the Anglican Diocese of Namibia, has stood for more than hundred years and witnessed significant developments, destructions and renewals. Although, the Mission has been dealt with a heavy hand during the war of liberation, we have not been fortunate to receive sustainable assistance after the departure of missionaries. However, the Diocese, selected sponsors and Anglicans from all walks of life have committed resources to keep this centre alive to date. Like an old infrastructure, we see St Mary's as "*embale lya shiikilila ombepo*", as it remains a critical Centre of community service. It has thus been chosen as a place to celebrate the bravery of our founders, our deep faith, and the resilience of our people and the purpose of our organisation (the Anglican Diocese of Namibia).

Subsequently, at all times the Mission, *Omissioni* as it is affectionately known, has provided a space for important religious occasions (synods, ordinations) and social gatherings, including this Centenary Celebration. We are therefore honoured to share this wonderful space with all of you as we celebrate 100 years, an important milestone in the existence and history of the Diocese of Namibia. We hope you enjoy your time here during the Centenary and take a moment to appreciate the rich heritage and history that surrounds us. Equally, we would like you to feel at home, explore and participate in all the activities and amenities that we have prepared for our joint enjoyment.

As you peruse through this Centenary Celebration Programme, we encourage you to look out for specific activities during the Centenary week, which among others include: ***(1) daily thought-provoking talks about the legacy, history and future of the Anglican Church in Namibia and the services it offers - these will be delivered by seasoned, knowledgeable speakers and followed by moderated discussions; (2) cultural performances including storytelling and poetry about important historical events and personalities; (3) gospel music; (4) scheduled guided tours; (5) exhibitions and many more.*** We further invite you to join us at the Main Centenary Eucharist Service on **Saturday, 23 August 2025**, to experience the famous Lukenge Liturgical Service, the original Sunday Service as introduced, used and popularised by renowned priests such as the Father Namweja's and Father Haihambo's.

On our part at St Mary's Odibo Mission, we would like to acknowledge the generous support from all our sponsors and the important role they played in making sure that the centenary celebrations become a success. It is our solemn promise that, with your support, we are unceasingly dedicated to provide Christian facilities, educational, health and other benevolent services and develop this vital institution to continue serving Namibians. We are committed to '*rebuild and rebuild St. Mary's Odibo Mission until it is built*' for future generations to enjoy. We urge you to explore our current activities and future projects by visiting our website at: www.stmarysodibomission.org.



Prof Haaveshe Nekongo-Nielsen
Mission Director

Sunday, 17 August 2025: (An After Service Activity)

Theme of the Day: *Our heritage, our future*

Facilitators: *Canon JP Hilukiluah, Chairperson of the Northern Centenary Committee*
Prof Haaveshe Nekongo-Nielsen, Mission Director

A Guided Tour of the St Mary's Mission facilities and space allocation of the following:

THE CHURCH AND PARISH FACILITIES

OINGOBELE SITES

TENT LOCATIONS

SMOSA HALL AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

STALLS AND THE CENTRAL SQUARE

OLUPALE SQUARE

THE EXHIBITION HALL (GEORGE TOBIAS HALL)

THE PROCESSION ROUTE

ONDUNGU AND OMWANDI WALUKENGE (OLD CHURCH)

SCHOOL SURROUNDINGS

HOSPITAL SURROUNDINGS

All Centenary sessions will commence at 09h00 and conclude around 15h00 daily. All talks, discussions; morning Performances and Shows will be held in the SMOSA Hall; while afternoon performances will be staged at the Olupale Square.

Monday, 18 August 2025:

Theme of the Day: *Celebrating the Namibian cultures and traditions*

Director of Ceremonies: Mr Emmanuel Pamwenase Hangula (Class of 1983)

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| 09H00 | Opening Prayer |
| 09H10 | <i>Musical performance by the St. Mary's Odibo High School learners</i> |
| 09H20 | Speaker: Rt. Reverend Petrus Hidulika Hilukiluah (Retired) on Culture and the Church |
| 09H50 | <i>Cultural performances by the St. Mary's Odibo High School learners</i> |
| 10H00 | Comfort Break |
| 10H30 | Moderated Discussion |
| 11H00 | <i>Cultural performance by Community Participants</i> |
| 11H20 | Conclusions and forward thinking on the Theme of the Day |
| 11H40 | Dramatised cultural performance by the St. Mary's School learners |
| 12H00 | Poem narration or storytelling by learners/community participants and the School Anthem |
| 12H30 | Lunch Break |
| 14H00 | Cultural performance at Olupale by St. Mary's School learners, Community Participants and neighbouring Schools' learners (Odibo and Onengali Combined Schools) to include storytelling, drama, poems and/or songs. |
| 15h00 | <i>Guided Exhibition Tour by Ms Ndapona Shikangala; Rehearsals led by ADONACO for Saturday Service (23 August 2025) will be held in the Church.</i> |

Tuesday, 19 August 2025:

Theme of the Day: *Celebrating the Anglican tradition*

Parade Grand Marshall: Mr Gabriel Kandadi (Member of the Anglican Diocese Centenary Celebration Northern Region Organising Committee)

The Founders Parade: The Centenary Parade is held to depict the arrival of and obtaining of land from Local and/or Traditional Authorities.

Parade Formation: Parade participants will all meet at **Etale laNengali by 08h00 in the morning**. Under the Leadership of the Diocesan Bishop the Parade and Grand Marshall will be organised in groups of walkers, donkey/oxen carts, bicycles, motorbikes, trucks, 4X4's, sedan cars and so forth.

Parade Procession: From *Etale laNengali* and led by the Diocesan Bishop and Parade Grand Marshall in a vehicle of their choice to be known as "the Parade Vehicle". The Parade Vehicle will be followed by the walkers' group (all who choose to walk) of Mr Shokonawa and the St. Mary's Odibo High School learners carrying the Centenary Banner. This group will be followed by the Brass Band in collaboration with Commissioner Sam Shaalulange (walking).

The Archdeacons will follow, in a form of the four periods, depicting:

- The Arrival of missionaries at Walvisbay; Windhoek; and Odibo; celebrating our ancestors and founders, using similar mode of transport used at the time;
- Mission expansion to outstations, using similar mode of transport used at the time;
- The Struggle for Independence (using similar mode of transport used at the time); and
- Independence and the Born Frees (using similar mode of transport used at the time).

Thereafter, the general population will follow according to seniority and in vehicles of their choice.

Procession Route: Once in formation, the Parade will move from the **Etale laNengali** along the main road via Onamhinda village, through the School Gate then to Omwandi waLukenge. At Omwandi, learners will dramatise a play of missionaries' arrivals at Odibo, and thereafter we continue to Olupale laLukenge to enjoy an afternoon of performances by Church Guilds (*ADONACO; Mother's Union; the Youth Organisation; Bernard Muzeki, Server's Guild, and Sunday School*) as well as St Mary's High School Student Christian Movement (SCM) and selected visiting gospel and cultural groups.

Dress Code: Parade participants are encouraged to adorn on attires of their choices that showcase elements of the Namibian rich and diverse cultures or wear centenary T-shirts.

15h00 *Open-Air-Museum Self-guided Exhibition Tour (depends on interest); Rehearsals led by ADONACO for Saturday Service (23 August 2025) will be held in the Church.*

Wednesday, 20 August 2025:
Theme of the Day: *Listen and Learn*

Director of Ceremonies: Christofina Shimweefeleni (Class of 1978)

- 09H00 Opening Prayer
09H10 **Speaker: Reverend Canon J Popieni Hilukiluah** on the establishment and
 closing of the Anglican Medical facilities/services
09H30 *ADONACO Performance*
- 09h40 Speaker: Rt. Reverend Petrus Hidulika Hilukiluah (Retired)** on the
 establishment and development of Diocesan Schools
10H00 *Servers Guild Performance*
- 10H10 Moderated Discussion on education and health services
10H40 *ADONACO Performance*
10H50 Comfort Break
- 11H20 **Speaker: Ambassador Tuliaameni Kalomoh** on the political effects on and
 social aspects of the Anglican Diocese of Namibia
11H40 *Servers Guild Performance*
- 11H50 Moderated Discussion
12H40 Conclusions and forward thinking on the Theme of the Day
13H00 *ADONACO Performance*
- 13H10 Lunch Break**
- 14H50 *Guided Exhibition Tour by Ms Ndapona Shikangala*
 Rehearsals led by ADONACO for Saturday Service (23 August 2025) will be
 held in the Church

Thursday, 21 August 2025:
Theme of the Day: *Listen and Learn*

Director of Ceremonies: Reverend Elevine Shilongo Michael (Class of 1979)

- 09H00 Opening Prayer
09H10 **Speaker: Rt. Reverend Nehemia Shihala Hamupembe (Retired)** on the
Arrival of Anglican Missionaries to South West Africa
- 09H40 *The Youth Organisation Performance*
09H50 Moderated Discussion
- 10H20 Comfort Break**
- 10H50 *Hoolola Omwenyo Performance*
11H00 **Speaker: Reverend Gabriel Nekongo** on the Church's Mission in "Missio
Dei"
11H20 Moderated Discussion
- 11H50 *Bernard Muzeki Performance*
12H10 **Speaker: Rt. Reverend Patrick Djuulume (Diocesan Bishop)** on the
Anglican Diocese of Namibia and the Future
12H40 Moderated Discussion
- 13H10 *The Youth Organisation*
13H20 Conclusions and forward thinking on the Theme of the Day
- 13H30 Lunch Break**
- 15H00 *Guided Exhibition Tour by Ms Ndapona Shikangala; Rehearsals led by
ADONACO for Saturday Service (23 August 2025) will be held in the Church*

Friday, 22 August 2025:

Theme of the Day: *Anglicans planning for their Future*

Director of Ceremonies: Venerable Joseph Hanghome (Class of 2006)

- 09H00 Opening Prayer
09H10 **Speaker: Very Ven. Rod April, Dean of St George's the Martyr Cathedral**
 on Missionary Work and how we continue this work in today's society
09H50 *Mothers' Union and/or Women's Fellowship Performance*
- 10H00 Comfort Break**
- 10H30 Moderated Discussion
11H20 *Benard Muzeki*
- 11H30 Formulation of Diocesan Developmental Strategic Objectives for the next 10
 years
- 12H50 Summary and the way forward: Prof Haaveshe Nekongo-Nielsen
- 13H10: Closing prayer by the *Mother's Union and/or Women's Fellowship*
- 13H20 Lunch Break**
- 14H30 *Rehearsals led by ADONACO for Saturday Service (23 August 2025) will be
 held in the Church.*

Saturday, 23 August 2025: Commemorative Ceremony

Theme of the Day: Commemorating achievements and visualising the future

Order of Service will be provided to all attendees upon arrival

Sunday, 24 August 2025: Commemorative Sunday

Theme of the Day: Commemorating achievements and visualising the future

Same Order of Service as Saturday will be used

Notes to the Centenary Programme

*****Working Anglicans would be encouraged to take vacation leave for this week and campsites (Oingobele) will be allocated to all 11 Archdeaconries and other purposely organised interested groups.***

*****During the Centenary Week, Food and Refreshments would be sold through Stalls which are vended to selected Guilds as listed below. Except that the Mission Office has the monopoly to sell drinks and the Sunday School has the monopoly on snacks/sweets, each Guild will decide what type of refreshments to sell. Stalls are vended to:***

- 1. St Mary's Odibo Mission Management Office (with a monopoly of selling cool drinks, juices and water)***
- 2. ADONACO (Selling food items of own choices)***
- 3. Mothers' Union/Women's Fellowship (Selling food items of own choices)***
- 4. The Youth Organisation (Selling food items of own choices)***
- 5. Bernard Muzeki (Selling food items of own choices)***
- 6. Sunday School (Selling food items of own choices with a monopoly on snacks and sweets)***
- 7. Servers and Friends (Selling food items of own choices)***

*****Publications on the historical and existence of the Anglican Church in Namibia and other items will be for sale throughout the Centenary Week and thereafter. Registered members of the Alumni Association will receive book discounts on selected publications.***

*****Items for sale: Holy Communion Wafers, Centenary Merchandise, Hay***

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONORS