

# Living Faith Kids

Daily Devotions for Africa



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After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.



**Acts 1:9**

**Dear friends,** each liturgical year, just after easter Season, we celebrate two main feasts : the Ascension of the Lord and the Pentecost.

### **1. The Ascension of the Lord**

After his resurrection, Jesus spent the next 40 days preaching and preparing His disciples to perform the work of preaching and baptizing all people. At the end of this 40 days period, Jesus arose into heaven. We call this the Ascension.

### **2. The Pentecost**

At Pentecost, ten days after the ascension, the Apostles and their followers were gathered in a room. At this time, a great wind blew and a flame appeared as a tongue of fire, which split itself into many individual flames above the heads of all those present. The Holy Spirit came upon these people and each began to speak in tongues. Despite the fact that many had no common language, they were perfectly able to understand one another.

*Rev. Fr. Jean-Claude DIWEDIGA, a.a.*

Welcome to

# Living Faith Kids

Daily Devotions for Africa

With this magazine, we can...

## Read words from the Bible

**God speaks to us** in Scriptures. So each day, we pick a short quote from one of the daily Mass readings in order to think and pray about.

## Pray with daily devotions

**Daily prayer is a great way** to get to know God better. Each reflection can help us to pray with the Word of God—every day!



## Discover, learn, play and love

**Our Catholic faith** is like a big treasure chest waiting for us to discover. Here we will find games, activities, puzzles and more to help us learn about the sacraments, saints, feast days, the Mass and more. Have fun!

# Reading the Bible

Our daily devotions begin with a passage from the Bible. Want to read more? The CITATION (sigh-TAY-shun) will guide you to the reading in three easy steps:



**1: Book.** The Bible is divided into books. Check your Bible for a list of titles.

*Psalm 47:2 is from the Book of Psalms.*

**2: Chapter.** The first number is the chapter. Bibles usually show book and chapter at the top of each page.

*Psalm 47:2 is in Chapter 47 of the Book of Psalms.*



**3: Verse.** Last are the verse number(s). Verses are usually a sentence or two long. The tiny numbers are hidden inside the text.

*Psalm 47:2 is verse 2 of Chapter 47.*

## Ready? Set? Go!

Practice by looking up Psalm 47:2.



# May at a Glance

## Activity Calendar of May



### Week Saint Joseph the worker.

- 1** Help in your family to repair a broken item Pray for all the workers.



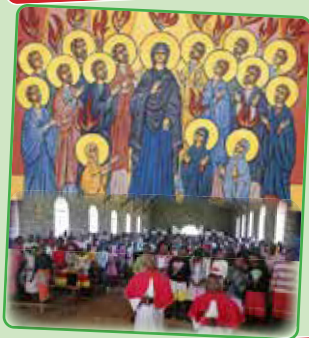
### Week

- 2** Recite daily the Missionary Rosary



### Week St. Isidore the farmer

- 3** Plant & Waters some vegetables Pray for all the farmers



### Week Pentecost

- 4** Write down the gifts of the Holy Spirit Pray daily "Come Holy Spirit"

I am the good Shepherd; The good Shepherd  
lays down his life for the sheep.

John 10 :11

Monday

May 1



**A shepherd is someone who takes care of the sheep** especially in making sure that the sheep are well fed. A shepherd is always close to his sheep, making sure that none is sick and if any of the sheep falls sick, the shepherd does everything to restore the sheep to good health. Jesus is our shepherd and we are his sheep.



Acts 11: 1-18 / Psam 42: 2-3;  
43: 3-4 / **John 10: 11-18**

My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

John 10: 27

Tuesday May 2

SAINT ATHANASIUS

**When we close our eyes or when we are blindfolded and cannot see for a moment, are we able to distinguish the voice of our Dad or Mom when they speak?** Definitely yes! This is the same way we are supposed to hear and recognize the voice of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is always with us and He knows us by our names.

Let us always trust the presence of Jesus Christ among us!

Acts 11: 19-26 / Ps 87: 1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/ **John 10: 22-30**

If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it.

John 14:14

Wednesday May 3

SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES, FEAST

**God is telling us that whatever we ask in his name he will do it for us.** How do we ask things in God's name? There is only one way to begin and end our prayers, we always begin our prayer with the sign of the Cross saying: in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. After making the sign of the cross we present our prayers to God.

As Catholics, we should begin and end our prayers with the sign of the Cross.

Lord God, hear our prayers.



...Whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. ”

John 13:20

Thursday

May 4

**How can we receive the one sent by God to us?** There is a simple way to receive those who are sent to us. It is by welcoming their message. For example, do we pay attention to the preaching by priests during Mass? Jesus is telling us that when we welcome them, we have welcomed Christ himself and by that same way we have also welcomed God.

Let us start paying attention to our teachers, parents and priests when they advise us.

Dear Lord, help us to be good listeners of your word and do according to your will.

Acts 13: 13-25 / Psalm 89: 2-3. 21-22. 25 and 27 / John 13: 16-20

..... "I am the way and the truth and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through  
me." John 14 :6

Friday

May 5

**Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.**

Jesus is not just an ordinary way; He is the way to heaven. So if we want to go to heaven we need to know Jesus. We can only know Him when we decide to obey his commandments. It is by doing all these that we can gain life and it is not just an ordinary life but eternal life with Christ in heaven.

Dear Lord, please help us to follow your ways always.

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. O sing to the Lord; bless his name.

Psalm 98:1-2

Saturday May 6

**Most of the times, we spend the day singing only the popular songs that young people sing today.** They are mostly songs that do not praise God in any way. It is not bad to listen to the songs but we should make sure that we listen to Christian songs more often. This is because, we are influenced by what we listen to.



Acts 13: 44-52 / Psalm 98: 1.  
2-3ab. 3cd-4 / John 14: 7-14

..... whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father.

John 14: 12

Sunday

May 7

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**One thing that is sure for all Christians is that God is always with us.** Jesus gave us the power to do many things. We received this power during our Baptism and Confirmation. God is always with us and when we pray we need to have that in mind.

Let us never doubt the presence of God in our lives.

Acts 6: 1-7 / Psalm 33: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19 (22) / 1 Peter 2: 4-9 / **John 14: 1-12**



Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me.....

John 14: 21

Monday

May 8



**It is very easy to say that we love Jesus Christ when someone asks us the question.** But what shows that we truly love Him? It is by obeying God's commandments. Do we know how many commandments are there? They are 10. We have to understand, keep them in our hearts and obey them. That is one way we show our love for God and for our neighbours.

Let us always love God and our neighbours!

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.  
I do not give to you as the world gives.

John 14:27

Tuesday

May 9

**Our world today can offer peace.** Some people try to find peace from their friends or parents. But all these ways of having peace in the world are for a short time. It is only the peace given by Christ that is everlasting.

Let us pray for this lasting peace of Christ in our hearts and in the world.

I am the vine, you are the branches.....

John 15 : 5

Wednesday May 10

**A vine is a plant which has branches that produce grapes.** Without the vine there can't be branches and therefore, there can't be any grapes. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches; the grapes are the fruits we bear when we are with Christ. It simply means that when we are not in good relation with Christ, we cannot produce good fruits. We are nothing without Christ.

Lord, help us to become the branches that bear good fruits.

Acts 15: 1-6 / Psalm 122: 1-2. 3-4ab. 4cd-5 / **John 15: 1-8**

Sing to the Lord a new song ; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Psalms 96 :1

Thursday

May 11

**We should praise God in every situation.**

How do we do that? It is by having a special time to kneel and thank Him for all he does for us. This kind of thanksgiving could be done through a song of praise and prayers in the church, at home, at school and everywhere.

Let us learn to always praise God through joyful songs.



This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

John 15: 12

Friday

May 12

**We have recently spoken about the ten commandments.** Love is the greatest of them all. God loves us and He gave his only Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins. This is the greatest love. We are called to show love by helping those who need our help. We are also invited to remember others especially the needy in our daily prayers.



Acts 15: 22-31 / Psalm 57: 8-9, 10 and 12 / **John 15: 12-17**

They will treat you this way because of my name

John 15:21

Saturday

May 13

**To be a Christian brings a lot of joy and at the same time a lot of pain.** Some people will like us because we are Christians. They will make us their friends because we go to the same Church. Other people will hate us because we are Christians and because we do not attend their Church.

As Christians, we should not hate.  
We are called to love one another.

.....Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope,...

1Peter 3:15

Sunday

May 14

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Hope is when you expect something you have not yet seen but still believe it will happen.** For example, we have not seen heaven but we believe that heaven is there, God lives in heaven and we will all join God in heaven one day. All these things are written in the Bible. We believe that they will happen. That is our hope.

Let us ask God to strengthen our hope in Him.

Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in  
the assembly of the faithful.

Psalms 149: 1b

Monday

May 15

**When our parents buy a gift for us, we usually thank them.** The same happens when our friends do something good for us, we thank them. But how often do we thank God? Sometimes we spend the whole day without saying thank you to God for all his blessings.

*May we always thank God who always showers us with his blessings.*

.....What must I do to be saved?

Acts 16: 30

Tuesday

May 16



**“What must I do to be saved?”** That was a question a pagan asked a disciple of Jesus. The disciple responded that in order to be saved, we must believe in Jesus Christ. We become Christians when we are baptised. For that reason, we are called to live a holy life by doing good always and by loving each other.



Acts 16: 22-34 / Ps 138: 1-2ab. 2cde-3. 7c-8 / John 16: 5-11

Let them all praise the Lord's name, for his name alone is exalted ....

Psalms 148: 13

Wednesday

May 17

EASTER WEEKDAY

**The name of God is so powerful that it scares all the evil spirits.** When we are afraid of something, we just need to mention the Lord's name with confidence and the fear will disappear. The mention of the Lord's name in times of challenges, gives us courage to face them. The Lord's name is a name that is above every other name both in heaven and on earth. Let us learn to praise God's name.

Dear Father, we praise your name which is above all names.

You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.

John 16:20

Thursday May 18

**Grief is a painful state of mind that arises after losing a beloved one.** Sometimes in life, we all experience grief. But as Christians, God is telling us not to worry when we are suffering. Jesus is capable of turning around our situation when we call unto him.

But for that to happen we need to have faith, that is to have faith and confidence in God.

Dear Lord, please heal our wounded hearts and comfort us especially during such times of difficulties.

Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

John 16: 23

Friday

May 19

**When we direct our prayers to God, He listens and answers.** We only need to believe and trust in the power of God, that whatever we ask in his name he will give us. God is the giver of life and all that we need comes from him.

How many times do we pray in a day?

Lord God, help us to be prayerful, to trust and believe in your unconditional providence.



For the father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have come to believe that I came from God.

John 16 : 27

Saturday

May 20

**When we love Jesus, we love God because God sent Jesus to the world to save us.** The love of Jesus is the love of God and the love of God is the love of Jesus. Therefore, no one can say, I love God and I hate Jesus or I love Jesus and I hate God. To Love the Father is to love the Son.

Dear Lord increase your love in our hearts.

...And behold, I am with you always, until the end of age.

Matthew 28:20

Sunday

May 21

### THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

**Not long ago, we celebrated Easter when Jesus Christ resurrected from the dead.**

After his resurrection Jesus spoke to his disciples for a certain moment. After this moment, Jesus went back to heaven. One can think that Jesus left his disciples and abandoned them. That is why Jesus tells his disciples that even if He is not physically present with them anymore his spirit will remain with them and with us always.

Almighty Father, we thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit.

Acts 1: 1-11 / Ps 47: 2-3. 6-7. 8-9 (6) / Ephesians 1: 17-23 /

Matthew 28: 16-20

In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world.

John 16: 33

Monday

May 22



**Yesterday we celebrated Jesus' going back to heaven (Ascension Sunday).** He is telling us that we will encounter many problems in the world. However, he encourages us that just like Him those problems will not destroy us because He has overcome the world.



Acts 19: 1-8 / Psalm 68: 2-3ab. 4-5acd. 6-7ab / **John 16: 29-33**

Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ.

John 17:3

Tuesday

May 23

**Eternal life is the life that we are going to live after this life.** It is a life where we will live with God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. How do we prepare for this eternal life? Jesus says that it is by knowing God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We cannot live with the person who doesn't know us or whom we do not know.

That is why we must strive to know God in this world.

Lord Almighty grant us your wisdom so that we may know you and trust only in you.

Acts 20: 17-27 / Psalm 68: 10-11. 20-21 / John 17: 1-11

Your word is the truth.

John 17:17

Wednesday

May 24

**What is the most important truth a Christian must know?** It is to live a holy life and grow in God's love. We cannot live a holy life if we do not know Christ. All the teachings of Jesus Christ are contained in the Bible. We need to read and believe in the Word of God as it is written in the Bible.

Dear Lord, please help us to be more faithful in reading the Bible.

The following night the Lord stood by him and said, Take courage.....

Acts 23: 11

Thursday

May 25

**Have we ever fallen sick and our parents were taking care of us?** Do we remember the beautiful words they used to tell us in order to encourage us? Those words help us to have hope that we are going to recover soon. This is the same way that Christ stands by us when we are suffering and encourages us “take courage”! We just need to believe in the presence of Christ in our suffering and at all times.

Heavenly Father, help us to trust in you and have courage at all times especially when we face difficulties.

... Acts 22: 30; 23: 6-11 / Psalm 16: 1-2a and 5. 7-8. 9-10. 11 /  
John 17: 20-26

...But go to my brothers and tell them, I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.

John 21: 17

Friday

May 26

**Jesus says He is going to His Father and our Father** instead of saying that he is going to our Father. What does the first statement mean? It means that Jesus is the only Son of God. We are made the sons of God through baptism in the name of Jesus Christ. That is why he could say, my Father and your Father since He has made us the sons of his Father. He did this by dying for our sins.

Thank you Lord for your mercy.

The Lord is just and loves just deeds; the upright will see his face.

Psalms 11:7

Saturday May 27

**When the Bible says that the Lord is just and loves just deeds,** it means that the Lord rewards each person according to his deeds. If we do good things, the Lord will surely reward us and if we do bad things we will also receive the rewards for that. In fact, people who do good things are the friends of the Lord because the Lord does good things also.

That is why we must try to always do good.

Dear Lord, guide us in our actions so we may always do good deeds.



Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.

John 20:21

Sunday

May 28

PENTECOST, SOLEMNITY

**The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ sent Him into the world to bring to us the Good News.** After his mission, Jesus also sent us to continue spreading the Good News that He brought to the world. We are to preach to the world a message of peace. It is this

same peace which Christ shared with us that we have to share with others. Are we people of peace?



Acts 2: 1-11/ Psalm 104: 1. 24. 29-30. 31. 34 / 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-7. 12-13 /  
**John 20: 19-23**

..And he said to this disciple, “Here is your mother.”

John 19:27

Monday

May 29

OUR LADY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

**One of the main things that Catholics are known for is that we venerate the Blessed Virgin Mary,** we pray with her to her Son Jesus Christ. Many other Christians do not do that. Why do we venerate Mary? It is because she is the mother of Christ and also because when Jesus was leaving this world to his Father, He gave us his mother to be our mother also.

Let us pray that Mary will always intercede for us.

Mother Mary, please intercede for us through your Son Jesus Christ.

But many that are first will be last, and the last will be first.

Mark 10:31

Tuesday

May 30

**Jesus asks us to be humble and accept others** even when we think we are doing better than them. We should not feel superior because of our status. We should avoid looking down on others because we are better than them. If we stop our good lives then we will end up not gaining eternal life despite being Christians.

May our Lord Jesus Christ grant us his Spirit of humility.

Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

Luke 1:45

Wednesday

May 31

#### VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**Sometimes we lack confidence, courage or even faith to believe that Jesus can change our situations.** This is why our prayers are not always answered because we don't have faith. God has always promised that He is with us. Therefore, our prayers have to be accompanied by faith. Just like when Mary was told that she was going to conceive and bear a child, she believed and it happened. May we learn from our Mother Mary.

Lord Our Father, please increase our faith in you.

Zephania 3: 14-18a or Romans 12: 9-16 / Is 12: 2-3. 4bcd. 5-6 / **Luke 1: 39-56**

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*Living Faith Kids* features daily devotions based on the daily Scripture readings, commentaries and illustrations. This quarterly pamphlet is mainly made for African children in order to help them grow in faith and wisdom. It also helps develop their habit of daily prayer and build their relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church. This is an important tool for our kids to take part in liturgical worship and parish life. It can therefore be used in our schools, catechesis classes and homes.

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### **IMPRIMATUR**

+Rt Rev. Dominic Kimengich  
Chairman, Commission for Liturgy  
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February 15, 2018

**“...he breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ””**

John 20:22



**“If for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today. ””**

African Proverb