

IV. Catholic Mass – Basic Phrases

<i>Moni nonse.</i>	Hello Everyone (response: <i>Zikomo</i>).
<i>Tipemphere.</i>	Let us pray.
<i>Mtendere ukhale nanu.</i>	Peace be with you.
<i>Khalani.</i>	Please be seated.
<i>Tigwade.</i>	Please kneel.
<i>Tiimirire.</i>	Please stand.
<i>Ulemu kwa inu, Ambuye.</i>	Glory to you, Lord.

Our Father: *Atate athu muli m'mwamba, Dzina lanu liyeretsedwe, Ufumu Wanu udze, kufuna kwanu kuchitidwe monga Kumwamba choncho pansi pano. Mutipatse ife lero chakudya chathu chalero, mutikhulukire ife zochimwa zathu, monga ifenso tikhulukira adani athu. Musatisiye ife m'chinyengo, koma mutipulumutse ife kwa zoipa. Amen.*

V. Some Extra Notes

- ❖ You will probably notice, as you're walking around Namitembo Parish, that almost everybody you speak to will ask where you are going (*Mukupita kuti?*). This is a big part of "small talk" in Malawi, just as we might chat about the weather. The idea of just going on a walk, for no real reason, is not all that common. I usually say *Ndikuyendayenda* (I'm just walking around) or *Ndikuongola miyendo* (I'm stretching my legs).
- ❖ *Inde* and *Ee* (pronounced "ay," like the Canadians say) both mean yes, but *Ee* is less formal and much more common, somewhat akin to "Yeah" in English.
- ❖ Often, if you greet someone with *Muli bwanji?* or some variation thereof, they will just respond, *Ee, kaya inu?* – which is basically the same as if they were to say *Ndili bwino, kaya inu?* It's simply a less formal construction.
- ❖ If you're out on a walk away from the main road, and you approach a river, be sure to shout *Odi!* before you come in full view of the river; if you're not careful, you may unwittingly disturb a group of people who are bathing!
- ❖ Try not to confuse *Mulungu* with *malungo*, and you'll be just fine.

Chichewa – A Brief Guide

I. Pronunciation in Chichewa

The rules for pronouncing Chichewa are really quite simple. Vowels are pronounced the same way as in many other languages, such as Spanish and Italian:

- a** is pronounced as the **a** in **father**.
- e** is pronounced either as the **e** in **pen**, or the **ai** in **fair**.
- i** is pronounced as the **i** in **marine**.
- o** is pronounced as the **o** in **cozy**.
- u** is pronounced as the **u** in **rude**.

Consonants are pronounced the same as they are in English for the most part, with a few differences. Try to remember the following:

- ❖ **g** is always hard as in "bagel." It's never soft as in "gesture."
- ❖ **r** is spoken softly like **l**, and at times the two are practically indistinguishable. The **r** is never rolled.
- ❖ The diphthongs **kh**, **ph**, and **th** are pronounced the same as **k**, **p**, and **t** but with greater emphasis; furthermore, an "h" sound is added, as though you are punching the air out of your mouth while speaking.
- ❖ Some words begin with consonant combinations that are unusual in English such as **mb**, **mp**, and **nd**. It is important to pronounce both consonant sounds; the greater emphasis is generally on the second letter rather than the first.
- ❖ It may be a good idea to break the larger words into syllables for easy pronunciation. In Chichewa, this is a simple task: wherever you see a vowel, that marks the end of a syllable. Thus *Ndili bwino* becomes *Ndi-li bwi-no*, and *Ndikuongola miyendo* becomes *Ndi-ku-o-ngo-la mi-ye-ndo*.
- ❖ Accentuation generally falls on the second-to-last syllable.

II. Basic Conversation

Muli bwanji?
Ndili bwino. (Kaya inu?)
Mwadzuka bwanji?
Ndadzuka bwino. (Kaya inu?)

Mwaswera bwanji?
Ndaswera bwino. (Kaya inu?)

Mukupita kuti?
Ndikupita ku _____.
Ndikuyendayenda.
Mwachokera kuti?
Ndachokera ku _____.

Tionana!
Ndapita!
Muyende bwino! / Yendani bwino!
Mutsale bwino! / Tsalani bwino!

Dzina lanu ndani?
Dzina langa ndi _____.

Mufuna chiyani?
Mufuna ndani?
_____ ali kuti?

Nthawi ili bwanji?
Nthawi yanji?

Zikomo (kwambiri).
Pepani!
Sindikumvetsa.
Sindimamvetsa kwambiri Chichewa.
Zimachitika.

Mundijambule! / Jambulani!
Mundipatse ndalama.
Mundipatse maswiti.
Ndilibe _____.

How are you?
I'm fine. (What about you?)
How are you this morning?
I'm fine this morning. (What about you?)
How are you this afternoon?
I'm fine this afternoon. (What about you?)

Where are you going?
I'm going to _____.
I'm just walking around.
Where have you come from?
I've come from _____.

We shall meet! ('See you later!')
I'm going!
Go well!
Stay well!

What's your name?
My name is _____.

What do you want/need?
Who do you want/need?
Where is _____?

What time is it?
At what time?

Thank you (very much).
Sorry!
I don't understand.
I don't speak much Chichewa.
It happens!

Take my picture!
Give me money.
Give me sweets.
I don't have _____.

III. Extra Vocabulary

Father*	<i>bambo</i>	<i>What?</i>	<i>Chiyani?</i>
Mother*	<i>mayi</i>	<i>When?</i>	<i>Liti?</i>
<i>Child</i>	<i>mwana</i>	<i>Where?</i>	<i>Kuti?</i>
<i>Elder Person</i>	<i>agogo</i>	<i>Why?</i>	<i>Chifukwa chiyani?</i>
<i>Chief</i>	<i>mfumu</i>	<i>How?</i>	<i>Bwanji?</i>
<i>Case/Dispute</i>	<i>mlandu</i>	<i>"Okay."</i>	<i>Chabwino.</i>
<i>Mouse</i>	<i>mbewa</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>inde / eya / ee</i>
<i>Dog</i>	<i>galu</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>ayi / iyayi</i>
<i>Door</i>	<i>chitseko</i>	<i>Maybe</i>	<i>kapena</i>
<i>House</i>	<i>nyumba</i>	<i>English lang.</i>	<i>Chingelezi</i>
<i>Car</i>	<i>galimoto</i>	European*	<i>mzungu</i>
<i>Mill</i>	<i>chigayo</i>	<i>Mosquito</i>	<i>udzudzu</i>
<i>School</i>	<i>sukulu</i>	<i>Malaria</i>	<i>malungo</i>
<i>Teacher</i>	<i>mphunzitsi</i>	<i>Diarrhea</i>	<i>kutsekula mmimba</i>
<i>Field</i>	<i>munda</i>	<i>Tuberculosis</i>	<i>chifuwa chachikulu</i>
<i>Hoe</i>	<i>khasu</i>	<i>AIDS</i>	<i>edzi</i>
<i>Maize</i>	<i>chimanga</i>	<i>Mass</i>	<i>misa</i>
<i>Market</i>	<i>msika</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>tchalitchi</i>
<i>Chair</i>	<i>mpando</i>	<i>God</i>	<i>Mulungu</i>
<i>Luggage</i>	<i>katundu</i>	<i>Lord</i>	<i>Ambuye</i>
<i>Money</i>	<i>ndalama</i>	<i>Jesus Christ</i>	<i>Yesu Khristu</i>
<i>Food</i>	<i>chakudya</i>	<i>Now</i>	<i>tsopano</i>
<i>Water</i>	<i>madzi</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>tsiku</i>
<i>River</i>	<i>mtsinje</i>	<i>Week</i>	<i>sabata</i>
<i>Today</i>	<i>lero</i>	<i>Here, on this spot</i>	<i>pano</i>
<i>Tomorrow</i>	<i>mawa</i>	<i>Here, generally</i>	<i>kuno</i>
<i>Yesterday</i>	<i>dzulo</i>	<i>There, over there</i>	<i>uko</i>
		<i>Inside, in there</i>	<i>umo</i>

*As a matter of courtesy, *bambo* and *mayi* are used when greeting any man or woman. The title *Bambo* is also used for priests. *Bambo Mfumu* refers to the Father Superior (Father Owen) while *Mayi Mfumu* is used for the Mother Superior (Sister Agnes). As for the noun *mzungu*, which refers to white folks, it technically means "ghost"; you'll hear plenty of kids shouting this as you pass by.